To promote the use of hotels and inns as shelters, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the Japan Tourism Agency requested that accommodation groups prepare a list of hotels and inns capable of accommodating evacuees in advance on April 28. The related ministries and agencies, including the Cabinet Office and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, jointly notified prefectural governments, etc. to smoothly secure shelters in cooperation with accommodation groups, etc., as needed.

Having verified last year's disasters, the government are proceeding with initiatives for the flood season, such as "Campaign for Better Understanding of Evacuation." From the perspective of preventing the spread of infection at shelters, with this campaign in mind, the government asked the prefectural governments to promote further understanding of the following among residents on April 21 in the joint name of the Cabinet Office and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency: (1) "Evacuation" means to escape danger. If you are in a safe place, you do not need to evacuate and (2) a safe relative's or friend' house can also be an evacuation destination.

The government will continue to strive to advise and support local governments appropriately and take the necessary measures with the COVID-19 infection status in mind.

Section 3 Preparedness for Disasters Anticipated to Occur

3-1 Development of Countermeasures against Wide-Area Ash Falls from Major Volcanic Eruptions

A major volcanic eruption may cause considerable disruptions to the life and social and economic activities of people living around the base of the mountain and those living afar alike, as volcanic ashes fall over an extensive area. In this view, we established the "Working Group on Countermeasures for Wide-Area Ash Falls from Major Volcanic Eruptions" under Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council in August 2018 to examine the basic concept of ash fall countermeasures during a large-scale eruption in the Tokyo metropolitan area, where urban functions are concentrated.

Reference: http://www.bousai.go.jp/kazan/kouikikouhaiworking/index.html

The following are prerequisites for related ministries and agencies to start studying specific measures against wide-area ash falls during large-scale eruptions in the Tokyo metropolitan area:

- Ash fall distribution
- Impact on transportation and lifelines
- Basic evacuation behavior of residents, etc.
- Points to keep in mind when considering countermeasures, etc.

The Working Group examined the above and summarized the examination results in "About Countermeasures for Wide-area Ash Fall during a Large-scale Eruption - Impact and Countermeasures of Ash Fall in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area - Mt. Fuji Eruption as a Model Case" in April 2020.

Based on this report, related ministries and agencies and related designated public institutions will establish a study organization in future with the cooperation of experts and proceed to consider specific measures against wide-area ash falls during large-scale eruptions. (Fig. 3-1-1)



Source: Cabinet Office

3-2 Deliberations on Large-scale, Extensive Evacuation from Flooding or Storm Surge Inundation in the Tokyo

Metropolitan Area

Experts predict that there will be risks of major flood disasters that would require large-scale, extensive evacuation, as typhoons may increase their intensity into the future with global warming. Extensive portions of Japan's three major metropolitan areas are located below sea level. As such, large-scale flooding caused by the collapse of river embankments is expected to result in huge crowds as large numbers of residents seek to evacuate, as well as many people being left stranded after failing to escape in time.

Accordingly, approaches to large-scale, extensive evacuation from flooding or storm surge inundation were examined in Japan's three major metropolitan areas at the Working Group for Studying Large-scale, Extensive Evacuation from Flooding or Storm Surge Inundation established under the National Disaster Management Council's Disaster Management Implementation Committee in June 2016. The Working Group submitted a report titled "Basic Approaches for Large-scale, Extensive Evacuation from Flooding or Storm Surge Inundation" in March 2018.

(Reference: http://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/kozuiworking/)





Source: Formulated by the Cabinet Office based on materials from the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website (GSI)

In order to identify initiatives that administrative and other organizations should promote for large-scale, extensive evacuation from major floods and discuss collaboration and role sharing among these organizations based on the above report, the Cabinet Office has hosted three sessions of the Study Group on Extensive Evacuation from Large-Scale Flood Disasters in Urban Areas from June 2018 to March FY2019 in cooperation with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The main topics of the meetings were the securing of extensive evacuation sites, evacuation means and guidance.

(Reference: http://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigaiworking/suigaiworking.html)

In FY2019, while we were proceeding with specific studies on securing wide-area evacuation sites, securing evacuation means and evacuation guidance, Typhoon Hagibis hit us. The typhoon reaffirmed the challenges of large-scale wide-area evacuation, such as the planned suspension of railway operations and difficulty in determining the timing of evacuation from rainstorms and securing the time required for evacuation. After the typhoon, a "Working Group on Evacuation from Disasters Caused by the Typhoon Hagibis, etc. in FY2019" was established under the National Disaster Management Council. Within this group, issues related to the wide-area evacuation and efforts to be implemented were discussed. From FY2020 onwards, we will conduct a concrete study on division of roles and cooperation among related organizations based on the discussions.

3-3 Examination of Measures against Megaquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches

The government has been proceeding with Disaster Management against trench-type earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches throughout the government based on the "Basic Plan for Promotion of Disaster Management for Trench-type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches." The National Disaster Management Council is reviewing countermeasures for the largest earthquakes and tsunamis based on the opinions of the "Special Investigation Committee on Earthquake and Tsunami Countermeasures Reflecting the Lessons Learned from the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake" (September 28, 2011) to establish comprehensive tsunami countermeasures in which all possible means are taken while prioritizing the residents' lives above all.

In the review process, the National Disaster Management Council established a "Study Group on a Megaquake Model in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches" in the Cabinet Office, which comprises

researchers in science and engineering, in February 2015. The study group organized and analyzed wide-ranging traces of tsunamis having occurred to date and set out largest-in-class earthquake and tsunami fault models that are possible based on scientific knowledge. It has also been studying the expected seismic intensity distribution and estimating tsunami heights along the coastline.



Source: Reference Chart for Summary Report, Study Group on Megaquake Models in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches (Reference: http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nihonkaiko_chishima/model/index.html)



Source: Reference Chart for Summary Report, Study Group on Megaquake Models in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches (Reference: http://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nihonkaiko_chishima/model/index.html)

To estimate damage and consider Disaster Management to mitigate the damage based on the study results of these largest-class earthquake and tsunami fault models, we established a "Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches" under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council in April 2020.

The Working Group will consider the aspects of and quantify human damage caused by tsunamis and tremors expected from the megaquake in the vicinity of the trenches and damage to buildings, lifelines (water, electricity and gas, etc.) and transportation facilities (roads and railroads, etc.) to formulate various disaster prevention and mitigation measures that the national government should implement and promote them. The Working Group will then sort out issues that may be raised at the time of a megaquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches based on the aspects of damage and consider basic megaquake countermeasures. In particular, a megaquake in winter would cause damage specific to snowy and cold regions. The Working

Group will take this into consideration and proceed with the study.

Column: Amendment to Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant

The disaster relief fund loan system is a system under the Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant (No. 82 of 1973, hereinafter referred to as the "Disaster Condolence Grant Act"). This system loan funds to rebuild lives to the heads of households with incomes below a certain level as per an ordinance if they are injured or their homes or property sustain damage in a natural disaster (Loan limit: 3.5 million yen, repayment period: 10 years).

At the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that caused unprecedented damage, the Act Concerning Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims (Act No. 66 of 1998) was not enacted. Many victims were forced to rebuild their lives by relying on loans for the affected by disasters. Many people had difficulty in repaying loan within the predetermined period of 10 years and the deadline was extended 5 times to date.

During this period, the relevant local governments endeavored to collect claims as much as possible by taking legal action against delinquents, resulting in a loan redemption rate of 90% or more, but some claims remain difficult to collect even now, more than 20 years after the earthquake, due to a lack of sufficient financial resources on the part of borrowers.

With this in mind, an ultimate solution to this problem was considered, taking into account requests of the relevant local governments. Following coordination between ruling and opposition parties, the Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant was amended by lawmaker-initiated legislation to include the following seven points (Promulgated on June 7, 2019, enforced on August 1).

<Outline of Amendments to the Act on Provision of Disaster Condolence Grant>

- For disasters before the enactment of the Act Concerning Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims (the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake), repayment is exempted based on income or asset requirements.
- (2) From April 2019 onwards, grant municipalities the authority to determine the necessity of a guarantor and waive the guarantee claims after the elapse of 10 years from the repayment deadline for disasters before April 2019.
- (3) Clarify that repayment can be postponed if it is difficult.
- (4) In the case of bankruptcy, repayment is exempted even before the elapse of 20 years, similar to death or severe disability.
- (5) Grant municipalities the authority to investigate assets and income for exemption, etc.
- (6) Municipalities endeavor to establish a council, etc. to investigate and deliberate matters concerning the payment of disaster condolence grant and disaster and disability relief money.
- (7) The national government familiarizes people with the systems of disaster condolence grant, disability relief money, and relief funds.

Source: Cabinet Office