

## Section 5 Efforts of “Climate Change × Disaster Prevention”

### 5-1 Background of Consideration of “Climate Change × Disaster Prevention”

The planet's average temperature has already risen by about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times, and climate change has become a reality with frequent meteorological disasters occurring around the world. In Japan too, severe floods and Sediment Disaster (Landslide Disaster) have occurred frequently in recent years due to such meteorological disasters. Among them are the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain in July 2017, the Heavy Rain Event of July 2018, and Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (T1919). It is predicted that the frequency of heavy rains and floods will increase due to climate change. It is important to recognize that we have entered an era in which weather-related disasters that exceed expectations will occur more frequently in more regions.

From February 2020, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of the Environment joined forces to hold 3 meetings to exchange opinions on policies from the perspective of "Climate Action x DRR" with experts. This was done to raise further awareness of climate change and disaster risk management among all citizens, to determine what disaster management measures should be taken to adapt to climate change, and to provide a direction for fundamental disaster prevention and mitigation measures and climate change adaptation.

The third meeting for exchanging opinions (June 3, 2020)



Then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Takeda, exchanging views with experts



Then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Takeda, and Minister of the Environment, Koizumi, at the Opinion Exchange Meeting

### 5-2 Strategy of “Climate Change × Disaster Prevention” in Climate Risk Age -From Restoration to Adapted Reconstruction-

Based on the discussions at the opinion exchange meeting, the joint message of Mr. Takeda, the then Minister of State for Disaster Management, and Mr. Koizumi, the Minister of the Environment, was released on June 30, 2020 under the title of "Climate Action x DRR Strategy in an Age of Climate Crisis: From Restoration to Original Form to Adaptation and Reconstruction." The message was designed as a strategy to effectively coordinate climate change adaptation with disaster prevention and mitigation measures, while taking into account future climate change projections, taking a bird's-eye view of social issues, and looking to achieve the SDGs.

A summary of the message is as follows.

- Mainstreaming Climate Action x DRR

Climate action and disaster risk reduction are cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed in all fields. In the future, we will pursue the mainstreaming of these issues by incorporating Climate Action x DRR into policies in various fields.

- Promoting Comprehensive Measures to Build a Decarbonized and Disaster-Resilient Society

All actors will take comprehensive measures for climate change adaptation and disaster prevention and mitigation in their respective fields. National spatial planning, infrastructure development, and land use will be promoted through both hard and soft measures to cope with complex risks, including not only weather-related disasters but also infectious diseases and heat stroke.

In doing so, we will not be limited to the idea of restoring the area to its original state before the disaster, but will learn from the ancient wisdom of using nature to cope with disasters, and adapt to climate change through flexible measures including land use control to create a society that can heal from disasters, adapt and rebuild quickly. For this reason, in order to be able to respond quickly after a disaster strike, it is necessary to look to the future even before that happens, and to consider and share the vision of the post-disaster society and town with the local community in order to achieve an "even better recovery."

- Raising the Awareness and Changing the Behavior of Individuals, Businesses, and Communities, and Promoting Emergency Preparedness and Cooperation

In addition to governmental disaster management (public support), citizens and businesses should understand the current situation of the climate crisis, where meteorological disasters are becoming more severe and frequent, and be aware of the importance of self-help (protecting one's own life) and mutual-support (surviving together) in preparing against disasters. Measures to ensure that local disaster risks are known and that disaster prevention actions including evacuation are taken in the event of a disaster, along with measures to respond to disasters through coordination and cooperation among various entities, including residents, volunteers, private business operators, and governments, will be accelerated.

- Promoting International Cooperation and Overseas Development

We will take the initiative in demonstrating to the world the current system in which the parties responsible for climate change and disaster management measures work in cooperation and collaboration. Also, we will aim to simultaneously achieve the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the SDGs as the "Three Pillars of the Strategy for Climate Action x DRR." We will further stimulate overseas development and international cooperation by the public-private sectors, making full use of Japan's disaster experience, technologies for DRR/ DRM and environmental technologies.

Outline of the Strategy of 'Climate Change x Disaster Prevention in the Age of Climate Crisis (Joint Message)

June 30, 2020

[Natural Factors]

- Climate change is causing meteorological disasters to become more severe and frequent, and the frequency of heavy rainfall and flooding is expected to increase in the future.
- We have entered an era in which meteorological disasters that exceed previous expectations occur more frequently in various regions.

[Social Factors]

- Increase in the those who require assistance evacuating and decrease in the number of generations of supporters due to an aging society coupled with a low birthrate
- Increased disaster risk due to population concentration in cities
- Combined risk of infectious diseases and natural disasters occurring simultaneously

- Drastic disaster prevention and mitigation measures based on climate change risks are needed
- Demonstrate a strategy to make an effective collaboration of climate change adaptation with disaster prevention and mitigation measures, with a view to achieving the SDGs

Mainstreaming Strategy of 'Climate Change x Disaster Prevention'

- Climate change and disaster prevention are cross-cutting issues that should be addressed by all sectors.
- Mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce greenhouse gases in order to minimize the risk of climate change as much as possible.
- The "Strategy of 'Climate Change x Disaster Prevention'" will be worked into policies in various fields and to make it a mainstream policy.

Challenges	Direction	Example of Future Measures
Promotion of comprehensive measures to build a decarbonized and disaster-resilient society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster prevention and mitigation measures by all actors in various fields and through various methods</li> <li>Building a society that "avoids disasters and rebuilds quickly"</li> <li>Respond with the concept of "adaptive recovery," which promotes adaptation to climate change through flexible responses, including control of land use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the decentralization of population and industries that are excessively concentrated in Tokyo and other regions</li> <li>Development of infrastructure facilities based on standards and plans that take climate change into account</li> <li>Land use that prevents people from living in disaster risk areas as much as possible, and living in a way that adapts to disaster risk</li> <li>Full-scale implementation of "green infrastructure" and "disaster prevention and mitigation using ecosystems,"</li> <li>Learning from ancient wisdom and utilizing the diverse functions of nature to reduce disaster risks</li> <li>Effective use of social innovation (telework, etc.) in the digital age</li> <li>Responding to the risk of infectious diseases and heat stroke in shelters and other places</li> <li>Transition to a decarbonized society, including accelerated introduction of renewable energy</li> </ul>
Raising awareness and changing behaviors of individuals, companies, and communities, preparing for emergencies, and promoting collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting awareness of "self-help" (protecting one's own life by oneself) and "mutual-help" (saving together with others), appropriate disaster prevention actions, and disaster countermeasures in which all actors cooperate and collaborate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures to raise awareness and change behavior to encourage evacuation behavior</li> <li>Promotion of the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans, individual plans for those who require assistance evacuating, and corporate business continuity plans, taking into account the intensification of meteorological disasters</li> <li>Creating an environment where multiple generations can learn about climate change and disaster prevention and have a preparedness against disaster at the local level</li> <li>Collaboration among many parties beyond the public and private sectors in disaster relief activities, including cooperation in flood control, provision of evacuation shelters from local businesses to residents, and collection and transportation of disaster waste</li> </ul>
Promote international cooperation and overseas development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simultaneously achieve the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, and SDGs as the trinity of the "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing to the improvement of disaster resilience in various countries by using Japan's technology and know-how in disaster prevention</li> <li>Reinforcing international adaptation measures through the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, and promoting collaboration among platforms</li> </ul>

Source: Ministry of the Environment, Cabinet Office  
(See: [http://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/0630\\_kikohendo.pdf](http://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/0630_kikohendo.pdf))

On June 30, 2020, the day of the release of the joint message, Mr. Takeda, the then Minister of State for Disaster Management, and Mr. Koizumi, the Minister of the Environment, attended the International Symposium on Climate Action x DRR (online). They discussed the nature of disaster prevention and mitigation measures in light of climate change, and Japan's role in the international development of climate action and disaster management strategies. Mami Mizutori, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) also participated in the discussions. After the symposium, a joint press conference was held to explain the joint message.

#### International Symposium and Joint Press Conference (June 30, 2020)



Then Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Takeda, speaking at the symposium



The Joint Press Conference

(Reference: <https://bousai2020.tokyo/>)