



**Inter-Graduate School Program for  
Sustainable Development and Survivable Societies**

**Interdisciplinary Seminar (1 session course)  
[#45-(1)]**

**Understanding the unique context and  
exploring academic & research collaboration  
in the Top-End of Australia**

**By: Associate Professor Akhilesh Surjan  
(Charles Darwin University, Australia)**

**Date: 28 Feb 2017, from 13:30 to 15:00**

**Venue: Shishukan Hall (HIGASHI ICHIJOKAN, basement floor)**

**<Summary>**

Northern Territory (NT) of Australia offers unique opportunity for conducting interdisciplinary research. NT covers around 16% of Australia's geographical area but is home to just over 1% of the Australia's population (as in 2015). About 30% population of NT is Indigenous (aboriginal) and thus the region has over 40,000 years of archaeological history. NT is also the focus of one of the Australia's most ambitious plans for future development, to unlock it's vast potential and to establish it as the trade gateway to Asia for all of Australia. NT's capital city Darwin is one of the fastest growing capital cities of Australia. Darwin was devastated in 1942 by bombing during World War II and by Cyclone Tracy in 1974. People from over 60 nationalities live in Darwin, making it one of the most multicultural city in Australia. Mining and tourism are two largest economic sectors in NT. Kakadu National Park with its breathtaking wetlands and native wildlife and ecologically and biologically very diverse. With the huge area, same as Slovenia, Kakadu National Park is placed in UNESCO World Heritage List and is jointly managed by Aboriginal traditional owners and the Australian Government. Charles Darwin University (CDU) is the only university of NT, enjoying reputation as one of the most innovative teaching and learning and most research intensive universities in Australia and have risen to the ranks of the top 2% of world universities in 2015. CDU's specialties lies particularly in Indigenous and

tropical health, environmental science, disaster management, public policy, engineering, information technology and Indigenous knowledges, through engagement with governments, industry, institutions and stakeholders.

This interdisciplinary seminar will provide in-depth information about NT's unique context which will be highly relevant for GSS students to conduct Field Training, Internship, Industry- University Collaboration project, International Collaboration, etc. Students will be able to discuss possibilities of academic and research collaboration with the speaker.

**About the Speaker:**

Associate Professor Akhilesh Surjan is Research & Theme Leader of 'Humanitarian, Emergency and Disaster Management Studies' at the Charles Darwin University. He worked with the GSS Program during 2012-2015. For the past 20 years he has been engaged with issues of climate and disaster risk reduction and urban sustainability, including work in the United Nations, academic, non-governmental and government institutions in Asia-Pacific region.