

Major Changes to the Basic Disaster Management Plan in December 2011

Cabinet Office, Japan

Overview

The change was aimed at reflecting the recommendations from the Central Disaster Management Council's technical committee for reviewing earthquake and tsunami measures based on the lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, published on 28 September 2011.

The Plan shall be continuously revised in future in order to reflect further policy development based on the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters.

Major Changes

1. **Creation of a new volume on “Tsunami Disasters”** (See attached figure)
2. **Strengthening of earthquake and tsunami measures based on the Great East Japan Earthquake**
 - 1) Hazard assumptions considering all the possibilities of largest-class earthquakes and tsunamis
 - 2) Assumption of two levels of tsunamis for developing respective countermeasures
 - For largest-class tsunamis: comprehensive measures focusing on evacuation
 - For relatively frequent tsunamis: development of coastal protection facilities
 - 3) Tsunami-resilient community development
 - Land use control to designate areas with lower inundation risk to residential zones; Planned development of evacuation sites and evacuation buildings (aiming to enable evacuation within five minutes in the case of communities where tsunamis arrive quickly)
 - 4) Dissemination of disaster knowledge to citizens
 - Dissemination of knowledge such as the importance of quick and autonomous evacuation when a strong shake is felt
 - Disaster education and development of tsunami education programmes
 - Development and dissemination of tsunami hazard maps
 - 5) Strengthened research and monitoring on earthquakes and tsunamis
 - 6) Delivery of tsunami warnings and evacuation
 - Broadcast of tsunami warnings that are easy to understand for recipients
 - Ensured delivery of tsunami warnings by using mobile phones and other various methods

- Development of concrete and practical evacuation plans; Establishment of rules for assisting evacuation

7) Reduction of damages caused by earthquake shakes

- Measures against liquefaction such as collection and database-development of shallow ground data; Measures against ceilings and other falling materials

3. Reflection of disaster management policy changes based on recent disasters

- Examples:
- Improvement of living environment of emergency shelters and reflection of women's needs
 - Improved messages for flood warnings and evacuation orders
 - Provision of warning information about landslides that are useful for local governments to issue evacuation orders
 - Measures against volcanoes such as development of practical evacuation plans

Timeline

28 September 2011	Report of the Committee for Technical Investigation on Countermeasures for Earthquakes and Tsunamis Based on the Lessons Learned from the "2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake"
28 November 2011	Deliberation at the second meeting of the High-Level Panel for Policy Planning on Disaster Management under the Central Disaster Management Council
27 December 2011	Adoption of the changes at the plenary meeting of the Central Disaster Management Council