

Visit from National Science and Technology Development Agency and Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand

October 9, 2012 DPRI received the visit from Dr. Thaweesak Koanantakool, President of National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand (NSTDA), Dr. Noppawan Tanpipat, Vice President of NSTDA, Mr. Sonthi Vannaseang, Director of the Office of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand (MOST) and Ms. Kalaya Jinliang, Foreign Relations Officer of the Office of International Cooperation, MOST.

Professor Tomoharu Hori, Vice Director of DPRI, welcomed them at Uji Campus for discussion. At the beginning, he delivered a letter from Professor Masayoshi Nakashima, Director of DPRI, expressing sympathy for damage caused by the severe floods in Thailand, then made a brief introduction of DPRI. Following the introduction, Associate Professor Hiroshi Takebayashi reported on his sediment disaster research and the progress of collaborative research with Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research. Assistant Professor Shingo Suzuki presented his tsunami research on the Tohoku Earthquake Tsunami Disaster and the anticipated Nankai/Tonankai earthquake and tsunami. Establishing flood control measures has been the critical issue for Thailand and the discussion held today was a great opportunity to talk about further cooperation for its research.

Following the discussion, they moved to Ujigawa Open Laboratory, where many hydraulic and sedimentation experiments are carried out. They tried out the use of some facilities in the Laboratory such as the rainfall simulator and the inundation simulator with a real-scale door model, with which one can try to open the door against hydrostatic pressure from the other side. They were also able to try out evacuation against the flow of water into underground spaces by walking up a real-scale staircase simulation facility.

