

Section 3 Responding to Disaster Threats

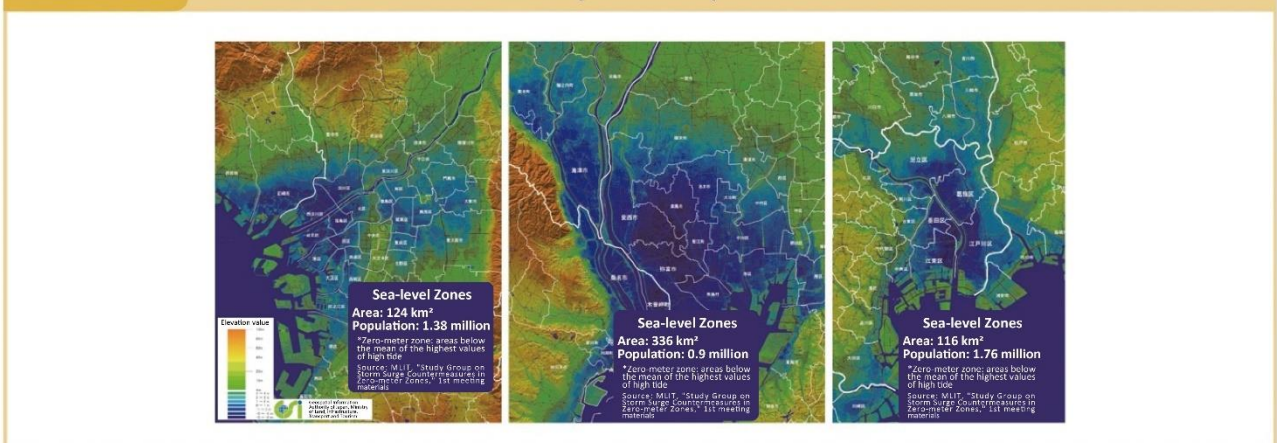
3-1 Consideration of Wide-area Evacuation due to Overflow from Floods and Storm Surges in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area and Other Big City Areas

Due to global warming, there are concerns that the proportion of intense tropical cyclones is projected to increase, and it is predicted that there will be large-scale floods in the future that will require large-scale and wide-area evacuation. Each of the 3 major metropolitan areas in Japan have wide "sea-level zones," and in the event of a large-scale flood due to a levee burst or similar disaster, it is expected that a large number of residents will have to evacuate, resulting in heavy congestion and a large number of isolated people due to delayed escape (FIG. 3-1-1).

For this reason, the "Working Group on Large-Scale and Wide-Area Evacuation from Floods and Storm Surge Flooding," which was established in June 2016 under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council, studied how large-scale and wide-area evacuation from floods and storm surge flooding should be carried out in the 3 major metropolitan areas. In March 2018, the "Fundamental Thought Process on Large-Scale and Wide-Area Evacuation from Floods and Storm Surge Flooding (Report)" was compiled.

(Reference : <https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/kozuiworking/>)

FIG. 3-1-1 Sea-level Zones in Three Major Metropolitan Areas



Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website

Based on this report, the Cabinet Office compiled issues on that relevant organizations including government agencies should work together for the implementation of large-scale wide-area evacuation in the event of a large-scale flood. Also, the Cabinet Office established the "Study Group on Extensive Evacuation from Large-Scale Flood Disasters in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area" in June 2018 in cooperation with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The study group was held 7 times through FY2021 with the aim of the nature of cooperation and role sharing among relevant organizations. The study group made "Guidelines for supporting to plan for Wide-area Evacuation (Report)" in March 2022. Moving forward, more discussions will continue for concretization of the guidelines.

(Reference : <https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigaiworking/suigaiworking.html>)

Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (T1919) caused extensive and widespread damage. Since it revealed issues about wide-area evacuation, discussions were held in the "Working Group on Evacuation from Disasters Caused by the Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (T1919)" established under the National Disaster Management Council and in the "Sub-

Working Group Concerning Evacuation Information and Wide-area Evacuation Based on Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (T1919)." Based on their recommendation, the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" was revised in May 2021. It includes stipulations about establishment of a national Disaster Management Headquarters at the stage when a disaster is likely to occur, consultations on wide-area evacuation between mayors and prefectural governors and requests for transportation by prefectural governors.

In addition, when the revised "Basic Act on Disaster Management" was executed, local governments were notified of the "Fundamental Thought Process on Wide-Area Evacuation from Flood Disaster," which describes basic ideas, procedures and case examples of wide-area evacuation to promote the measures for the smooth implementation of wide-area evacuation.

(Reference : https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigai_kouikihinan/index.html)