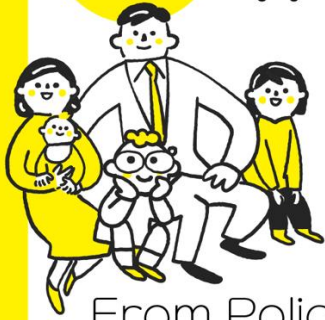


The 8th Joint Seminar of the Institute for D&I, Hiroshima University & National Institute of Special Needs Education

The International Seminar



# Transforming Systems for Inclusion and Wellbeing:

## From Policy to Practice through Interdisciplinary Dialogue

In this seminar, we welcome researchers and practitioners from Japan and abroad who are working in fields such as social policy, inclusive education, disability studies, and community welfare. Together, we will engage in cross-disciplinary dialogue to explore how we can build a society where everyone is included and able to live well — a society rooted in inclusion and wellbeing. This time, our theme is “Bridging Policy, Research, and Practice.” We will discuss the future of education systems that support the lives of people with disabilities, ways to assist community-based living, and the potential that lies in collaboration across different sectors. We invite you to join us in this meaningful conversation.

**Sunday, October 12, 2025 10:30~16:30** Doors Open: 10:00

**Hiroshima International Conference Center or ONLINE via Zoom**

(1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan)

Participation is Free

On-site or online streaming

Japanese-English interpretation

Registration needed

### Keynote Speaker



**Wellbeing Inequality and the Social Foundations of Inclusion**

**Umesh Sharma**

University of Nottingham Ningbo China (China)

Keynote Speaker  
1



**Aging of Adults with Disabilities: Inclusive Approaches to Research, Practice, and Policy**

**Tamar Heller**

University of Illinois Chicago (USA)

Note Speaker  
2

Online



**Reimagining Policy Systems for Inclusive Wellbeing: From Vision to Practice**

**Romina Boarini**

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Keynote Speaker  
3

### Introductory Speech



**Towards the Realization of an Inclusive Education System: Current Policies, Research, and Practices in Japan and Future Perspectives**

**Takanobu Kiyoshige**

National Institute of Special Needs Education (Japan)

### Speaker



**Co-Creating Inclusive Wellbeing: Bridging Education, Welfare, and Policy for Future-Oriented Practice**

**Norimune Kawai**

Hiroshima University (Japan)

### Panel Discussion

**Advancing Inclusive Wellbeing: What We Can Do Now: Dialogue Across Policy, Research, and Practice**



Both for On-site and online (via Zoom)

←Please apply via QR code or URL

\*Deadline: Thursday, October 9th (Noon)  
<https://forms.office.com/r/qcmksbwCr7>

Capacity : 150 people (On-site)

Contact : [d-and-i-event@hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:d-and-i-event@hiroshima-u.ac.jp)

(The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion, Hiroshima University)



Hosted by | The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion, Hiroshima University  
National Institute of Special Needs Education



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY



National Institute of Special Needs Education

Co-hosted by | Cabinet Office / Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education / Hiroshima City Board of Education / Higashi-Hiroshima City Board of Education / Japan Broadcasting Corporation Hiroshima Station / Chugoku Broadcasting Co., Ltd. / Hiroshima Television Corporation / Hiroshima Home Television Co., Ltd. / TSS-TV Co., Ltd. / Hiroshima FM Broadcasting Co., Ltd. / The Chugoku Shimbun Co., Ltd.



## Program

10:00-10:30 Reception and Opening

### Opening Remarks

10:30-10:40 - Director, The Institute for D&I, Hiroshima University  
- Executive Director, National Institute of Special Needs Education

10:40-10:45 **Outlining**  
Norimune Kawai

10:45-11:15 **Introductory Speech**  
Takanobu Kiyoshige

11:15-12:00 **Keynote 1**  
Umesh Sharma

12:00-13:10 Lunch Break

13:10-13:55 **Keynote 2**  
Tamar Heller

13:55-14:40 **Presentation**  
Norimune Kawai

14:40-14:55 Break

14:55-15:40 **Keynote 3**  
**Online**  
Romina Boarini

### Panel Discussion

15:45-16:20 Advancing Inclusive Wellbeing: What We Can Do Now: Dialogue Across Policy, Research, and Practice

16:20-16:30 **Closing Remarks**  
Vice Director, The Institute for D&I, Hiroshima University



## Speakers Introduction

### Introductory Speech



#### Takanobu Kiyoshige

Executive Director,  
National Institute of Special Needs Education

#### Towards the Realization of an Inclusive Education System: Current Policies, Research, and Practices in Japan and Future Perspectives

Mr. Kiyoshige began his career at Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1986 and joined the Ministry of Education in 1990, holding senior roles in primary and secondary education. In 2018 he became Superintendent of Education for Akashi City, and since April 2023 he has been Executive Director of the National Institute of Special Needs Education, overseeing research, training, and information dissemination to advance inclusive education nationwide.

### Keynote Speaker



#### Umesh Sharma

Vice Provost (People and Culture) & Professor,  
University of Nottingham Ningbo China

#### Wellbeing Inequality and the Social Foundations of Inclusion

Prof. Sharma's research on barriers to inclusion for children with disabilities and challenging behaviors spans 25 countries. He has published more than 200 papers and books and co-edits journals including the Australasian Journal of Special Education. His book, *A Guide to Promoting a Positive Classroom Environment*, won an international award. He has received Australia's National Research Award three times and is among the top 2% of global scientists (Stanford/Elsevier).

Keynote  
Speaker

1



#### Tamar Heller

Director, Institute on Disability and Human Development; Distinguished Professor,  
Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago

#### Aging of Adults with Disabilities:

Inclusive Approaches to Research, Practice, and Policy

Prof. Heller researches self-directed and family support, long-term services, and aging-disability intersections. She leads the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and co-directs the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support. A prolific scholar with over 270 publications, she has served as president of the Association of University Centers on Disability and co-founded the National Sibling Leadership Network.

Keynote  
Speaker

2



#### Romina Boarini

Director, Center on Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability  
and Equal Opportunity (WISE), OECD

#### Reimagining Policy Systems for Inclusive Wellbeing:

From Vision to Practice

Dr. Boarini advances metrics and policies for wellbeing, inclusive growth, sustainability, and Beyond GDP. Previously Senior Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General, she led the Inclusive Growth Initiative, developing frameworks and launching the Business for Inclusive Growth Coalition. Early in her career, she contributed to the OECD Better Life Initiative. She researches wellbeing, poverty, education, and behavioral economics.

Keynote  
Speaker

3

### Speaker



#### Norimune Kawai

Professor, The Institute for Diversity & Inclusion,  
Hiroshima University

#### Co-Creating Inclusive Wellbeing:

Bridging Education, Welfare, and Policy for Future-Oriented Practice

Professor Kawai specializes in special needs education and speech-language pathology and has advanced research on inclusive education and communication disorders both in Japan and abroad. He currently leads a research project developing clinical tools for stuttering using AI and VR, and delivers professional development trainings in inclusive education—primarily in Southeast Asia—while evaluating their impact.