

Section 4 International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan has accumulated a lot of experience and knowledge regarding disasters and disaster reduction measures. By sharing them, Japan is leading global discussions in the field of disaster risk reduction as well as contributing to strengthening disaster risk reduction measures in countries across the world. Particularly, since the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture in March 2015, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR2015-2030) (hereinafter referred to as the "Sendai Framework") was adopted at the conference, countries around the world expect Japan to play a leading role in its implementation. For this reason, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are actively promoting disaster risk reduction cooperation through the United Nations and other international organizations, and the bilateral and multilateral one.

4-1 Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction through the United Nations and Other International Organizations

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

To promote the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and assisting regions and countries in implementing the Framework. In order to support these activities, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed a total of approximately US \$5.29 million (approximately 570 million yen) in FY2021.

Japan led the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in 2015 to designate November 5th of every year as "World Tsunami Awareness Day." The UNDRR and Japan have jointly organized informative events to raise awareness of the threat of tsunamis since the following year, 2016 onward. An online event of the "World Tsunami Awareness Day" was held on November 5, 2021, and under the theme of "Using Science and Technology to Reduce Tsunami Risk for Present and Future Generations," experts from related countries and organizations, as well as young researchers, engaged in lively discussions.

The UNDRR also held the "Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum" online from December 8 to 9, 2021. At the forum, participants shared the status of disaster risk reduction measures in the Asia-Pacific region and discussed priority issues to be addressed in the region as the Sendai Framework approaches the halfway point in 2023.

(2) International Recovery Platform (IRP)

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture in March 2005. This platform was established in response to the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted at the Second United Nations World Conference on DRR held in Kobe to: (1) enhance the network to support smooth recovery and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, (2) spread awareness of lessons learned from recovery and develop common methods and mechanisms for recovery, and (3) provide advice and support for the development of recovery plans and initiatives. The Sendai Framework calls for the strengthening of the IRP as one of the international mechanisms to promote "Build Back Better." As co-chair of the Steering Committee, the Japanese government (the Cabinet Office) is contributing to laying the groundwork for its development and support of IRP activities.

In FY 2021, the "International Recovery Forum 2022" was held in Kobe City on January 19, 2022, in a hybrid

format that combined on-site and online sessions. The theme of the forum was "Redesigning Systems for Resilience through Recovery: Assessing Progress and Unfinished Agenda at the Midpoint of the Sendai Framework", and the event was attended by 400 participants from 65 countries, including Deputy Director General for the Cabinet Office UCHIDA, Governor of Hyogo SAITO, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction MIZUTORI, and Distinguished Technical Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) TAKEYA. The forum reviewed the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and participants discussed remaining issues. At the same time, keynote speeches and panel discussions were given on agenda setting and priority themes to further promote "Build Back Better. "



International Recovery Forum 2022

(3) Cooperation in DRR 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 lessons from disaster with the Asia region. As of March 2022, 31 Asian countries have joined. The ADRC is based on four principles: (1) sharing disaster information, (2) developing human resources in member countries, (3) improving disaster preparedness of communities, and (4) collaborating with member countries, international and regional organizations, and NGOs. Visiting researchers are invited from member countries (121 visiting researchers in total as of December 2021), and through research on DRR policies, human resources are trained to contribute to the planning and formulation of DRR policies in member countries. The ADRC also collects and provides information on disaster management systems and the latest disaster information in each country on its website and provides information on disaster damage through satellite observations when disasters occur.

The Cabinet Office co-hosted the "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2021" with the ADRC. With the participation of member countries, international organizations and others, the conference was a place to share information, exchange opinions, and promote collaboration on issues related to disaster prevention and mitigation in Asia. It was the 17th conference and held online from December 14 to 16, 2021 under the theme "Time for Change and Transformation: the Road to a Resilient Asia." 264 officials and experts from 22 of the 31 member countries as well as from UNDRR, JICA and other related organizations attended, and Minister of State for Disaster Management NINOYU delivered opening remarks via video message. At the conference, information was shared and opinions were exchanged on topics such as the development of disaster risk reduction technology adapted to local needs for a safe and secure society, the education and awareness-raising promoting proactive

disaster risk reduction behavior and the investment in disaster risk reduction for a resilient society.

As a pre-event of the conference, five thematic seminars were held from June to October 2021. In addition, on December 15, 2021, the Cabinet Office and the ADRC hosted a public-private seminar for disaster risk reduction, presented by "Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD)" as side event. The seminar was attended by about 70 participants from the attendance of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction and JIPAD member organizations. Twelve Japanese private-sector companies gave presentations on their disaster risk reduction technologies.



Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction

4-2 Bilateral and Multilateral Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation

The Cabinet Office is deepening its collaboration with departments in charge of disaster management in governments around the world by not only cooperation through international organizations, but also sharing experiences in disaster risk reduction policy through opportunities for ministerial-level officials in charge of disaster management from abroad to pay a visit.

(1) Cooperation with ASEAN through the ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management

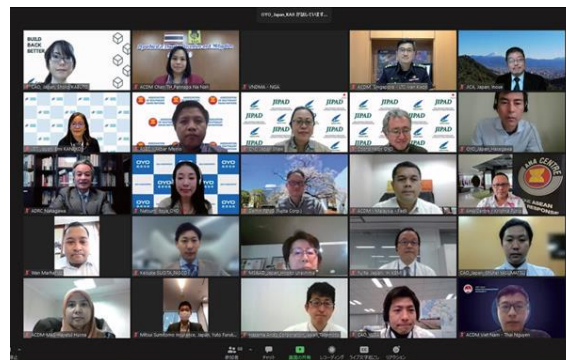
At the 22nd ASEAN+3 (China, Korea and Japan) Summit Meeting, with the attendance of then Prime Minister ABE in November 2019, the Chairman's Statement included the launch of the "ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management." In response to this, on October 14, 2021, the Japanese government (the Cabinet Office) and the departments in charge of disaster management of the 10 ASEAN member countries held the "First ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management" online with Minister of State for Disaster Management NINOYU as co-chairing the meeting. During the meeting, opinions were exchanged on how Japan and ASEAN should cooperate in the field of disaster management, and future policies were agreed upon in the form of a joint statement that was adopted.

On March 29, 2022, the Cabinet Office and the ASEAN Secretariat hosted the "Japan-ASEAN Public-Private Seminar on Innovative Policies and Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction" together. The seminar was attended by related organizations including the Cabinet Office, JICA, ADRC, the National Institute of Environmental Studies (NIES), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), 33 organizations from JIPAD member organizations and the departments in charge of disaster management in 10 ASEAN member countries, with a total of about 100 participants. The participants mutually shared information on disaster risk reduction policies and the latest approaches in Japan and ASEAN. And 3 Japanese private companies also gave presentations on their disaster risk

reduction technologies.



Minister of State for Disaster Management NINOYU, speaking at the First ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management



Japan-ASEAN Public-Private Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar

(2) Cooperation between the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cabinet Office

Based on the memorandum of cooperation signed in December 2014 with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FEMA and the Cabinet Office share information and exchange opinions through international conferences and videoconferences. A video conference was held in February 2022 to exchange information on: (1) evacuation support for persons requiring special care, (2) measures related to shelters, and (3) development of professional human resources for evacuation life support.

(3) Exchanges with Western Balkan Countries for Disaster Risk Reduction

In the "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative" announced by then Prime Minister ABE during his visit to the Western Balkans in January 2018, the disaster risk reduction field is positioned as a pillar of cooperation between Japan and the Western Balkan countries. Based on this, the "Second Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Western Balkans" was held in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria from November 8 to 11, 2021 in a hybrid format that combined on-site and online sessions. The seminar was attended by representatives from Japan, Bulgaria, the Western Balkans and international organizations involved in disaster management. They exchanged views on earthquake countermeasures, an issue of growing concern in the region. In addition, three Japanese private companies, mostly JIPAD members, gave presentations on the latest technologies for earthquake countermeasures.