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Activity Report for IFLA APR Climate Change Task Force (2018-2019)

It is certain that the world's climate is changing and that weather patterns have become more erratic and extreme. The mission of IFLA World's Climate Change Task Force was to create human societies characterized by enhanced capacity for resilience, a willingness to transform into a better state, and a commitment to ensure the long-term environmental sustainability. The Climate Change Task Force required a long-term viewpoint to realize master plans and analyze implementation of disaster avoidance and creation of attractive environment.

As the Chair of the IFLA APR Climate Change Taskforce (2018-2019), I have been making efforts to continue international collaborations and dialogues in order to bridge the gaps between landscape design and academic research. I have made the following two major achievements. First, I made efforts to expand landscape architects' scope of work by adding a component of disaster as a theme of AAPME awards. Second, I organized an international field workshop by inviting several landscape architects in March 2019 to the Tohoku region in Japan, where a huge earthquake and tsunami devastated the area in 2011. The contents of the discussions and the lessons learned through the workshop will be widely disseminated to the world in forms of research articles or educational materials, which we are currently working on.

Although I have been planning to organize another field workshop in March 2020 again in the Tohoku area together with some IFLA experts, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was unfortunate that I could not organize the second workshop, I am still planning to develop an educational material (i.e. lecture videos with PowerPoint slides) for practitioners, under the topic of disaster resilience by extracting the lessons learnt from the workshop conducted in 2019, with the help of a few IFLA experts. I believe that this material can serve as a global practical training module for climate change and disaster resilience in Africa, Asia Pacific and the Middle East.