

The Second Expert Group Meeting on the Great East Japan Earthquake

— Learning from the Mega-Tsunami Disaster —

16-18 December 2011, Tokyo/Iwate

1. Objectives

The Great East Japan Earthquake, which struck Japan on 11 March 2011, was an unprecedented disaster with the magnitude of earthquakes and tsunamis far exceeding the predicted level. It claimed the largest number of casualties in Japan since the end of the World War II. It is imperative that this mega-disaster be thoroughly investigated in order to draw lessons for the future. For this purpose, a technical committee was established under the Central Disaster Management Council and conducted vigorous deliberations. Its final report, which outlines the country's new earthquake and tsunami measures, was published on 28 September.

In many parts of the world, vulnerabilities to natural hazards are accelerating due to unplanned urbanization, population growth and other factors. Japan is expected to share its knowledge on disaster management with the rest of the world. The country is especially obligated to do so in the context of the Great East Japan Earthquake, for which more than 120 countries and international organizations have extended their support.

To this end, the expert group meeting is organized as a sequel to the first meeting held last May. It invites policy managers from Japan and other countries in the Asia Pacific region to discuss the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and major policy changes since then, including the findings of technical committee's report. The meeting also provides opportunities to discuss the relevance of the Japanese experience in the international context and to obtain inputs and feedbacks from the experts of other countries. The outcomes of the meeting will be summarized and will be shared with countries that are prone to tsunami and other natural hazards.

2. Date and Venue

- Expert Group Meeting: 16 (Fri) - 17 (Sat) December 2011, in Tokyo
- Field visit: 17 (Sat) - 18 (Sun) December 2011, to disaster-affected area in Iwate Prefecture

3. Languages

English and Japanese (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

*English only in the thematic sessions

4. Organizers

Cabinet Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

5. Programme

<December 15 (Thursday)>

Morning	-	Arrival in Japan
Afternoon		Hotel check-in (Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome)
Night		Accommodation in Tokyo

<December 16 (Friday)>

8:30-12:00	Registration (First floor of Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome)	
9:30-12:00	Regional Session	
9:30-12:00	ASEAN regional seminar organized by JICA (Language: English) [Meeting Room 3]	10:00-12:00 China/Korea/Japan Meeting organized by Cabinet Office (Language: English/Japanese) [Meeting Room 1+2]
12:00-12:20	Break	
12:00-13:20	12:00-13:00 Buffet Lunch (ASEAN Seminar) [Meeting Room 7+8]	12:20-13:20 Buffet Lunch (Participants not participating in the ASEAN Seminar) [Meeting Room 4+5]
13:20-14:00	Break	
14:00-17:00	Plenary Session I (Japanese/English simultaneous interpretation) [Meeting Room 1+2+3]	
14:00-15:00	Opening Remarks (10mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. HASEGAWA Shoichi, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan • Mr. ITOH Shigeru, Chairman of Asian Disaster Reduction Center • Mr. ARAI Izumi, Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency • Mr. ONO Yuichi, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, UNESCAP Commemorative Photo Session	
15:00-15:20	Break	
15:20-15:50	Keynote Address Prof. KAWATA Yoshiaki, Kansai University (About the Report of the Technical Committee of the Central Disaster Management Council)	
15:50-17:00	Special Report Mr. NODA Takenori, Mayor of Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture (Report from the disaster affected area)	
	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Disaster Management in Myanmar: Lessons learnt from Cyclone Nargis” Mr. Soe Aung, Director General [Ms. New Yin Aye, Assistant Director] Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar • “WMO Tropical Cyclone Early Warning System” Mr. KUROIWA Koji, Chief of Tropical Cyclone Programme, WMO 	
17:00-17:20	Break	

17:20-18:50	Thematic Sessions I (Language: English)		
	Presentations and discussions in three thematic sessions		
17:20-18:50	1. Early Warning System and Public Awareness and Education [Meeting Room 3]	2. Resilience of Critical Infrastructures and Society [Meeting Room 1+2]	3. Organizing Response and Recovery [Meeting Room 7+8]
18:50-19:30	Break		
19:30-21:30	Reception [Meeting Room 1+2+3]		
Night	Accommodation in Tokyo (Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome)		

<December 17 (Saturday)>

Before 8:45	Hotel Check-out		
9:00-10:30	Thematic Sessions II (Language: English)		
	Wrap-up based on the discussions in the Thematic Sessions I		
9:00-10:30	1. Early Warning System and Public Awareness and Education [Meeting Room 3]	2. Resilience of Critical Infrastructures and Society [Meeting Room 1+2]	3. Organizing Response and Recovery [Meeting Room 7+8]
10:30-10:50	Break		
10:50-12:00	Plenary Session II (Japanese/English simultaneous interpretation) [Meeting Room 1+2+3]		
10:50-12:00	Presentations of the outcomes of the thematic sessions (15mins each) 1. Early Warning System and Public Awareness and Education 2. Resilience of Critical Infrastructures and Society 3. Organizing Response and Recovery Q&A		
12:00-12:10	Closing Remarks Mr. NATORI Kiyoshi, Director for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan		
12:15-13:15	Lunch (lunch boxes will be served in meeting rooms)		
13:45-14:00	Leave the hotel by bus to Tokyo Station		
14:56-17:22	Travel to Morioka by JR Shinkansen (Hayate 31) The JR Shinkansen (Bullet train) from Tokyo to Morioka has been reserved by the Secretariat and the tickets will be handed before boarding.		
17:45-18:30	Hotel Check-in (Hotel Metropolitan Morioka)		
19:00-21:00	Buffet Dinner (Café Terrace Sky Metro)		
Night	Accommodation in Morioka (Hotel Metropolitan Morioka)		

<December 18 (Sunday)>

8:00-22:30	Field Visit to disaster affected areas
Before 8:00	Hotel Check-out
8:30-11:00	Bus transportation from Morioka to Taro District in Miyako City
11:00-11:30	Visit and walk around the seawalls of Taro District ^{*1}
11:30-12:00	Bus transportation from Taro District to the Park Hotel Jodogahama
12:00-13:00	Lunch at the Park Hotel Jodogahama
13:00-14:00	Bus transportation from Miyako - Yamada - Otsuchi - Unosumai district, Kamaishi City
14:00-14:30	Visit the Kamaishi East Junior High School ^{*2}
14:30-15:40	Bus transportation from Unosumai district to Heita district, Kamaishi City
15:40-16:25	Visit the temporary housing at the Heita Park, Kamaishi City
16:25-18:25	Bus transportation to JR Shin-Hanamaki Station
18:58-22:00	Travel from Shin-Hanamaki to Tokyo Station by JR Shinkansen (Yamabiko 66)
	Dinner served in the train
22:15-22:30	Bus transportation from Tokyo Station to the hotel
22:30-22:45	Hotel Check-in (Hotel Villa Fontaine Shiodome)
Night	Accommodation in Tokyo

*1 Taro District: The 10m high seawalls were devastated by tsunamis.

*2 Kamaishi East Junior High School: Effective disaster education enabled quick evacuation of students including children at the neighboring elementary school.

6. Participating countries and organizations

Governments (26)

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tuvalu, United States of America, Viet Nam

International Organizations (19)

Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Provisional ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Recovery Platform (IRP), Pacific Island Telecommunication Association (PITA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS), UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), World Bank (WB), World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Japanese Aid Agencies, NGOs and Research institutions (6)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japanese Red Cross Society (JRC), Japan Platform, Kansai University, Kobe University, The University of Tokyo

Japanese government agencies (8)

Cabinet Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan Meteorological Agency, Iwate Prefecture, Kamaishi City, Miyako City