Main Results
This evaluation covers JDR Rescue team, Medical team, and Expert team (but excludes the Self-Defense Force Unit) dispatched from April 2004 to the end of March 2012. The teams’ activities were evaluated with respect to the following four criteria: "Relevance of Policies," "Effectiveness of Results," "Appropriateness of Processes," and "Perspectives of Diplomacy." As a whole, the results of this evaluation show that JDR activities are extremely highly regarded with respect to these criteria.

Relevance of Policies
The dispatch of JDR and its activities are highly regarded in terms of consistency with Japan's ODA Charter and Japan's Medium-Term Policy on ODA, responsiveness to the needs of disaster victims and affected countries, trends with regard to the international community, relations with other donors, and superiority of JDR in comparison to other disaster relief teams.

Effectiveness of Results
Concerning alleviating human suffering (physical and mental), we evaluate the activities of the JDR Rescue team and Medical team extremely high in terms of alleviating mental suffering in particular. Publicity and acknowledgement in the international community, in disaster-affected countries, and in Japan are highly regarded, but these JDR activities should be expanded further. Moreover, derivative effects from JDR activities have also been confirmed, and these derivative effects are regarded as evidence of the effectiveness of the results.

Appropriateness of Processes
As a whole, we evaluate highly the appropriateness of the processes from preparation to dispatch JDR.

Perspectives of Diplomacy
Particularly with respect to disasters that occur in Asia, JDR is able to reach disaster sites in a shorter time than disaster relief teams from Western countries as a result of geographical proximity. From the viewpoint of saving lives, it is extremely important to dispatch JDR quickly once a request for assistance is received from the government of the disaster-affected country or an international organization. The ability to dispatch JDR rapidly, in the end, becomes one measure of diplomacy. There have been cases in which these activities have helped to foster pro-Japanese sentiment, and therefore we highly evaluate JDR activities from the perspective of diplomacy.
Role of recommendations

We recommend continuing and maintaining JDR activities as they are currently being conducted. We also offer six recommendations for additional proactive activities that exceed, in certain instances, the scope of the JDR mission to date as a means to improve JDR and deliver maximum effectiveness. These specific recommendations apply to three different areas of JDR activity: "Policy and Strategy," "Implementation Methods," and "Publicity and Cooperation."

1. Policy and Strategy
   Recommendation 1: Continuation and succession of assistance that establishes a close relationship with disaster victims
   The mental care provided by JDR is a major characteristic and strength of Japan’s assistance. This results from a specific policy of assistance that "establishes a close relationship with disaster victims." We recommend sharing and continuing this approach.

   Recommendation 2: Continuation and Expansion of Seamless Assistance
   We recommend continuing and expanding the seamless assistance for recovery and reconstruction that builds on the valuable relationships of trust forged in the course of JDR activities with government agencies in disaster-affected countries and with local governmental organizations involved in disaster relief, rescue and medical institutions, etc.

2. Implementation Methods
   Recommendation 3: Improvement and maintenance of materials and equipment procurement system (in particular, review of the use of overseas local human resource network)
   We recommend that local human resource networks currently used for emergency procurement be kept in mind as an option for normal use for the local procurement of JDR materials and equipment in each country.

3. Publicity and Cooperation
   Recommendation 4: Review and improvement of public relations (in particular review of the use of overseas media)
   We recommend reviewing public relations strategies for overseas media and, in particular, to consult on the idea of further strengthening collaboration with Japan’s diplomatic missions and JICA’s overseas offices. We also recommend reviewing the system of public relations in overseas offices, as well as taking measures to reduce the burden of public relations on dispatched JDR personnel if necessary. In addition, we recommend the continuation and further improvement of domestic public relations efforts.
Recommendation 5: Involvement in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and enhancement of international cooperation

We recommend that Japan continue to pay attention to sharing information within Japan regarding INSARAG activities and while also ensuring that JDR opinions are heard by INSARAG. We further recommend that Japan's involvement in INSARAG to be increased. We also recommend that the JDR Rescue team, which has been certified as the top IEC "Heavy" classification, to play a leading role in increased international activities among Asian countries.

Recommendation 6: Implementation of JDR activities while working to maximize their effectiveness

We recommend that dispatched JDR members keep in mind that maximizing the effectiveness of JDR will ultimately affect the degree of gratitude and friendly relations between Japan and the affected country.

Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC) uses equipment provided by the Government of Japan (in the form of seamless assistances). MDMC was established at Muhammadiyah Bantul Hospital in Indonesia in 2007 using the JDR Medical team as a model.

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