

Section 4 International Cooperation for Disaster Prevention

Japan has accumulated a great deal of disaster experience, knowledge, and measures for disaster reduction, and by sharing this experience, Japan is leading the global discussion in the field of disaster reduction and contributing to disaster reduction efforts in countries around the world. In particular, based on the fact that the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai City in March 2015, countries around the world expect Japan to play a leading role in the implementation of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 to 2030" (hereinafter referred to as the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction") adopted at the conference. For this reason, the Disaster Management Bureau of the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are actively promoting disaster reduction cooperation and Bilateral Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation through international organizations such as the United Nations.

4-1 Cooperation in Disaster Prevention through the United Nations and Other International Organizations

(1) Cooperation in Disaster Reduction Through the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

In order to promote the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Cabinet Office contributed a total of approximately 6.2 million US dollars (approximately 680 million yen) in FY2020 to support the activities of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which monitors and coordinates the implementation of the framework and provides support to regions and countries.

The UNDRR held an online donor meeting in November 2020 to explain its performance in 2020. In the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UNDRR reported on the status of implementation of Target E (to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster reduction strategies), the addition of the COVID-19 perspective to the UNDRR strategy, and the early sharing of lessons learned from COVID-19 with countries and institutions around the world, the formation of partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to strengthen coordination among the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(2) International Recovery Platform (IRP)

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture in March 2005 in response to the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted at the 2nd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture in 2005. The Framework was established with the following objectives: to enhance the network and the Hyogo Framework for Action to support smooth recovery; to disseminate lessons learned and develop common methods and mechanisms for recovery; and to provide advice and support for recovery planning and forming ideas. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for strengthening the IRP as one of the international mechanisms for promoting "Build-Back-Better" recovery. The Government of Japan (Cabinet Office), as co-chair of the Steering Committee, is helping to lay the groundwork for its development and is supporting the activities of the IRP.

The International Recovery Forum for FY 2020 was held on January 22, 2021, in Kobe, Japan, both onsite and online, with the theme of "Recovery from Complex Disasters: Practices and Lessons for Better Recovery from

Natural Disasters and the COVID-19 Pandemic." There were 340 participants to the conference from 49 countries, including Governor of Hyogo Prefecture Ido and Director Kawata of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution. The forum discussed key areas such as governance, planning, financing, and inclusion, and how lessons learned from past recovery experiences can be applied to the current recovery under COVID-19 crisis.



The International Recovery Forum

(3) Cooperation in Disaster Reduction through Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Activities

The 16th APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) meeting was held online on July 21, 2020. The EPWG is leading the sharing of information on COVID-19 countermeasures in APEC and is conducting a survey on COVID-19 countermeasures in APEC member economies. As they were part of the main themes of the conference as well, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), which attended the conference from Japan, presented examples of support measures and tools from Japan and its member countries.

(4) Cooperation in Disaster Reduction through Joint Activities with the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture in 1998 to share disaster lessons with the Asian region, and as of March 2020, 31 Asian countries are members. The ADRC's activities are based on four pillars: sharing of disaster information, human resource development in member countries, enhancement of community disaster resilience, and collaboration with member countries, international organizations, regional organizations, and NGOs. Visiting researchers are invited from member countries (117 in total as of March 2021) and are trained to contribute to the planning of disaster reduction policies in member countries through research on disaster reduction policies. The center also collects information on disaster management systems and the latest disaster information in each country and provides them on its website, as well as satellite observations of disaster damage in the event of a disaster.

The Cabinet Office co-hosts the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) with the ADRC to share information, exchange opinions, and promote cooperation on issues related to disaster prevention and disaster mitigation in Asia with the participation of member countries and international organizations. The 16th conference was held online from October 20 to October 22, 2020, under the themes of "Challenges of Increasingly Frequent and Severe Disaster Risks and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures" and "Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures for the COVID-19 Crisis." The conference was attended by 244 participants from 22 of the 31 member countries and international organizations such as UNDRR and JICA. The participants shared information

and exchanged opinions on the status of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including disaster reduction strategies of each country. From Japan, Mr. Okonogi, then Minister of State for Disaster Management, and Mr. Akazawa, State-Minister of Cabinet Office, gave opening and closing remarks via video message, respectively. From Japan, the Ministry of the Environment gave a presentation in the session on “Challenges of Increasingly Frequent and Severe Disaster Risks and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures.”



The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction

4-2 Bilateral Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation

In addition to its efforts through international organizations, the Cabinet Office has been deepening cooperation with disaster management departments in governments around the world by sharing experiences in disaster risk management policies through such opportunities as visits by cabinet-level officials in charge of disaster management from abroad.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation (MOU) signed together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in December 2014, a working plan is signed every year, in addition to the use of international conferences and video conferences for sharing information and exchanging opinions. A videoconference was held in December 2020 to exchange information on (1) evacuation procedures under COVID-19 crisis, (2) support and stockpiling of relief supplies under COVID-19 crisis, and (3) issues under COVID-19 crisis.