

Chapter 1 Transmitting Disaster Risk Reduction to the World



Junior High School Students in El Salvador making a school disaster risk reduction map.
(Photo: Maria Eva Oltiz/Oscar Mauricio Djebel/JICA)

Section 1

Sharing the Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake with the World

On March 11 2011, a massive earthquake of magnitude 9.0 struck off the Pacific coast of the Tohoku region causing an unprecedented disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The dead and missing totaled approximately 19,000 people, around 130,000 homes were totally destroyed, displaced people directly after the quake numbered approximately 470,000 and the total cost of the damages was a massive ¥16.9 trillion. In response, countries and regions around the world sent a great deal of assistance such as contributing emergency supplies, monetary donations, and dispatching rescue teams. Sharing the lessons Japan learned from the earthquake with the world and contributing to disaster risk reduction

efforts across the globe is also a way of responding to the wholehearted support received from around the world at the time of the earthquake and the tsunami.

In the following year, over two days on the 3rd and 4th of July 2012, it was with great significance that the “World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku” was held in the Tohoku region, and centered in Sendai City which is also within the area affected by the earthquake the previous year. Participation in the conference was seen from around 500 representatives from 63 countries (such as the high-level participation of Foreign Ministers and Disaster Management Ministers) including 14 representatives from international organizations, as well as

representatives from international/domestic NGOs and the private sector.

In his opening remarks, former Prime Minister Noda said that Japan has a serious responsibility to the humanity at large to share the knowledge, experience and lessons learned from the earthquake with the international community, and also in the sense of “reciprocating” to the support and encouragement received from around the world at the time of the earthquake, Japan will contribute to the international community committing \$3 billion for three years from 2013 in the area of disaster risk reduction as a contribution to international community. Similarly there were also reports on the experiences and lessons learned from Prof. G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Sri Lanka regarding the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, and from Gerry Brownlee, Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery, New Zealand regarding the earthquake in the southern island of New Zealand.

On the topic of the Great East Japan Earthquake, two female students from Onagawa Daiichi Junior High School in Miyagi Prefecture gave a presentation to the world of messages and thoughts for the coming generations as “Deepening mutual ties, “Creating cities enabling residents to evacuate to higher ground,” and “Recording the Earthquake,” which they had brainstormed during discussions held about their own actual harsh experiences.

In Ichinoseki City, Iwate, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi and Fukushima City, Fukushima, breakout sessions were held wherein issues were discussed such as the ideal form for resilient societies; the importance of disaster risk reduction in preparation for disasters; the collaboration required among relevant stakeholders over a wide-ranging area in the aftermath of a disaster; and handling disaster risks such as global warming and urbanization.

The details of the discussions from the two days of the Conference were presented as the Chair’s Summary. The main points of the Summary are as follows:

- (1) By prioritizing disaster risk reduction efforts, ensuring governance mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, and allocating sufficient financial resources, resilient societies should be built that are well-prepared for natural disasters in every way within all levels of public policy (mainstreaming disaster risk reduction) including disaster prevention and reduction, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction.
- (2) Human security (See page 8) centered on human dignity should be a crucial foundation of disaster risk reduction efforts. Consideration of the members of society in vulnerable positions in terms of coping with a disaster, such as the poor, the elderly, the sick and wounded, children, persons with disability, and pregnant women is crucial. The role of women in disaster risk reduction should be properly recognized.



Plenary meeting in Sendai of the “World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku”

- (3) Disaster risk reduction capabilities should be maximized by appropriately combining structural (“hard”) measures such as infrastructure and non-structural (“soft”) measures such as education, in accordance with particular national or regional needs.
- (4) Collaboration beyond the roles of various stakeholders is indispensable, such as: assistance between local governments; strong coordination links between local and national governments; support by the businesses community supplementing the public sector; coordination among non-governmental organizations (NGOs); coordination between NGOs and the government; and cooperation between governments and media in disseminating and collecting information in times of disasters as well as following up on recovery processes.
- (5) It is necessary to appropriately respond to newly emerging disaster risks in recent years which have significantly raised the cost of disasters in disaster prone areas such as the concentration of advanced industries, urbanization and climate change.
- (6) Looking ahead from 2015 onwards, frameworks which incorporate disaster risk reduction should be drawn up to replace the MDGs, as new frameworks to take over from the truly effective “Hyogo Framework for Action



Damage survey of the 2009 off-shore earthquake in Padang, Indonesia. In relation to research to promote building resilient social foundations against disasters, Japan is collaborating with Indonesia's disaster risk reduction researchers, and is creating a system to put research results into practice. (Photo: JICA)

2005-2015.”

Through the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku, Japan proposed the “Disaster Reduction in the 21st century” which consists of these main elements, and expressed its determination to take the initiative in the international community’s disaster risk reduction efforts in the future.



Participants in the Disaster Management Seminar from Africa observing downtown Rikuzentakata that was swept away by the Tsunami. (Photo: JICA)

Section 2 Towards the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015

Japan has experienced various natural disasters, and to date has been positively involved in disaster risk reduction efforts within the international community. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction held both its first conference (1994) and second conference (2005) in Japan, and together with various participants from countries around the world, international organizations and NGOs, rolled out countermeasures to strengthen disaster risk reduction. In the previous second conference, with the objective of building disaster-resilient countries and communities, the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted that prioritized the actions of, (i) Itemizing priorities in disaster risk reduction, (ii) Strengthening disaster risk assessment and early warning, (iii) Improving disaster risk reduction awareness, (iv) Reducing disaster risks, and (v) Strengthening disaster preparedness. Including Japan, more than 130 countries are striving to implement this framework for action, and the United Nations Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) carries out regular follow-up of each country's implementation status. Likewise, Japan supports these activities includes funding.

Japan is assisting the disaster risk reduction efforts of developing countries in addition to directly assisting the victims of earthquakes and floods throughout the world. At the time of the Haiti earthquake in January 2010, Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team, and additionally provided emergency assistance immediately after the quake such as the financial cooperation of \$55 million, and then further reconstruction assistance of over \$54 million. Similarly, in the fall of 2011, as aid for the Thai flood damage, Japan provided emergency assistance immediately after the flooding such as dispatching the JDR Team and providing emergency relief goods and financial assistance, while also contributing around ¥8 billion of disaster risk reduction/post-disaster reconstruction grant aid focused on flood countermeasures such as raising roads and installing floodgates in rivers around Ayutthaya (See the next chapter for a detailed explanation of the Thai floods). This assistance has also accumulated, and in 2011 aid for disaster risk reduction and post-disaster reconstruction from Japan reached a total of around \$1.114 billion.

The HFA is deemed by the international community

as an important guideline within the area of disaster risk reduction and will reach the end of its term in 2015. It is crucial that a successive framework is drawn up with the efficacy capable of responding to emerging challenges such as climate change and urbanization, that will also promote mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (tackling disaster risk reduction at every level of public policy) within development and international cooperation, and that will be committed to the disaster risk reduction efforts of the international community from 2015 onwards. The "World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku" mentioned in Chapter 1 Section 1 investigated the requirements in promoting specific efforts for disaster risk reduction both throughout the world and regionally. Therein it was confirmed that it is necessary to clarify within the new frameworks for action what should be done "by when," "to what extent," and "how". For that end, it was confirmed the need to consider concrete goals and targets, evaluation measures, and synthetic integration of relevant measures.

Japan expressed its intention to host the scheduled Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction continuing on from the previous two conferences, and it was officially decided by the UN General Assembly in December 2012 that the conference will be held in Japan. Ahead of the conference, there is an idea to proceed with the spearhead of efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction within the international community, including incorporating disaster risk reduction within discussions to draw up a post-HFA, and within the international development goals (post-MDGs) from 2015 onwards.



Construction of an earthquake-resistant model house with improved soil walls. Since 2003 Japan has cooperated with enhancing the earthquake resistance of houses and the proliferation of houses of high earthquake resistance in El Salvador which experienced two major earthquakes in 2001. (Photo: JICA).

While the recovery and reconstruction of the disaster stricken areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake is still in process, many corporations such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are restarting operations, and employment is beginning to recover. In order to assist such efforts in the affected areas through ODA, the industrial products made in the affected areas are provided to developing countries, which assist their economic and social development while simultaneously driving forward efforts that contribute to economic recovery in the disaster stricken areas.

Under the third supplementary budget of FY2011, Japan provided industrial products from the disaster stricken areas to 15 developing countries (equivalent to ¥4 billion), and also provided canned fish (equivalent to ¥1 billion) produced in the disaster stricken areas to 5 developing countries through the World Food Programme (WFP). Based on requests from developing countries, these industrial products are procured by tender, which consist of the construction equipment, medical instruments and welfare devices produced in the affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake. For example, Japan provided medical and welfare equipment (e.g. endoscopes, x-ray equipment and wheelchairs), etc. manufactured in Iwate, Fukushima and Miyagi Prefectures to developing countries.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and the incident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, enterprises in the affected

area were forced to cease operations for a long period and were subjected to harmful rumors such as inquiries as to "whether products are radioactively contaminated." Over 70% of contract corporations evaluated that the ODA projects had positive effects on the employment such as providing new employment and avoiding layoffs. Likewise, over 80% of contract corporations evaluated that the ODA projects also had a ripple effect on the local economy (See the diagram on page 39).

Similarly, the medical personnel of Marshall who were provided with autoclaves manufactured in Fukushima Prefecture under this project highly praised the efficiency of the equipment and appreciated saying "We can improve hygiene at the Marshall medical institutions thanks to the autoclaves," "The equipment has a larger capacity of sterilization and is very efficient," and "The digital buttons are easy to use."

In FY2012, with a view to also contributing to economic recovery in the areas stricken by the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan continued to assist developing countries utilizing industrial products made in the affected areas of the disaster.

As well as providing industrial products from the disaster-affected areas to developing countries, trainees from developing countries are invited to Japan for short term training seminars such as the "Seminar on Reconstruction of Damaged Irrigation and Water Management Facilities for Agriculture," and the "Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction and Infrastructural Restoration." All kinds of existing training lectures are given on the current state of Japan's recovery and visits to the affected areas are arranged, which leads to the correct information being transmitted to the world and was a part of countering rumors. In the future, while continuing efforts to transmit information about Japan's recovery through means such as training, and fully taking the situation on the ground into account, the acceptance of trainees from overseas to the disaster-affected areas will be promoted.

Through those measures, assistance for the industries in the affected areas and contributions to recovery in those areas will be pushed forward.

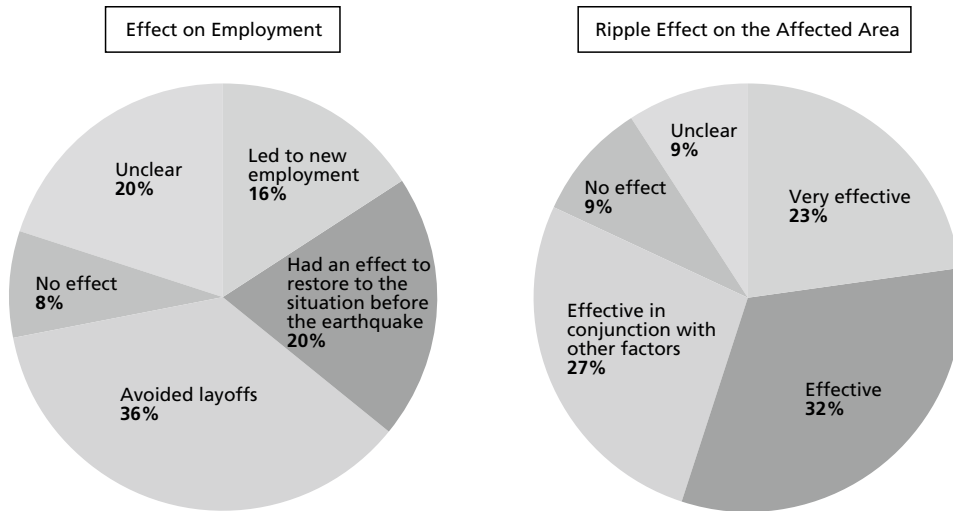


An installed autoclave and hospital staff at Majuro Hospital on the Marshall Islands. (Photo: Embassy of Japan in Marshall)

Assessing the Effects in the Disaster-affected Area (Provision of industrial products and canned fish based on requests from developing countries)

Effects of the Project (Results of a questionnaire of corporations in the affected area)

A questionnaire was conducted on 27 companies in the affected area that had signed contracts with the project, and responses were received from 23 companies.



Note: % is the ratio within the total 23 responses



Trainees from Africa observing the disaster-affected area of Taro District, Miyako City. (Photo: JICA)