Part 1 Status of Disaster Management Measures in Japan

Japan is prone to various types of disasters due to its natural conditions. In FY 2023, many disasters, including the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, caused damage. Part 1 describes recent disaster management measures, focusing on the progress of the measures implemented on a priority basis in FY 2023.

Chapter 1
Status of Initiatives for Disaster Management Measures

Section 1 Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction in Advance through Self-Help and Mutual Support and Disaster Risk Reduction Activities through Collaboration Among Diverse Entities

1-1 Raising Public Awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction

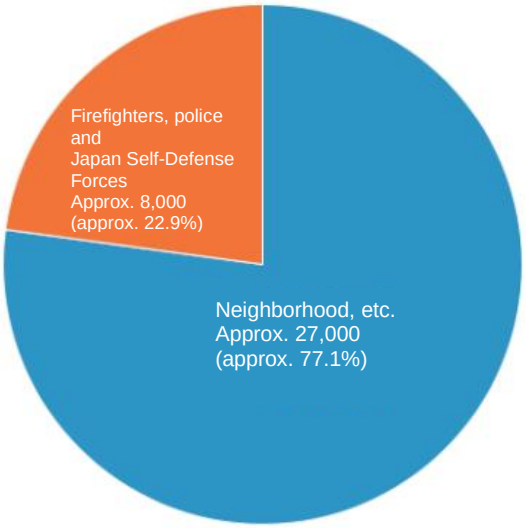
Japan has historically experienced many natural disasters due to its topography, weather and other natural conditions. As a result, during normal times, both structural measures, such as the construction of levees and earthquake resistance, aimed at preventing and mitigating disaster damage, and non-structural measures, such as the creation of hazard maps and disaster risk reduction education, aimed at ensuring appropriate actions in the event of a disaster, are implemented to prepare for the occurrence of potential disasters. In addition, in the event of a disaster, the Government makes relentless efforts through “public support”, such as immediate rescue and lifesaving efforts for disaster victims, dispatch of personnel from the National and local governments to provide on-the-ground human assistance to affected areas, push-type support for supplies, with emergency transportation of essential supplies to shelters and evacuees, without waiting for requests from the affected areas, and financial assistance through measures such as designating an area with a disaster of extreme severity and assistance based on the “Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims” (Act No. 66 of 1998).

However, there are concerns about the limitations of “public support” in the event of a wide-area, large-scale disaster, such as the anticipated Nankai Trough earthquake, massive earthquakes along the Japan Trench and Chishima Trench, or increasingly severe and frequent meteorological disasters in recent years.

In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, a survey showed that approximately 80% of those buried alive were rescued through “self-help”, including help from family members and “mutual support” from neighbors and others, and those rescued by “public support” such as rescue teams was only about 20% (**Fig. 1-1-1**).

The environment surrounding local governments is becoming more challenging, with municipal areas becoming wider due to mergers of municipalities and a reduction in the number of local government officials. Moreover, due to an aging society, the number of people in need of attention is on the increase. Therefore, it is important to build local communities where disaster risk management awareness is fostered, where “people protect their own lives” and “residents help each other”, with each citizen taking concrete action and considering disasters as “one’s affair” rather than “someone else's”.

Fig. 1-1-1 Entities that carried out rescue and the number of rescued persons in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

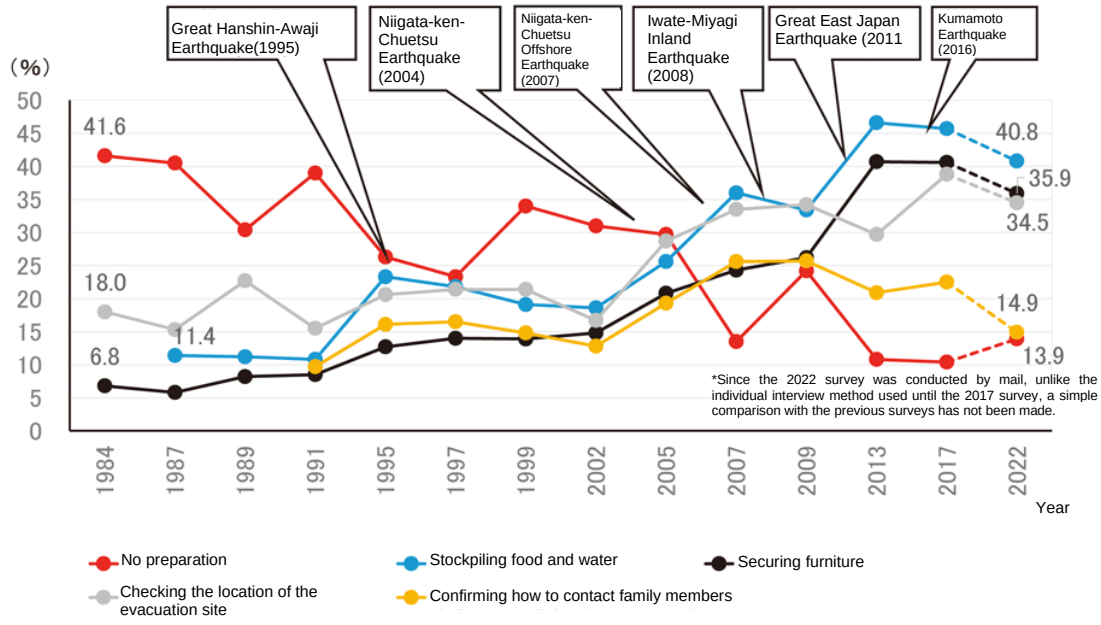


Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office based on “Prediction of Human Damage from Large-Scale Earthquake Disasters” by Yoshiaki Kawata (1997), Journal of Japan Society for Natural Disaster Science, Vol. 16, No. 1 (featured in the 2016 Disaster Management White Paper, Special Feature: “Future Disaster Management”)

Concrete actions for disaster prevention and mitigation include, first and foremost, “self-help”, which involves understanding disaster risks in your area, making “preparations” in advance by securing furniture and stocking up on food, etc., participating in evacuation drills to ensure the ability to take appropriate actions during the evacuation, and preparing your evacuation action plan (My Timeline), in which actions to be taken during events such as an approaching typhoon, are organized in advance in chronological order, according to the situation of each resident. It is also necessary to take measures to mitigate damage from disasters through “mutual support”, such as helping neighbors at the time of a disaster.

According to the results of a “Public Opinion Survey on Disaster Preparedness” conducted by the Cabinet Office in September 2022, the recognition of the importance of “self-help” and the movement to take concrete measures have steadily permeated among the public after major disasters such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake (**Fig. 1-1-2**). However, despite the occurrence of the Kumamoto Earthquake, which caused significant damage, the subsequent survey conducted in 2017 revealed that the implementation rate of “self-help” efforts, such as “securing furniture”, remained at 40.6%, indicating a trend of stagnation. Although the results of the most recent survey in 2022 cannot simply be compared to the results of previous surveys, since the survey was conducted by post, unlike the individual interview method used until 2017, the overall implementation rate of efforts has likely not increased. One reason for this is that many citizens only see and hear in the media about the damage caused by disasters and do not feel personally affected, which may make it difficult to raise public awareness of disaster risk reduction in the wake of disasters.

Fig. 1-1-2 Trends in the selection rate for self-help efforts in preparation for major earthquakes (Public Opinion Survey on Disaster Preparedness)



Source: Cabinet Office “Public Opinion Survey of Disaster Prevention”

As described in Special Feature 1 in Chapter 3, Section 2 “Co-existing with ‘Volcanoes’”, those who responded that “they had never discussed how to deal with natural disasters with their families and close acquaintances” (36.9% of the total) in the 2022 survey, when asked the reason for this (multiple responses allowed), the most common response was “there was no opportunity to discuss”, which was selected by an overwhelmingly high percentage (58.1%) of respondents. This suggests that efforts should be strengthened to reach out to the public who have not yet started the efforts for disaster preparedness.

There is a renewed awareness of the importance of “mutual support”, which was demonstrated by the effective evacuation in the Naganuma area of Nagano City in Nagano Prefecture in the wake of Typhoon Hagibis, where local disaster management leaders took the lead in preparing evacuation plans and conducting evacuation drills and other activities during peacetime.

While the government will continue its relentless efforts to strengthen “public support”, it is becoming increasingly difficult to prevent sudden and severe disasters solely with structural measures, such as existing disaster management facilities, or government-led non-structural measures, due to the increasingly severe and frequent meteorological disasters associated with global warming and the increasing number of elderly people requiring support in an aging society. Rather than focusing only on government-led efforts, disaster risk management policies that focus on residents' “self-help” and “mutual support” based on a shared understanding across the entire population are needed. Currently, there are disparities in disaster resilience across regions, and it is necessary to spread the efforts by “local communities” having high disaster risk management awareness, across the entire nation and build a society that can respond effectively to disasters.

1-2 National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction and National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction

The “National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction” was convened in 2015, which comprised experts from various sectors, including six local organizations, the business community, the education sector, and medical and welfare-related fields, to engage in the exchange of information, opinions and other necessary collaborations and raise disaster risk management awareness in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Council. The Council engages in dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

(1) National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023

The “National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023” was jointly organized by the Cabinet Office, the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (an organization comprising industry associations, etc. working to promote a national campaign for disaster damage mitigation) on September 17-18, 2023 in Kanagawa Prefecture, the epicenter of the Great Kanto Earthquake, which completed 100 years in 2023.

Under the theme “Preparing for the Next 100 Years - Learning From the Past and Passing Down the Lessons Learned to the Next Generation”, the Conference aimed to encourage many people to reflect on great earthquakes and to pass down to the next generation the importance of disaster “preparedness” and “mutual support”.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Matsumura, Minister of State for Disaster Management, greeted on behalf of the organizers and expressed his hope that “by holding such events annually, the disaster management network will spread throughout the country and local disaster resilience will be enhanced, thereby further strengthening disaster ‘preparedness’ in Japan as a whole”. Next, Mr. Seike, Chairman of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction and Chairman of the Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (President of the Japanese Red Cross Society), delivered the organizer’s address. Mr. Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, and Mr. Yamanaka, Mayor of Yokohama City, delivered greetings on behalf of the host location. The opening session included a keynote address on “The Great Kanto Earthquake - With a Focus on Relief and Rescue” by Ms. Kitahara, a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, reflecting on the nature of the Great Kanto Earthquake disaster. In the high-level session organized by the Cabinet Office, Mr. Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, Ms. Okubo, Deputy Mayor of Yokohama City, Mr. Uemura, Deputy Director General of the Cabinet Office, Professor Irie of Matsumoto University, Associate Professor Oki of Keio University, and Professor Sakamoto of Hyogo Prefectural University took the stage to discuss the theme of “Preparing for the Coming Mega Earthquake in the Next 100 Years” from their perspectives. The session was moderated by Emeritus Professor Fukuwa of Nagoya University, who summarized the discussions and reviewed the importance of disaster preparedness.

In addition, sessions on lessons learned from disasters and efforts related to “self-help” and “mutual support” were organized by various groups from the government, public interest groups, academia, the private sector, and NPOs. There were also workshops where participants could learn about disaster management through hands-on experience, booth displays, poster exhibits, stage presentations, outdoor displays featuring vehicles, and "Original Sessions" organized freely by exhibitors. Approximately 400 exhibiting organizations introduced their disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

In the closing session, messages for the future were delivered by young people, including their thoughts on future disaster management. This was followed by a greeting from Vice-Chairman Akimoto of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (President of the Japan Firefighters Association) on behalf of the organizers, a summary of the Conference by Emeritus Professor Emoto of Kanagawa University, and a report on the efforts for the exhibition at the host location, titled “BOSAI Kokutai 2023 – A Conference for Sharing Regional Information and Cooperation”. Also, a video message was received from Mr. Kabashima, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, the next host location of the Conference. In closing, Mr. Horii, then State Minister of the Cabinet Office, expressed his gratitude to the participants and his expectations for the next conference. Approximately 16,000 people in person attended the Conference, and there were approximately 11,000 views online, both of which were the highest numbers ever. Through this Conference, it was confirmed that the combination of “public support” provided by the government, “self-help”, where each individual prepares for disasters with the awareness about “protecting one’s own life”, and “mutual support”, where communities, schools, businesses, and volunteers help each other, plays a role in enhancing the disaster resilience of Japan. It was also confirmed that linking “preparedness” and “mutual support” is crucial for future large-scale disasters.

Opening address by Matsumura, Minister of State for Disaster Management


Opening Remarks by Chairman Seike

Keynote address (opening) by Ms. Kitahara, Visiting Scholar

High-level session

Messages by young people (closing)

Address on behalf of the organizers by Vice-Chairman Mr. Akimoto (Closing)

(2) The 9th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction

The 9th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction was held on December 20, 2023, at the Large Hall of the Prime Minister's Office. In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Kishida thanked the member organizations of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction for their efforts toward disaster management activities, stating, “Disasters can happen at any time. To raise Japan's disaster risk management awareness, which faces the risk of large-scale disasters such as Nankai Trough earthquakes and Tokyo Inland earthquakes, relentless efforts by people from all walks of life are indispensable”. He concluded by requesting further cooperation from the member organizations of the National Council.

Next, activity reports such as those on “National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023” were presented, and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Care Manager Association introduced their efforts to raise disaster risk management awareness through “self-help” and “mutual support”. In addition, the Japan Firefighters Association announced that the New Japan Fire Services Hall would be constructed in August 2024 as a new comprehensive base for firefighting in Japan.

The 9th National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (attended by Prime Minister Kishida)

In addition, as the year 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, a special page on the “100th Anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake” was launched in January 2023 to raise disaster risk management awareness. The page featured materials and reports related to the Great Kanto Earthquake, as well as information on events planned by government agencies and various organizations to commemorate the centenary of the Great Kanto Earthquake.

The page also introduced related events, etc. associated with the “100th Anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake” held during the year by the National and local governments, member organizations of the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, private organizations, and others, making use of the common logo of the “100th Anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake”.

The common logo of the “100th Anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake”

(Special page on the “100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake” https://www.bousai.go.jp/kantou100/index.html)

1-3 Measures on Disaster Management Drill and Disaster Risk Reduction Education

In the event of a disaster, disaster risk management agencies, such as national government agencies, local governments, and other public corporations, are required to work together and take appropriate measures in cooperation with residents. Therefore, disaster risk management efforts must be made during peacetime, such as through coordinated drills by relevant agencies. For this reason, organizations involved in disaster risk management conduct disaster management drills in accordance with the “Basic Act on Disaster Management” (Act No. 223 of 1961), the Basic Disaster Management Plan, and other regulations, with the aim of verifying and confirming emergency countermeasures in the event of a disaster and raising disaster risk management awareness among residents.

In FY 2023, various drills, as listed below, were conducted in accordance with the “FY 2023 Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill Framework” (decided by the National Disaster Management Council on May 30, 2023), which sets out the basic policy for conducting disaster management drills and comprehensive disaster management drills in the Government.

(1) “Disaster Preparedness Day” – A comprehensive disaster management drill

On “Disaster Preparedness Day”, observed on September 1, 2023, a drill was conducted, imagining the immediate aftermath of a Tokyo Inland earthquake. First, Prime Minister Kishida and other ministers assembled on foot at the Prime Minister's Office. They conducted a drill for the operation of a meeting of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters. During the meeting, the implementation system and steps for emergency countermeasures in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake were confirmed in coordination with local governments, such as assessing damage and requests for assistance, via a video conference with Mr. Motomura, Mayor of Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture, receiving reports from cabinet ministers on the extent of damage and response status, and confirming disaster response policies focused on prioritizing human life. After the meeting, Prime Minister Kishida held a press conference. Through an NHK broadcast, he drew people’s attention to the increased risk of building collapses and landslide disasters. He urged the public to take action to save lives and to refrain from hoarding and panic-buying food and daily necessities to minimize economic and social disruption. In addition, drills were conducted on the necessary procedures for establishing the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters and declaring a disaster emergency.

A joint disaster management drill of nine prefectures and cities was also conducted on the same day, with Sagamihara City as the main venue. Prime Minister Kishida and relevant cabinet ministers participated in a field investigation drill. Prime Minister Kishida observed rescue and relief drills by the police, fire department and Self-Defense Forces and got hands-on experience of drills, including the setup of utility hole toilets and fire-fighting drills using bucket relays.

Government Headquarters operation drill
Source: Prime Minister's official website

Field investigation drill in coordination with the joint disaster management drill of nine prefectures and cities
Source: Prime Minister's official website

(2) Government tabletop exercise

In December 2023, exercise for the operation of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters secretariat (Cabinet Office (Central Government Building No. 8)) and the operation of the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters (key wide-area disaster management base in the Tokyo Bay waterfront area (Ariake-no-oka region)) were conducted in conjunction, imagining a Tokyo Inland earthquake. The drills were attended by officials from the relevant government ministries and agencies and officials from Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa Prefectures, who gathered at the drill venue. They conducted a situation-based drill simulating conditions close to an actual disaster, as well as a discussion-based drill, discussing issues that require coordination among relevant agencies during a disaster.

In the regional block-based drills, drills for the operation of the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters were conducted in cooperation with the prefectures that are expected to be affected. These drills simulate trench-type earthquakes, such as those around the Japan Trench, Chishima Trench, and Nankai Trough. Situation-based and discussion-based drills were conducted in the Tohoku region (Sendai City) and Hokkaido (Sapporo City) in November 2023 and in the Kinki region (Osaka City) in December 2023, where participants gathered onsite.

The drills in Kyushu (Kumamoto City), which were scheduled to take place in January 2024, and in Shikoku (Takamatsu City) and the Chubu region (Nagoya City), which were scheduled to take place in February 2024, were canceled due to the response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

Drill for the operation of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters secretariat, simulating a Tokyo Inland earthquake

Drill for the operation of the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters, simulating a trench-type earthquake, such as earthquakes around the Japan and Chishima Trench

(3) Disaster risk reduction education efforts

In order for all citizens to protect their own lives from disasters, each citizen must be able to take appropriate actions in the event of a disaster. For this reason, it is necessary to spread practical disaster risk reduction education across the country so that children can acquire the necessary disaster management knowledge and learn proactive disaster management actions from childhood.

The government is taking initiatives such as the following, based on the “Third Plan for the Promotion of School Safety”, approved by the Cabinet in March 2022.

- Prepare and disseminate a new manual for disaster risk reduction education that takes into account developmental stages to enable all schools nationwide to implement practical disaster risk reduction education and evacuation drills that impart necessary knowledge such as local disaster risks and normalcy bias
- Prepare and disseminate teaching materials and data that are easy to use in schools, and prepare teaching materials for young children, including templates for information communication and awareness-raising at home, especially for disaster risk reduction education from early childhood, aiming at providing thorough disaster risk reduction education to parents and young children
- Regularly and concretely investigate disaster risk reduction education implemented in schools nationwide, including the status of implementation and review of practical evacuation drills, to set key indicators and publish the results of these investigations

In FY 2023, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) prepared a manual on disaster risk reduction education for junior high school and high school teachers, and the Cabinet Office collected case studies to enhance disaster risk reduction education for pre-school children.

[Column]
Effectively Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction Education through "Learn, Prepare, and Act"

Reo Kimura, Professor, Faculty of Human Science and Environment, Graduate School of Human Science and Environment, University of Hyogo
(Chairman, Executive Committee, Disaster Risk Reduction Education Challenge Plan)

It is said that the three perspectives of "Learn, Prepare, and Act" are important for the effective implementation of disaster risk reduction education (see note). "Learning" refers to scientifically understanding earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions and understanding meteorological hazards based on past damage. In other words, it is about "understanding the nature and characteristics of the enemy". "Preparing" involves understanding the damage and impact of disasters, as well as various challenges, such as rescue operations and evacuation life, and using lessons learned from past disasters for one's preparedness. "Taking action" involves using maps and other information to anticipate disasters that may occur in the region and practicing methods to ensure personal safety in the event of a disaster, measures to prevent damage, and "self-help" and "mutual support" to minimize the damage that has already occurred.

Based on these three perspectives, disaster risk reduction education is practiced across the country, and opportunities are also provided to share the know-how of these practices. To raise the disaster risk reduction awareness of the public and promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences of disasters, the Cabinet Office, the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction jointly organize the "National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai)" annually since FY 2016. This Conference serves as a platform not only for schools but also for individuals, communities, organizations, governments, and businesses to introduce various disaster risk reduction education efforts and exchange opinions. In addition, there is an initiative organized by Hyogo Prefecture, the Mainichi Shimbun, and the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute (Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution), called the "1.17 Disaster Reduction Future Award 'Bousai Koshien'", which was launched in FY 2004, based on lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and subsequent natural disasters. The Award recognizes innovative activities in disaster risk reduction education in which students actively engage at their schools and communities to create a safe and secure society for the future. The details of the award can be found on the website.

Furthermore, there has been a movement to support disaster risk reduction education practices over a year. The "Disaster Risk Reduction Education Challenge Plan", promoted by the Cabinet Office, is a program in which organizations, schools and individuals from all over Japan with a motivation to engage in disaster risk reduction education are invited to submit their plans for enhanced disaster risk reduction education. The selected plans receive support in the form of funding, ideas, etc., to help implement the plans for one year. Launched in FY 2004, the program has supported the practical activities of 10 to 30 organizations every year and approximately 350 organizations in the 20 years up to FY 2023. In FY 2024, which marked the 21st year of the plan, the plan was relaunched as the "New Disaster Risk Reduction Education Challenge Plan", with a focus on two key themes in step with the times: 1. "Collaboration between schools and communities" and 2. "Disaster risk reduction education using digital and corporate technologies". A call for practicing organizations was made, and as a result, 12 organizations were selected as practicing organizations. It is hoped that in the future, the activities of these organizations will contribute to the promotion of disaster risk reduction education activities in communities and schools across the country. Past practices and findings from disaster risk reduction education were shared in a symposium called the Disaster Management Education Networking Forum at the above-mentioned "National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai)" and are also introduced on the website.

There is a need to enhance "self-help", "mutual support", and "public support" capabilities for disaster management through disaster risk reduction education that helps you "Learn, Prepare, and Act" while making effective use of various opportunities.

The "FY 2023 Disaster Management Education Networking Forum" held at the "National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023"
Source: Cabinet Office website
(Reference: https://www.bosai-study.net/cp2023/forum/report.html)

1-4 Measures for Tsunami Disaster Prevention

(1) Tsunami evacuation drills

In FY 2023, earthquake and tsunami disaster drills organized by the National and local governments and private companies were conducted throughout Japan, mainly on “Tsunami Preparedness Day (November 5)”.

The Cabinet Office, in cooperation with local governments, conducted drills with the participation of residents at 10 locations across Japan (Kushiro Town, Hokkaido; Oirase Town, Aomori Prefecture; Hirono Town, Fukushima Prefecture; Kiho Town, Mie Prefecture; Kushimoto Town, Wakayama Prefecture; Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture; Komatsushima City, Tokushima Prefecture; Hiji Town, Oita Prefecture; Nishinoomote City, Kagoshima Prefecture; Amami City, Kagoshima Prefecture). The participants conducted drills to protect their own lives in the event of an earthquake (ShakeOut drills) and to take actions to evacuate from tsunamis after the shaking has subsided (Tsunami evacuation drills), as well as drills for safety confirmation and setup of shelters. Workshops were held before and after the drills, in which residents learned about local damage estimation, geographical conditions, etc., and were provided with opportunities to apply what they learned in taking appropriate evacuation actions in the event of a tsunami. About 9,000 people participated in the drills and workshops.

Self-protection drill (Komatsushima City, Tokushima Prefecture)

Tsunami evacuation drill (Hiji Town, Oita Prefecture)

Shelter setup drill (Hirono Town, Fukushima Prefecture)

Disaster preparednessworkshop (Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture)

(2) Awareness-raising activities

1. Awareness-raising activities for tsunami preparedness

In order to disseminate information on “Tsunami Preparedness Day” and “World Tsunami Awareness Day” and promote recognition and initiatives for tsunami preparedness, in FY 2023, various media were used to spread awareness, such as displaying educational posters in companies and local governments across the country and showing display images at checkout counters in major convenience stores and supermarkets.

Awareness-raising poster on tsunami preparedness

Cash register display at a convenience store

2. Special event on “Tsunami Preparedness Day” in FY 2023

On “Tsunami Preparedness Day” and “World Tsunami Awareness Day” on November 5, the Cabinet Office, the National Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Council for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction organized a special online event, “Tsunami Preparedness Day”.

The event began with a greeting by Mr. Matsumura, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, followed by a keynote address by Professor Imamura of the International Research Institute for Disaster Science, Tohoku University, on the topic “Looking Back on the Tsunami During the Great Kanto Earthquake 100 Years Ago - The Nature of Complex Disasters -”. Initiatives related to tsunami preparedness in Otsuchi Town, Iwate Prefecture, and Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture, were also introduced, followed by a discussion with the speakers.

An archived video of the event is available on the “Special Website for Tsunami Preparedness”.

(Reference: https://tsunamibousai.jp/)

Opening address by Matsumura, Minister of State for Disaster Management

Part 1 Keynote speech by Professor Imamura

Part 2 Panel discussion

1-5 Resident-led Initiatives (Promotion of Community Disaster Management Plans)

The Community Disaster Management Planning System was established through the 2013 amendment to the “Basic Act on Disaster Management” to promote voluntary disaster risk management activities by community residents, etc. (individuals living in the area and business operators with establishments) through “self-help” and “mutual support” in cooperation with municipalities, and to enhance local disaster resilience. The system allows community residents, etc., to formulate a Community Disaster Management Plan (draft) and propose to the Municipal Disaster Management Council that the plan be included in the Municipal Disaster Management Plan.

The contents of the Community Disaster Management Plan draft are freely decided by various entities within the community, such as residents, businesses, and welfare workers, through discussions on local disaster risks and disaster management actions and activities during peacetime and emergencies. After being placed in the Municipal Disaster Management Plan, the Plan serves as a link between “self-help”, “mutual support”, and “public support”. The contents of the plan, as well as the process of formulation, such as repeated discussions among community residents, are crucial in strengthening the power of mutual support.

As of April 1, 2023, 2,428 communities across 216 municipalities in 43 prefectures had their Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans, and 6,510 communities across 389 municipalities in 46 prefectures were working toward the development of their Community Disaster Management Plan. Ten years have passed since the system was established, and the Community Disaster Management Plan is expected to permeate further the local communities (Fig. 1-5-1, Fig. 1-5-2).

Fig. 1-5-1 Number of Community Disaster Management Plans reflected in local disaster management plans (as of April 1, 2023)

◆Reflected in the local disaster management plans: 43 prefectures, 216 municipalities, 2,428 districts

(367 districts with new plans reflected in FY 2022)

* Surveyed: Municipalities
* Total as of April 1, 2023

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Hokkaido	10	51
Aomori Prefecture	0	0
Iwate Prefecture	5	49
Miyagi Prefecture	3	61
Akita Prefecture	2	2
Yamagata Prefecture	5	51
Fukushima Prefecture	2	7
Ibaraki Prefecture	6	83
Tochigi Prefecture	8	17
Gunma Prefecture	2	34
Saitama Prefecture	7	21
Chiba Prefecture	3	10
Tokyo	11	186
Kanagawa Prefecture	4	38
Niigata Prefecture	2	2
Toyama Prefecture	2	2

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Ishikawa Prefecture	1	1
Fukui Prefecture	1	1
Yamanashi Prefecture	10	553
Nagano Prefecture	13	106
Gifu Prefecture	7	27
Shizuoka Prefecture	6	29
Aichi Prefecture	9	23
Mie Prefecture	5	19
Shiga Prefecture	3	11
Kyoto	4	49
Osaka	5	84
Hyogo Prefecture	9	173
Nara Prefecture	4	11
Wakayama Prefecture	1	1
Tottori Prefecture	1	4
Shimane Prefecture	1	1

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Okayama Prefecture	4	10
Hiroshima Prefecture	1	1
Yamaguchi Prefecture	3	87
Tokushima Prefecture	1	1
Kagawa Prefecture	4	32
Ehime Prefecture	7	86
Kochi Prefecture	3	44
Fukuoka Prefecture	8	88
Saga Prefecture	0	0
Nagasaki Prefecture	0	0
Kumamoto Prefecture	13	302
Oita Prefecture	0	0
Miyazaki Prefecture	3	8
Kagoshima Prefecture	15	60
Okinawa Prefecture	2	2
Total	216	2,428

Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-5-2 Number of communities working toward the development of Community Disaster Management Plans (as of April 1, 2023)

◆ **Working toward the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans[Note]: 46 prefectures, 389 municipalities, 6,510 districts**

Note: Including those that have been proposed to municipalities but not yet reflected in the local disaster management plans

*** Surveyed: Municipalities**
*** Total as of April 1, 2023**

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Hokkaido	11	46
Aomori Prefecture	3	11
Iwate Prefecture	4	15
Miyagi Prefecture	9	370
Akita Prefecture	0	0
Yamagata Prefecture	6	120
Fukushima Prefecture	11	51
Ibaraki Prefecture	6	32
Tochigi Prefecture	22	91
Gunma Prefecture	5	76
Saitama Prefecture	10	164
Chiba Prefecture	7	46
Tokyo	8	69
Kanagawa Prefecture	9	150
Niigata Prefecture	8	172
Toyama Prefecture	9	28

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Ishikawa Prefecture	12	379
Fukui Prefecture	16	846
Yamanashi Prefecture	13	86
Nagano Prefecture	18	147
Gifu Prefecture	6	57
Shizuoka Prefecture	6	89
Aichi Prefecture	12	27
Mie Prefecture	14	100
Shiga Prefecture	8	177
Kyoto	6	33
Osaka	12	379
Hyogo Prefecture	9	406
Nara Prefecture	5	14
Wakayama Prefecture	2	13
Tottori Prefecture	3	8
Shimane Prefecture	4	27

Prefecture name	Number of municipalities	Number of districts
Okayama Prefecture	9	130
Hiroshima Prefecture	5	100
Yamaguchi Prefecture	3	26
Tokushima Prefecture	8	22
Kagawa Prefecture	14	48
Ehime Prefecture	6	33
Kochi Prefecture	1	1
Fukuoka Prefecture	9	100
Saga Prefecture	1	1
Nagasaki Prefecture	3	24
Kumamoto Prefecture	28	841
Oita Prefecture	1	305
Miyazaki Prefecture	8	46
Kagoshima Prefecture	13	585
Okinawa Prefecture	6	19
Total	**389**	**6,510**

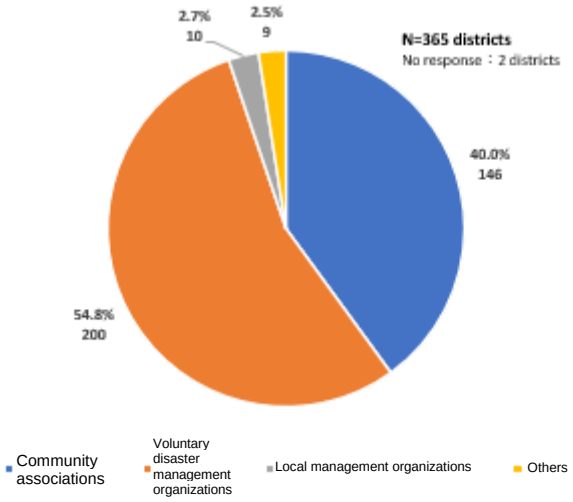
Source: Cabinet Office data

(1) Trends in Community Disaster Management Plans

The Cabinet Office performed an analysis of the Community Disaster Management Plans of 367 communities, which were laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2022, which revealed the following characteristics (**Fig. 1-5-3**, **Fig. 1-5-4** and **Fig. 1-5-5**).

1. Regarding the main entities responsible for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans, residents and neighborhood associations accounted for 40.0%, while voluntary disaster management organizations accounted for 54.8%.
2. Regarding the population of the communities, 59.4% had a population of 500 or fewer, while 71.2% had a population of 1,000 or fewer.
3. Regarding the trigger for the development of the Community Disaster Management Plans, 67.3% of the communities cited “encouragement from the government”. This suggests that government support is important in the formulation of a Community Disaster Management Plan.

Fig. 1-5-3 Entities responsible for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2022

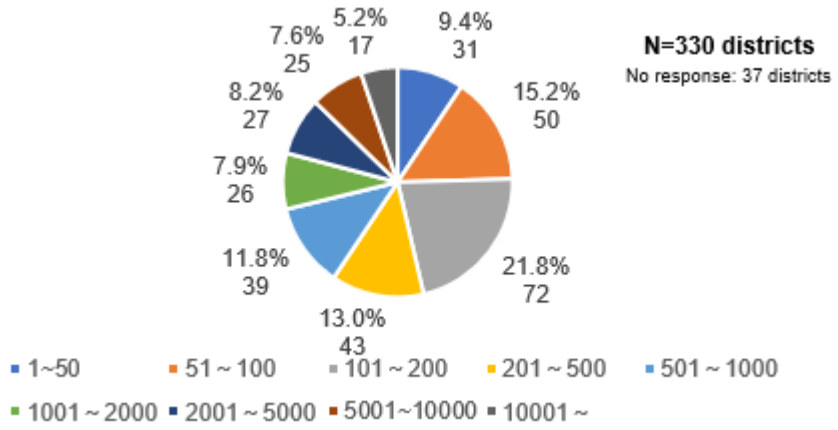


Others:

- Preparatory committees organized mainly by town council officials
- Community associations, voluntary disaster management associations, and local management organizations
- School district liaison committee
- Neighborhood associations and voluntary disaster management organizations

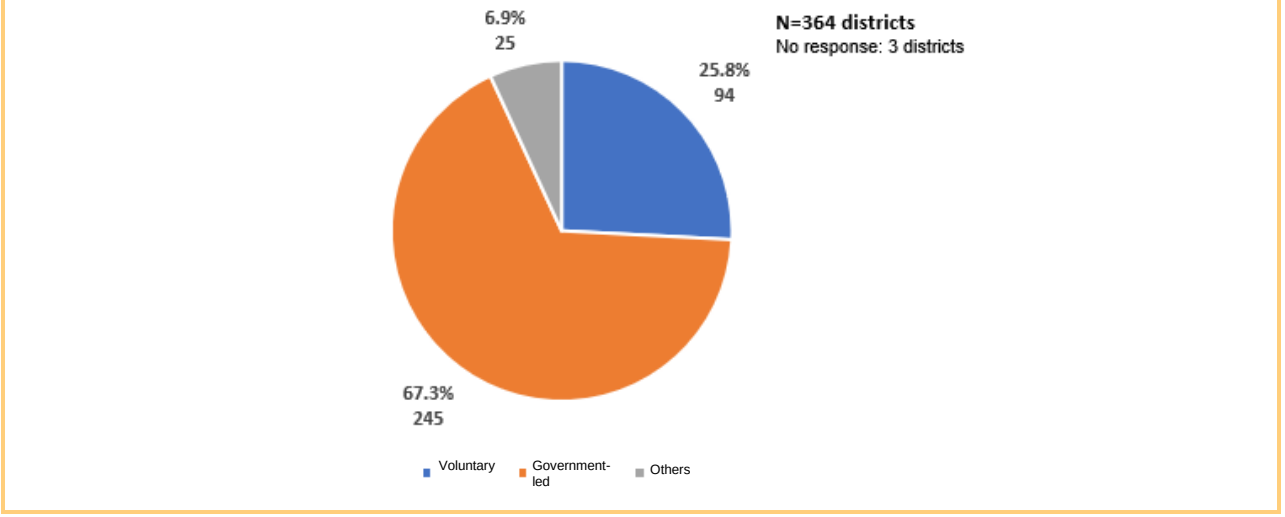
Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-5-4 Population within communities having the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2022



Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-5-5 Triggers for formulating the Community Disaster Management Plans laid out under local disaster management plans during FY 2022



Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Initiatives by the Cabinet Office to promote the development of Community Disaster Management Plans

To promote the development of Community Disaster Management Plans, the Cabinet Office has been preparing reference materials such as the Guidelines for Community Disaster Management Plan and building a “Community Disaster Management Plan Library” where Community Disaster Management Plans can be viewed by region or theme. In addition, the Cabinet Office has held the following forums and training courses in FY 2023.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/chikubousai/index.html)

1. Community Disaster Management Plan Forum 2023 - “Formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans Based on Lessons Learned in 100 Years Since the Great Kanto Earthquake”

The “Community Disaster Management Plan Forum 2023 - “Formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans Based on Lessons Learned in 100 Years Since the Great Kanto Earthquake” was held on September 17, 2023 as one of the sessions of the “National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023” to share examples and experiences related to the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans in various regions and to promote the development of Community Disaster Management Plans. In this forum, experts and officials from the Cabinet Office held discussions based on case studies of the formulation of the Community Disaster Management Plans in Tokyo, Kanagawa and other areas affected by the Great Kanto Earthquake. An archived video of this forum is also available.

2. Basic training course on the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans

“A Basic Training Course on the Formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans” was held on December 22, 2023, via online streaming to promote the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans by introducing different perspectives and approaches to those involved in the formulation of such Plans.

In the training course, experts involved in supporting the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans, local government officials and other personnel involved in supporting the formulation of such plans spoke about their experiences from their respective positions and answered questions from the participants. An archived video of this training course is also available.

3. Model projects for Community Disaster Management Plans

The Cabinet Office has been implementing model projects to support the formulation of Community Disaster Management Plans since FY 2014. In FY 2023, Community Disaster Management Plans were formulated for the Hikawa area of Yamanashi City, Yamanashi Prefecture, the Hatamachi area of Kishiwada City, Osaka Prefecture, and the Nakagawa area of Yakage Town, Okayama Prefecture, with the support of experts and officials from the Cabinet Office.

[Column]

Celebrating 10 Years of the Implementation of the Community Disaster Management Planning System

Yoshiteru Murosaki, Professor Emeritus, Kobe University; Honorary Chairman, The Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan

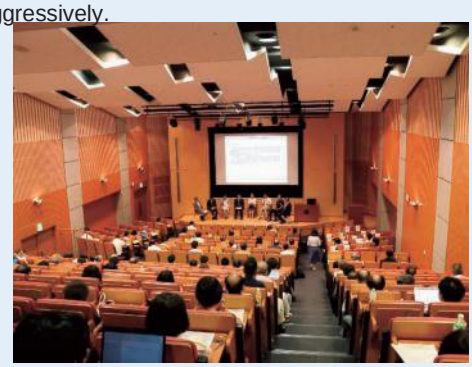
As disasters evolve, disaster management must evolve accordingly, and community-based disaster risk management must also evolve. The Great East Japan Earthquake taught us the necessity for community-based disaster risk management to evolve. In response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Basic Act on Disaster Management was amended in June 2013 to include provisions for the community-led Community Disaster Management Planning System.

Following this amendment, guidelines for the development of a Community Disaster Management Plan were issued in March and enforced from April of the following year. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the enforcement of the guidelines. Although started as a model project in 15 communities, the Community Disaster Management Plan initiative has spread like wildfire across the country. Over the past 10 years, nearly 9,000 communities have engaged in this initiative, as per the Cabinet Office records.

The Community Disaster Management Planning System was designed to improve local disaster resilience by incorporating bottom-up community proposals into official local disaster management plans, recognizing the importance of collaboration and cooperative governance in disaster management. The system proposed to develop (1) disaster preparedness in line with local conditions, (2) disaster preparedness that draws out the self-motivation of residents, (3) disaster preparedness through cooperation among diverse stakeholders, and (4) disaster preparedness that tackles challenges in a sustained manner.

The system gave rise to initiatives full of ingenuity, as shown in the “Community Disaster Management Plan Library”, a collection of case studies presented by the Cabinet Office. This wide-ranging collection includes not only activities during emergencies, but also activities aimed at prevention and reconstruction. In addition to activities involving residents, business operators, civic groups and related populations, activities where neighboring communities collaborate transcending administrative boundaries have also been started. Furthermore, forums such as the “Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan” have been launched where stakeholders from industry, academia, government, and the private sector gather to conduct research.

The importance of Community Disaster Management Plans was reaffirmed during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and the government wants to encourage more communities to engage in this initiative aggressively.



A symposium of the Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan
Source: Courtesy of the Seminar by Siei Kin, Senshu University

Journal of the Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan
Source: Website of the Japan Society of Community Disaster Management Plan

1-6 Environmental Improvement for Volunteer Activities

In the event of a disaster, volunteers, NPOs and various other organizations rush to the affected areas to provide meticulous support to disaster victims, thereby playing a crucial role. The Cabinet Office is working to improve the environment to facilitate activities of volunteers, NPOs and others to support disaster victims. In recent years, during large-scale disasters, it has become a well-established practice for various supporting entities, including government agencies, volunteers, and NPOs, to provide support to disaster victims while sharing information and coordinating activities through collaboration.

(1) Promotion of the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

In the “Survey on the Status of Support Systems for Disaster Victims through Public-Private Partnerships” conducted by the Cabinet Office in November 2023, it was confirmed that 23 prefectures had developed support systems for disaster victims (e.g., a coordinating organization) through public-private partnerships. The common reasons cited by prefectures that responded as not having taken action towards the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships were “NPOs (including coordinating organizations) to collaborate with, are not identified” and “there is no awareness about the necessity of public-private partnerships”. The survey revealed that in order to promote the establishment of Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at the prefectural level, there is a continuing need to raise awareness of the importance of public-private partnerships, as well as to deploy pioneering practices horizontally.

The Cabinet Office conducts training courses to allow government agencies and personnel of the Council of Social Welfare, NPOs, and other disaster volunteer centers to meet during peacetime and discuss various issues related to collaboration and cooperation, with the aim of deepening mutual understanding. In FY 2023, the Cabinet Office held a “Training Course to Promote Collaboration among Diverse Entities” via online streaming, in which the necessity of collaboration among diverse entities was explained from the standpoints of government agencies, the Council of Social Welfare, and Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Approximately 114 participants from 25 prefectures attended the course.

(2) Model project for the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

In order to create an environment where diverse private sector entities, such as NPOs and companies with expertise, can effectively demonstrate their capabilities to support disaster victims, it is important to establish and functionally enhance the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at the prefectural level, to perform coordination of activities, information sharing, and other coordination among diverse entities participating in providing support. For this reason, the Cabinet Office provided support to prefectures that are trying to establish and functionally enhance the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster through a model project, thereby striving to accelerate its initiatives further. The specific initiatives included the development and training of disaster victim support personnel through public-private partnerships, as well as networking among private sector organizations at the prefectural level.

In addition, the insights and know-how gained from this model project were widely shared with other prefectures, and support was provided to advance initiatives aimed at the establishment of the Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster in prefectures across the country.

Model project for the development of support systems for disaster victims through public-private partnerships

Development and training of disaster victim support personnel through public-private partnerships

Networking meeting

(3) Consideration towards model training for “evacuation life support leaders/supporters” and on-the-job training for evacuation life support advisors (provisional name).

In recent years, natural disasters have become more severe and frequent, and evacuation life can sometimes last for extended periods, with shelters being set up for weeks or months at times, making improving the living conditions at evacuation shelters a challenge. After a disaster, municipal staff and other local government officials continue to play a central role in the operation of shelters after the shelters have been set up. However, there are limitations to how long they can continue to operate the shelters while dealing with various other tasks. Therefore, in providing support for the evacuation life of disaster victims, the perspectives of “self-help” and “mutual support” cannot be overlooked. Moreover, the operation of evacuation shelters over extended periods requires specialized knowledge and skills.

To address these issues, based on the recommendations of the “Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction Education and Public Awareness (Disaster Volunteer Team)” compiled in May 2021, the Cabinet Office is taking initiatives for the realization of an “Ecosystem for Evacuation Life Support and Human Resource Development for Disaster Volunteers” to provide systematic skill-building opportunities to motivated local personnel and increase the number of individuals who can take on roles in supporting evacuation life in each region, thereby contributing to the strengthening of local disaster resilience.

In FY 2023, model training to promote the development of “evacuation life support leaders/supporters” who can take on roles in evacuation life support was conducted in six districts across Japan (Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture; Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture; Setouchi City, Okayama Prefecture; Seki City, Gifu Prefecture; Shimada City, Shizuoka Prefecture; and Okazaki City, Aichi Prefecture), in continuation of the previous year.

The model training consisted of preliminary on-demand learning (eight units of about 20 minutes each) and exercises spanning over two days. The exercises included environmental improvement exercises and interpersonal communication exercises through role plays in a venue designed to replicate a shelter.

In addition, as part of the review of the curriculum for the training of evacuation life support advisors (provisional name), a trial program was implemented, in which participants of the above-mentioned model training and candidates for training instructors were sent for about a week to shelters in the areas affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake where there were concerns that evacuation life might last for extended periods. The program consolidated the knowledge and skills required of advisors for supporting the actual operation of a shelter and for improving living conditions in shelters.

Model training for “evacuation life support leaders/supporters”

1-7 Establishment of a Business Continuity System

(1) Establishment of a business continuity system for central ministries and agencies

In the past, central ministries and agencies have promoted efforts towards business continuity by developing business continuity plans for each central ministry and agency from the viewpoint of ensuring the continuity of the core functions of the capital in the event of a Tokyo Inland earthquake, etc. In March 2014, following the Cabinet decision on the “Business Continuity Plan of the Central Government (Measures against Tokyo Inland Earthquake)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Government’s Business Continuity Plan”) based on the “Act on Special Measures Against Tokyo Inland Earthquake” (Act No. 88 of 2013), central ministries and agencies reviewed their existing business continuity plans.

The Cabinet Office formulated guidelines in June 2007 to support the development of business continuity plans for central ministries and agencies. Since then, the guidelines have been reviewed in light of the increasing severity and frequency of recent disasters and changes in social conditions, with the most recent revision in April 2022. In addition, the effectiveness of business continuity plans of central ministries and agencies is assessed by experts in accordance with the Government’s Business Continuity Plan, and based on the assessment, central ministries and agencies review their business continuity plans and improve their initiatives as necessary.

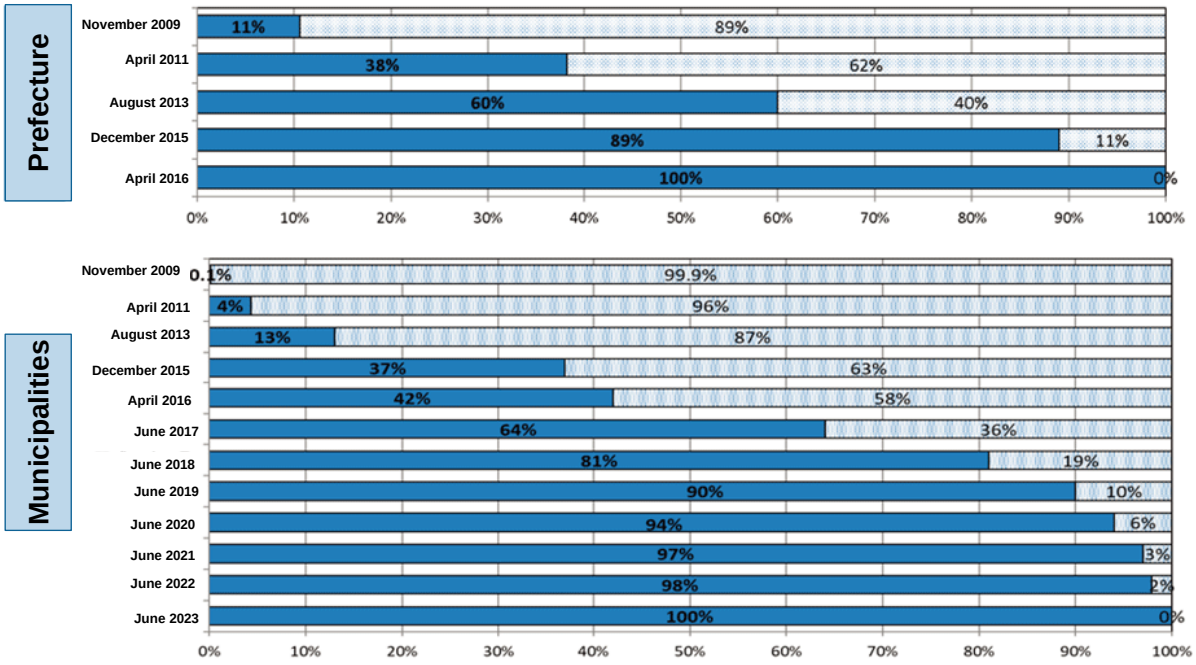
Through these efforts, the Government intends to establish a business continuity system to ensure the smooth continuation of business in the event of a Tokyo Inland earthquake.

(2) Establishment of a business continuity system for local governments

Local governments must secure their administrative functions and continue their operations in the event of a disaster. For this reason, local governments need to develop a business continuity plan and establish a business continuity system. As of April 2016, 100% of prefectures and as of June 2023, 100% of local governments had formulated their business continuity plans (Fig. 1-7-1).

Fig. 1-7-1 Status of development of business continuity plans in local governments

As of June 1, 2023,100% of prefectures and 100% of municipalities have formulated their BCPs.



Source: November 2009: Survey on the Status of the Business Continuity System in the Event of an Earthquake (survey by the Cabinet Office (Disaster Management) and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
August 2013: Survey on Comprehensive Crisis Management Systems in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
December 2015: Survey on the "Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans" and "Status of Development of Specific Criteria for Issuing Evacuation Advisories, etc." in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
April 2016, June 2017, June 2018, June 2019, June 2020, June 2021: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).
June 2022: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans, etc., in Local Governments (survey by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).
June 2023: Results of the Survey on the Status of Development of Business Continuity Plans, etc. and the Status of Securing Emergency Power Sources in Local Governments (survey by the Cabinet Office (Disaster Management) and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

The Cabinet Office has formulated and disseminated the "Business Continuity Plan Formulation Guidelines for Municipalities (developed in May 2015), the "Business Continuity Plan Formulation Guidelines for Municipalities in the event of a large-scale disaster" (revised in May 2023) and the "Guide to Formulate Aid Acceptance Plans Regarding the Receipt of Human Support for Municipalities" (revised in June 2021). In addition, to support the establishment of a business continuity system and a support system in local governments, training courses and briefing sessions for officials in charge of municipalities have been held every year since FY 2015 through the collaboration between the Cabinet Office and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

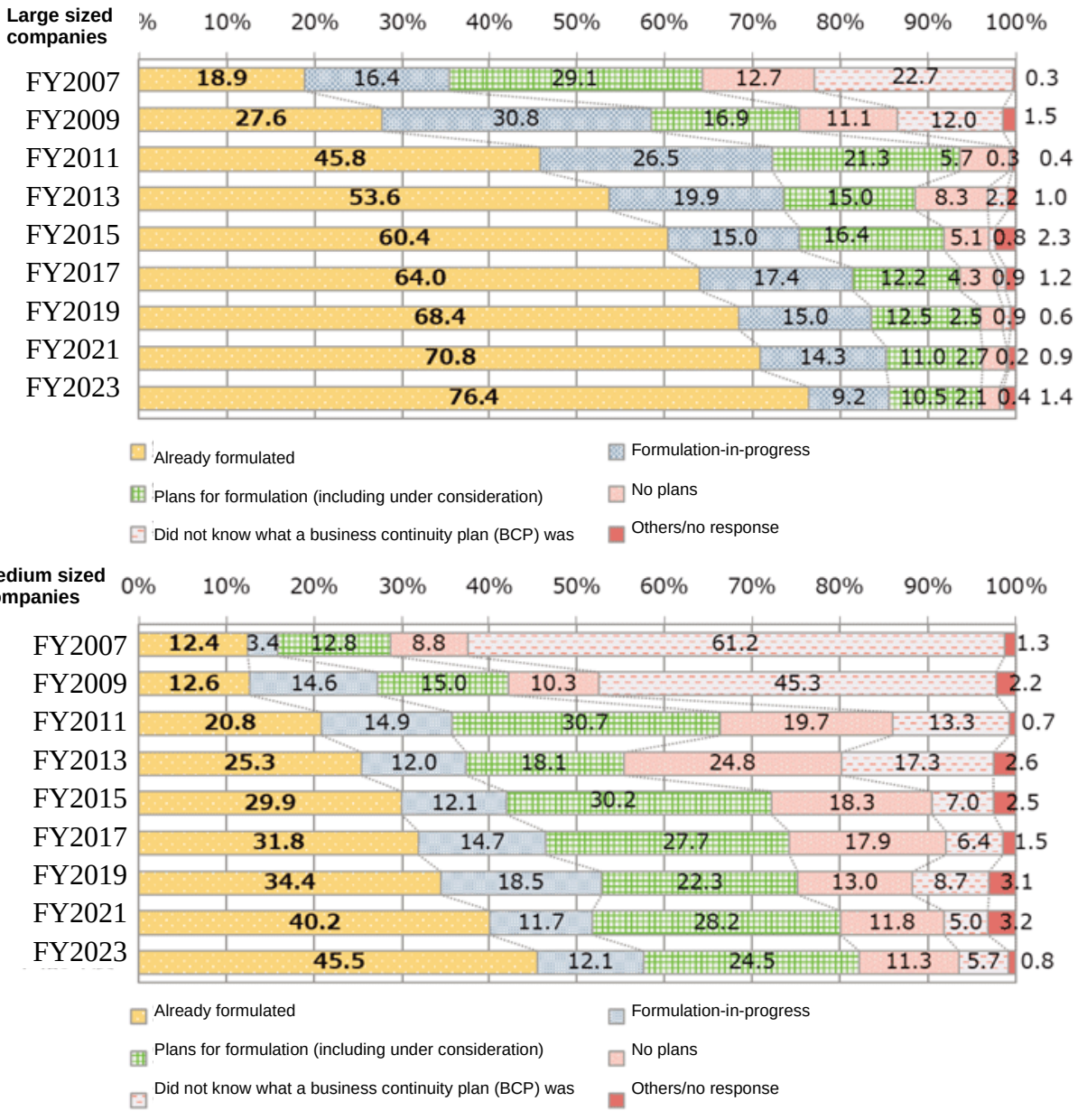
(3) Establishment of a business continuity system for the private sector

In the event of a large-scale disaster or a similar incident that causes a company's business activities to slow down, the impact is beyond the company itself. Supply chain disruptions and other such factors can have a significant impact on the company's business partners, the local economy and society, and, ultimately, the entire country. Therefore, companies need to ensure the continuity of their business activities in the event of a large-scale disaster.

The Cabinet Office developed guidelines in 2005 to promote the development of business continuity plans (BCPs) for companies. The Cabinet Office recommends developing BCPs in line with these guidelines. The content of the guidelines has been reviewed in light of changes in social conditions, and a revised version was recently published in March 2023. In addition, in order to further promote efforts by companies, the Cabinet Office is working with industry associations, etc., to promote the dissemination of information relating to business continuity efforts, such as preparing and disseminating a simplified pamphlet that summarizes the key points of BCP development in an easy-to-understand manner and a collection of case studies of efforts for reference.

The Cabinet Office has been conducting a biennial survey on the actual status of efforts taken by private companies, including the percentage of companies that have developed BCPs. According to the “FY 2023 Survey on Business Continuity and Disaster Reduction Efforts Made by Corporations”, the number of large and medium-sized companies that have developed BCPs is rising, which now account for 76.4% of large companies (70.8% in the previous survey (FY 2021)) and 45.5% of medium-sized companies (40.2% in the previous survey), and the percentage is 85.6% for large companies and 57.6% for medium-sized companies, if those in the process of developing a BCP are also included (Fig. 1-7-2).

Fig. 1-7-2 Status of BCP development by large and medium-sized companies



Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from the “FY 2023 Survey on Business Continuity and Disaster Reduction Efforts Made by Corporations”

[Column]

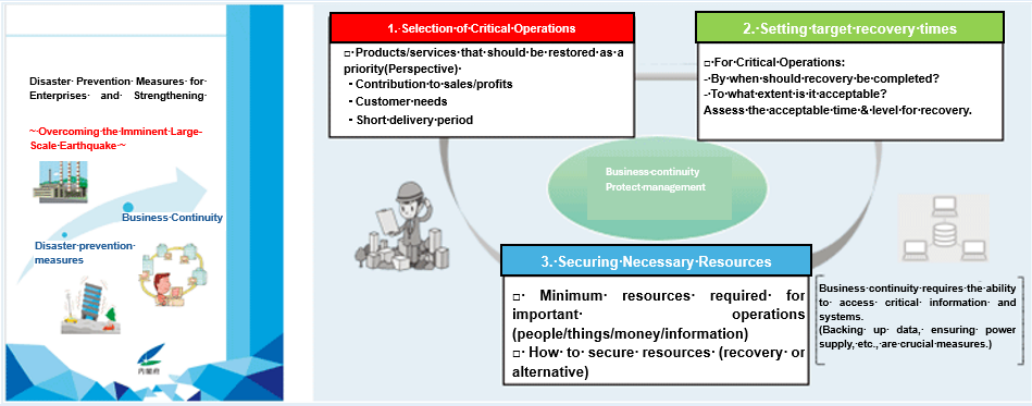
Dissemination of Simplified Brochures and Other Materials for Enterprises to Improve their Business Continuity Capabilities

A large-scale disaster that would have a severe impact on Japan's economic activities, such as a Nankai Trough earthquake or a Tokyo Inland earthquake, is said to be imminent. In the event of such a large-scale disaster, the damage and impact will not be limited to the affected areas but are expected to spread across the country. In particular, various industries are interdependent through supply chains, and there is a concern that the disruption of a single company's operations could spread across the entire nation like a chain reaction, affecting related companies and industries both domestically and internationally.

To avoid a severe impact on business activities as much as possible, “advance preparation”, such as by developing business continuity plans (BCPs), diversifying suppliers, and collaborating across companies and industries, is essential. This is in addition to efforts already underway, such as the earthquake-proofing of offices, safety confirmation, stockpiling of food, etc. To this end, in December 2023, the Cabinet Office prepared a simplified pamphlet summarizing in an easy-to-understand manner how to develop a BCP, including the key points (*) for BCP development, such as selecting critical operations, setting recovery time objectives and securing necessary resources. A collection of case studies was also compiled describing the efforts taken by companies that have actually developed a BCP and its effectiveness.

In order to overcome the imminent large-scale earthquake, the Cabinet Office will continue to strengthen business continuity efforts in Japan by collaborating with economic and industry associations.

*Key points for BCP development (excerpt from the Simplified Pamphlet).



Source: Cabinet Office website
Simplified Pamphlet: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/kigyou/pdf/pamphlet_231212.pdf
Case Studies：https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/kigyou/pdf/jirei_231212.pdf

1-8 Collaboration with Industry

(1) Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium

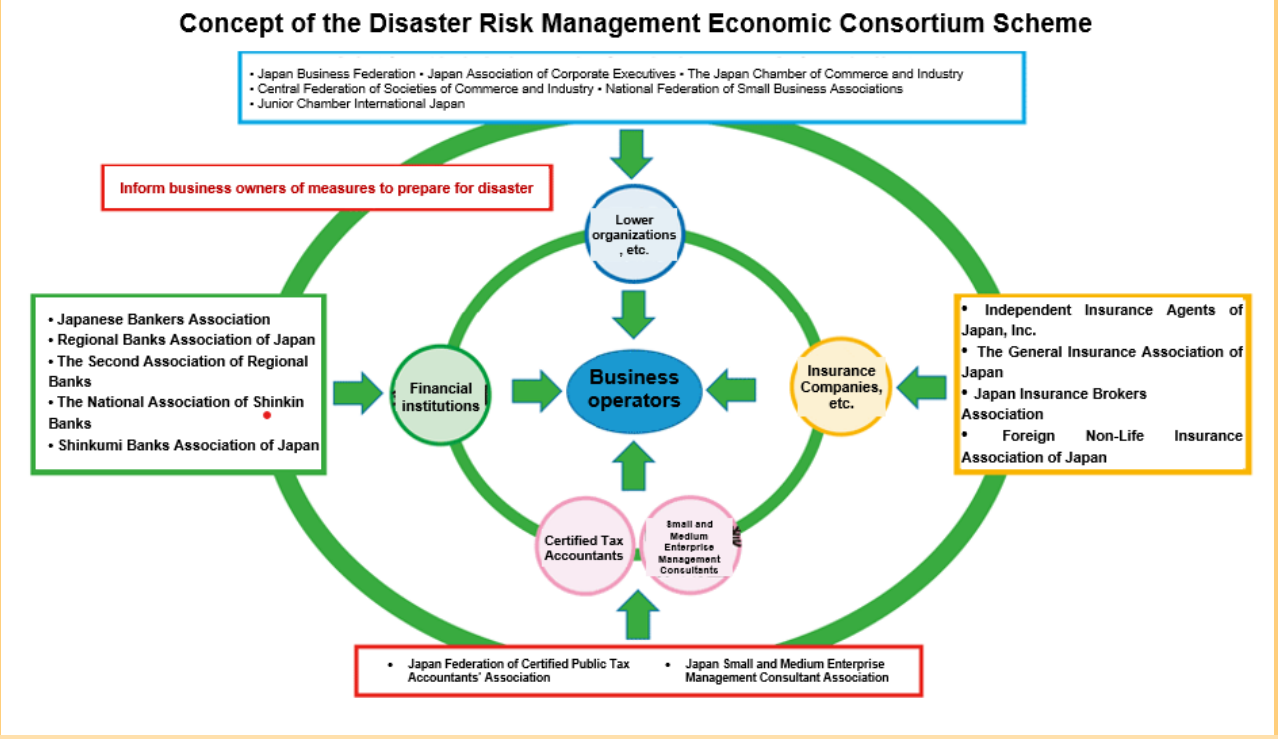
In order to improve the disaster risk management capabilities of society as a whole, there is a need for private business operators to improve their preparedness for large-scale natural disasters. For this reason, the “Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium” was established in 2018 as a platform for business operators to exchange opinions and communicate with each other (**Fig. 1-8-1**).

The “Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium” has formulated the “Principles of Disaster Management Economic Action”, which aim to raise awareness for improving the disaster risk management capabilities of business operators through original ideas tailored to the characteristics of their respective industries. In FY 2023, members of 17 organizations were engaged in activities focused on spreading and raising awareness of these principles among their respective subsidiary organizations.

Specifically, two administrative subcommittee meetings were held, where, in addition to exchanges of opinions among the members, the Cabinet Office introduced measures related to disaster risk reduction and business continuity, and experts delivered lectures.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/consortium/index.html)

Fig. 1-8-1 "Disaster Risk Management Economic Consortium"



Source: Cabinet Office data

(2) Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform

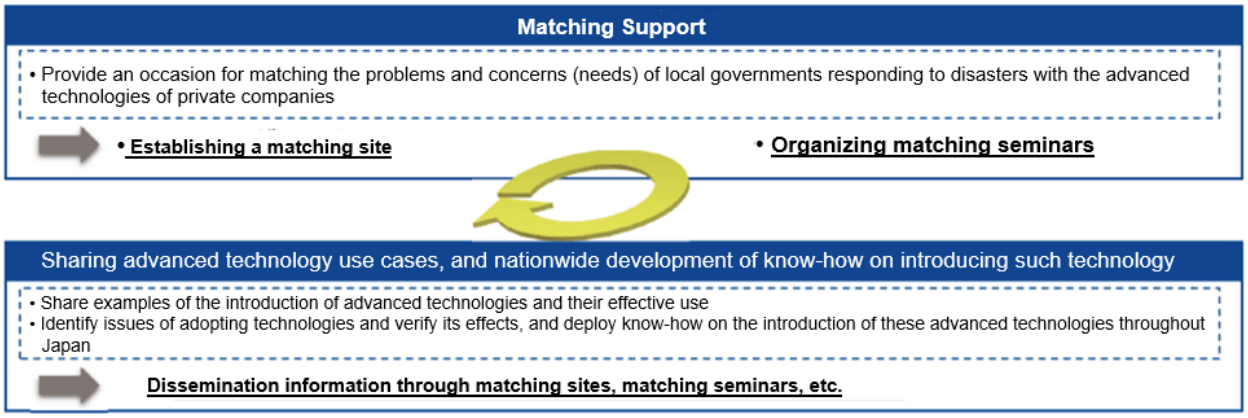
Local governments must actively utilize advanced technologies, including digital technologies, to respond more effectively and efficiently to the increasingly severe and frequent disasters that have occurred in recent years. Some local governments have already started using advanced technologies and demonstrated their effectiveness in disaster response. However, many local governments have not yet introduced such technologies due to limited opportunities to collect information on advanced technologies and introduce them.

For this reason, in FY 2021, the Cabinet Office established the "Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform". This platform was designed as a forum for matching the needs of local governments in disaster response and private companies with advanced technologies and for the horizontal deployment of examples of effective use of advanced technologies by local governments (Fig. 1-8-2).

As part of its efforts, the Platform has established a permanent website (hereinafter referred to as the "Matching Website") and seminars (hereinafter referred to as the "Matching Seminars") to provide a venue for interaction between local governments and private companies, etc.

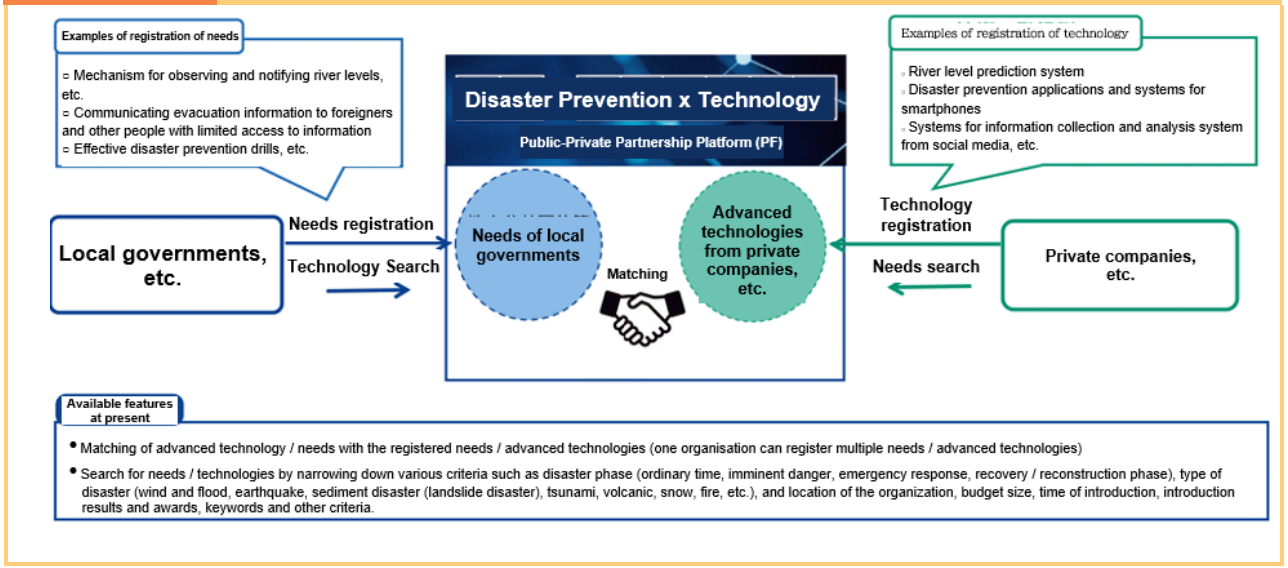
The Matching Website has been in operation since July 2021, allowing local governments to register their disaster risk reduction issues and needs and private companies to register their useful technologies for disaster risk reduction. As of the end of March 2024, approximately 450 local governments and 1,060 private companies had registered on the Matching Website (Fig. 1-8-3).

Fig. 1-8-2 Disaster Prevention x Technology Public-Private Partnership Platform (Prevention Technology PF)



Source: Cabinet Office data

Fig. 1-8-3 Overview of the Prevention Technology PF Matching Website



Source: Cabinet Office data

Registered technologies are automatically matched with potential needs. They can also be freely searched by narrowing down criteria such as disaster phases from “ordinary times” to “recovery and reconstruction period”, disaster types such as “wind and flood damage” and “earthquake”, and the costs and results of introducing these technologies. In addition, registered organizations can contact other parties with useful information using the contact information registered on the Matching Website.
(Reference: https://www.bosaitech-pf.go.jp)

Matching seminars were held eight times during FY 2023. They included case studies of advanced technologies actually introduced at local governments, the introduction of local governments' measures for disaster management, and an “Individual Consultation Session”, where private companies could introduce their technologies, and local governments could discuss their issues and needs with their counterparts on a one-on-one basis.

These efforts have provided local governments with opportunities to learn about advanced technologies, get introduced to the technologies of private companies, and share issues with companies, creating new opportunities for introducing these technologies.

(3) “Disaster Preparedness” Collaboration Project

2023, which marked the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake, was an important opportunity to strengthen preparedness against the threat of mega-disasters such as a Tokyo Inland earthquake and a Nankai Trough earthquake.

To this end, the Cabinet Office recruited private companies and other organizations to collaborate in raising disaster awareness at the national, household, and business levels and promoting “disaster preparedness” in daily life. A project (the “Disaster Preparedness” Collaboration Project) was implemented to promote widespread public awareness through these companies' normal business activities (**Fig. 1-8-4**).

As of the end of March 2024, 124 companies and organizations had endorsed the project, and each company had conducted activities related to “disaster preparedness”. In September 2023, the Cabinet Office held a meeting for the exchange of opinions with the supporting companies and organizations. The project will continue to be implemented in the future.

Fig. 1-8-4 “Disaster Preparedness” Collaboration Project

Source: Cabinet Office data

1-9 Initiatives in the Academic Field

In Japan, research activities on disaster risk reduction are conducted in various fields, including natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and heavy rains, civil engineering works and structures such as buildings, emergency medical care, healthcare and sanitation such as environmental hygiene, various human activities including economy, geography and history, information, and energy. The Great East Japan Earthquake created awareness about the importance of research on disaster prevention and mitigation from a comprehensive and interdisciplinary perspective, and the necessity of promoting information sharing and exchanges with different fields beyond specialized areas and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Therefore, through discussions by the Science Council of Japan and relevant academic societies, the “Japan Academic Network for Disaster Reduction” was established in January 2016 as a network of academic societies involved in disaster prevention, mitigation and restoration, with the cooperation of 47 academic societies. As of the end of March 2024, 62 academic societies (59 regular members and 3 special members) had joined the Network.

In August 2023, the Network, in collaboration with the Science Council of Japan’s Council of Japan Academic Network for Disaster Reduction, held the 5th “Liaison Conference on Disaster Management among the Science Council of Japan, Academic Societies, and Government Ministries and Agencies” under the theme of “How to Develop Human Resources for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation”, where both central ministries and agencies, and the academic community presented their respective initiatives. In addition, public symposia were held in April, July, and September 2023 and March 2024, where opinions were widely exchanged on the role that disaster science should play.

5th “Liaison Conference on Disaster Management among the Science Council of Japan, Academic Societies, and Government Ministries and Agencies”

1-10 Strengthening Disaster Response Efforts from Gender-Equality Perspectives

Disasters threaten the lives of all people, but it is known that the impact varies depending on factors such as gender, age and disability. The creation of a disaster-resilient society requires the impact of disasters on people to be minimized with the help of disaster response tailored to the different needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The Cabinet Office has been promoting disaster management and reconstruction initiatives from the perspective of gender equality. As of April 2023, the proportion of female members in the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils had remained at 21.8%, while in the Municipal Disaster Management Councils, the percentage had remained at 10.8%. These figures fall short of the target set in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020) (to increase the proportion of female members in both Prefectural and Municipal Disaster Management Councils to 30% by 2025) (**Fig.1-10-1** and **Fig. 1-10-2**).

Consequently, in April 2023, the Director-General of the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office and the Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office jointly issued a notice to all local governments urging them to accelerate the appointment of female members to local disaster management councils. In February 2024, an online symposium was held for heads of local governments, senior officials, and members of local disaster management councils. In the symposium, case studies of initiatives were introduced by various organizations, and the participants shared their understanding of the importance of women's participation in the decision-making process in disaster management and during on-site disaster response. Furthermore, in September 2023, at the “National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai) 2023”, a workshop was conducted under the theme “Let's All Discuss! “Disaster Management from Women's Perspective” aims to “connect” women involved in disaster management across regional and organizational boundaries. The workshop strengthened the networking among private sector organizations, female disaster management professionals, and local female disaster management leaders.

During the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in January 2024, staff from the Gender Equality Bureau were dispatched to the On-site Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters, where they worked on disaster response from the perspective of gender equality, such as raising awareness and encouraging the use of the “Women’s Perspectives for Strengthening Disaster Response Capabilities - Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness and Reconstruction from the Perspective of Gender Equality” (created in May 2020; hereinafter referred to as the “Guidelines”) and the “Evacuation Shelter Check List” from women's perspectives included in the Guidelines.

In addition, an annual survey on the status of initiatives by local governments, based on the Guidelines, is conducted every year since 2021. The survey aims to bring further “visibility” into the progress of each initiative and accelerate efforts from the perspective of gender equality across the country.

In the future, efforts from the perspective of gender equality will continue, contributing to the improvement of local disaster response capabilities.

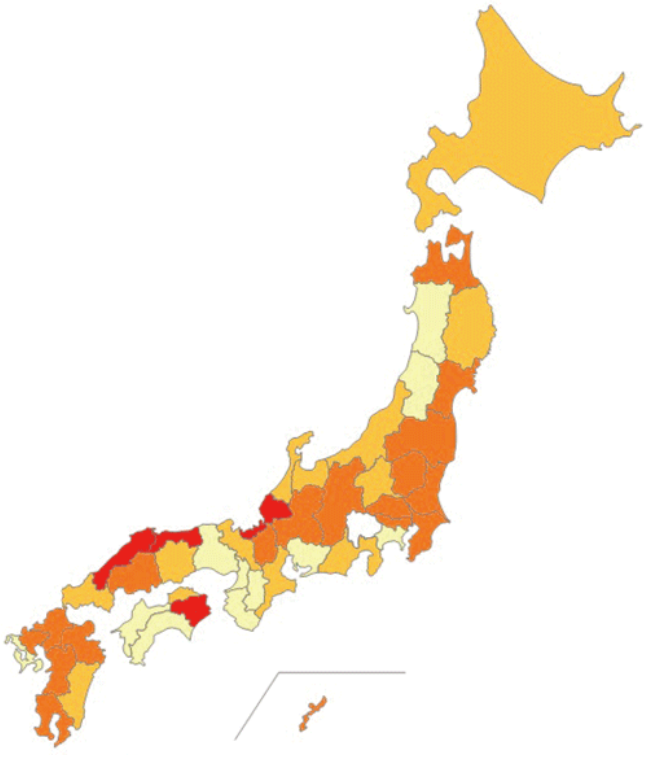
*Main initiatives in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality:

- In both the National and local governments, the disaster/risk management department and gender equality department will work more closely together during peacetime to promote disaster management and reconstruction initiatives from the gender equality perspective.
- Regarding the percentage of women in the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils, the National government will request each prefecture to promote initiatives for increasing female participation. Furthermore, the National government will collaborate with prefectures to promote efforts for the early dissolution of municipal disaster management councils with no female members and to increase the percentage of female members. It will deploy good practices from municipalities where women are actively appointed to these councils.
- Regarding the Disaster Management Headquarters of local governments, efforts will be made from normal times, aiming at the placement of female staff and gender equality officials and at promoting understanding among male staff members regarding initiatives from the perspective of gender equality.
- The status of initiatives by local governments based on the Guidelines will be followed up, bringing more “visibility” into the initiatives.

(Reference: https://www.gender.go.jp/about_danjo/basic_plans/5th/pdf/2-08.pdf)

Fig. 1-10-1 Proportion of female members in Prefectural Disaster Management Councils

Prefecture	Total number of committee members (persons)	Women (persons)	Ratio of women (%)	
Tokushima	81	41	50.6	40% or more, 4 organizations
Tottori	69	29	42.0	
Shimane	72	30	41.7	
Fukui	52	21	40.4	
Shiga	62	20	32.3	20% or more to less than 40%, 18 organizations
Kumamoto	69	22	31.9	
Saitama	73	23	31.5	
Tokyo	92	28	30.4	
Kagoshima	57	17	29.8	
Chiba	53	15	28.3	
Hiroshima	73	20	27.4	
Miyazaki	60	16	26.7	
Saga	72	19	26.4	
Nagasaki	61	16	26.2	
Oita	60	14	23.3	
Ibaraki	52	12	23.1	
Fukuoka	61	14	23.0	
Tochigi	56	12	21.4	
Okinawa	56	12	21.4	
Nagano	80	17	21.3	
Fukushima	54	11	20.4	
Aomori	60	12	20.0	15% or more to less than 20%, 13 organizations
Kyoto	66	13	19.7	
Gunma	53	10	18.9	
Kagawa	60	11	18.3	
Toyama	67	12	17.9	
Niigata	74	13	17.6	
Shizuoka	63	11	17.5	
Ishikawa	70	12	17.1	
Yamaguchi	60	10	16.7	
Miyazaki	55	9	16.4	
Hokkaido	69	11	15.9	
Iwate	77	12	15.6	
Mie	65	10	15.4	
Okayama	59	9	15.3	
Yamagata	62	9	14.5	10% or more to less than 15%, 11 organizations
Osaka	63	9	14.3	
Wakayama	56	8	14.3	
Kanagawa	57	8	14.0	
Nagasaki	68	9	13.2	
Nara	61	8	13.1	
Hyogo	56	7	12.5	
Ehime	60	7	11.7	
Akita	61	7	11.5	
Aichi	71	8	11.3	
Kochi	60	6	10.0	
Yamanashi	64	4	6.3	Less than 10%, 1 organization
Total	3,002	654	21.8	



(Remarks)
1. The source of the data is the Cabinet Office's "Progress of Local Government Measures Focused on Women or the Promotion of a Gender-Equal Society" (FY2022).
2. In principle, the survey data was as of April 1, 2023, but may differ depending on the circumstances of each local government in some cases.
3. Ratio of women was rounded off to the one decimal place.
4. Some islands have been omitted for the convenience of data notatio

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from “The Status of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society and the Promotion of Policies Related to Women in Local Governments (FY 2023)”

Fig. 1-10-2 Targets and current values for Prefectural and Municipal Disaster Management Councils in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality

Item		Present Status	Performance Target (deadline)
Ratio of women among Prefectural Disaster Management councils' committee members		19.2% (2022)	30% (2025)
Ratio of women among municipal Disaster Management council's committee members			
	Number of organizations with no women committee members	285 (2022)	0 (2025)
	Ratio of women among committee members	10.3% (2022)	Aiming for 15% (in early stage), And even for 30%(by 2025)

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office from "Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality 'Toward a Reiwa Society Where All Women and Girls Can Thrive and Achieve Their Full Potential'" (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020) and "The Status of Formation of a Gender-Equal Society and the Promotion of Policies Related to Women in Local Governments (FY 2023)"

Section 2 Disaster Management System, Disaster Response and Preparedness

2-1 Amendment of Basic Disaster Management Plan

The Basic Disaster Management Plan is a basic plan for disaster management in Japan that is prepared by the National Disaster Management Council in accordance with Article 34-1 of the Basic Act on Disaster Management and "must be reviewed each year in the light of the findings of scientific research pertaining to disasters and disaster management, conditions of disasters that have occurred, and the effect of implemented disaster response measures, and when found necessary", the Council is to revise it. Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan, local governments must prepare local disaster management plans, and designated administrative organizations and designated public corporations need to prepare disaster management operational plans.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/keikaku/kihon.html)

The Basic Disaster Management Plan was recently revised in May 2023 (Fig. 2-1-1). The major revisions include the addition of a description for the strengthening of comprehensive safety and security measures for passenger vessels in light of the disaster that occurred in FY 2022 and the addition of a description for support for disaster victims in cooperation with various entities, such as the establishment and functional enhancement of disaster relief intermediary support organizations in light of recent policy developments.

Fig. 2-1-1 Overview of Revisions to the Basic Disaster Management Plan (May 2023)

Overview of Revisions to the Basic Disaster Management Plan (May 2023)

■ Basic Disaster Management Plan

A comprehensive and long-term plan for disaster management in Japan prepared by the Central Disaster Management Council based on the Basic Act on Disaster Management, which forms the basis for disaster preparedness and response plans prepared by Designated Administrative Organs and Designated Public Institutions, and local disaster management plans prepared by local governments

Main Revisions

Main Revisions in light of recent policy developments

○ Support for disaster victims in cooperation with various entities

- Development and enhancement of disaster relief intermediary support organizations (*1) by prefectures and clear division of roles among related parties
- Clear mention of locations where disaster volunteer centers are planned to be set up
- Establishment of a system to support disaster victims, such as disaster case management (*2)

*1 Organizations that support and coordinate the activities of NPOs, volunteers, etc.,

*2 An initiative where meticulous support is provided to disaster victims on an ongoing basis, in cooperation with related parties, based on an understanding of the situation of each disaster victim

○ Communication of information to the public

- Explanation and communication of information related to scales of long-period earthquake ground motions
- Thorough public awareness and communication in the event of communication disruption
- Promotion of measures for information access and communication for people with disabilities

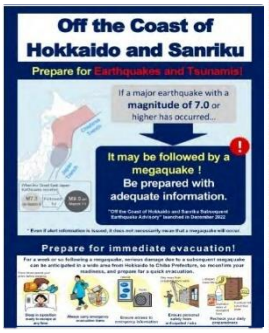
○ Utilization of digital technology

- Utilization of digital technology to create victim registers and lists of individuals requiring support for evacuation actions

Revisions in light of changes in the Basic Plan for trench-type earthquakes around the Japan Trench and the Chishima Trench

○ Explanation and communication of the Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory (*)

* If an earthquake with a Mw value of 7.0 or more occurs in or around the anticipated focal regions of megathrust earthquakes along the Japan Trench and the Chishima Trench, the potential for a large earthquake is considered to be relatively high. In such cases, the "Off" the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory", which has been operational since December 2022, is issued to warn of a subsequent earthquake.



Revisions in light of disasters that occurred in 2022

<An accident involving a sightseeing boat in Shiretoko, Hokkaido>

○ Strengthening of comprehensive safety and security measures for passenger boats

*** Revisions to the Maritime Disaster Management section**

<Tide level changes due to volcanic eruptions in the Tonga Islands>

○ Public awareness and dissemination of information on tsunamis caused by volcanic eruptions, etc.

Source: Cabinet Office data

2-2 Enrichment of Training Programs for the Heads and Staff of Local Governments

Prompt and accurate disaster response depends on the knowledge and experiences of the head and disaster management staff of local governments. For this reason, the Cabinet Office has planned and implemented the "Training of Disaster Prevention Specialists" for the staff of local governments from FY 2013 in order to develop human resources who are able to "respond to crisis situations promptly and accurately" and "form networks between the national and local governments."

In FY 2023, "the Training Program at Ariake Hill" was implemented from August to October and from December to March 2024. This training program consists of on-demand classroom lectures and group (face-to-face) exercises to acquire knowledge and skills in overall disaster management operations, from the basics of disaster management related to laws and regulations to disaster management command and control. In FY 2023, the Basic Disaster Management Course was made completely on-demand, and some courses were renewed with position-specific exercises. The "Training Program for Local Governments," jointly sponsored by prefectures and the Cabinet Office, was carried out in five locations across Japan to improve regional disaster resilience based on disaster response challenges brought about by regional variances. In FY 2023, "Regional Study Groups" consisting of applicant organizations (prefectures), the Cabinet Office, and training coordinators met to discuss curriculum tailored to local conditions and needs.

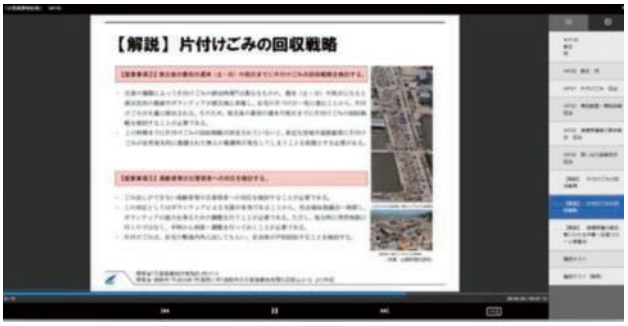
In addition, "Disaster Response e-Learning," which is designed to help support staff members who perform disaster management operations on-site for disaster response to acquire basic knowledge relevant to their assigned tasks quickly, introduced a new theme of "Disaster Waste Disposal" in July 2023, while e-learning under the themes of "Opening and Operating Shelters," "Survey for Residence Damage Certification and Issuance of Disaster Damage Certificates," and "Assessment and Communication of Evacuation Information," continued to be implemented.

In planning and implementing these training programs, the Cabinet Office established a planning and review committee for “Nurturing Disaster Management Specialists” consisting of disaster management-related experts in order to review and expand the contents of training while taking into account advice based on social conditions and needs.

In the event of a large-scale disaster, the heads of local governments and those responsible for crisis and disaster management must work in close contact settings with the national government and other local governments to deliver a prompt and accurate disaster response. To this end, the Cabinet Office and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency jointly hosted the “National Seminar on Disaster and Crisis Management for Heads of Local Government” for the mayors of cities, wards, towns and villages nationwide, with the aim of enabling them to exert effective leadership in the event of a disaster and supporting them to enhance their response capabilities in disaster risk management. The Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office, and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency jointly hosted the “Special Training Program on Disaster and Crisis Management” for heads of departments and chiefs of crisis management departments of prefectures. They also hosted the “Training Program for Supervisors at Local Governments in Crisis and Disaster Management” for supervisors in municipalities to deepen their knowledge and skills necessary at each phase, including the initial response and disaster response. This training contributes to forming a “face-to-face relationship” during normal times.

Training Program at Ariake Hill

Training Program for Local Governments (Tokushima Prefecture)”



“Disaster Response e-Learning” (Disaster Waste Disposal)

“National Seminar on Disaster and Crisis Management for Heads of Local Government”

2-3 Securing Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites and Designated Shelters

A "designated emergency evacuation site" is a facility or place where residents evacuate in an emergency to ensure the safety of their lives under imminent danger of a tsunami or flood. A "designated shelter" is a facility designed to allow evacuees to stay for a necessary period until the danger of disaster is over or to temporarily house residents who are unable to return home due to disaster.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, evacuation sites and shelters were not always clearly distinguished, which unfortunately contributed to the spread of damage. Therefore, the Cabinet Office amended the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" in 2013, requiring the mayors of municipalities to clearly specify designated emergency evacuation sites and designated shelters separately in advance and to inform (publicly notify) residents of these details. The status of designated emergency evacuation sites as of April 1, 2022, is shown in **Fig. 2-3-1**.

Fig. 2-3-1 Designation of Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites

	Designated Emergency Evacuation Sites							
	Flooding	Sediment Disaster (Landslide Disaster)	Storm surge	Earthquake	Tsunami	Widespread fire	Flood Rainfall inundation	Volcanic phenomena
Number of designated evacuation sites (sites)	70,979	66,671	22,577	85,901	39,118	40,550	37,990	10,665
Expected capacity (10,000 people)	12,263	13,426	5,992	23,872	8,874	17,813	7,621	2,705

Source: Compiled by the Cabinet Office based on the Fire and Disaster Management Agency's "Current Status of Regional Disaster Management Administration" (with multiple responses for each category)

The designated emergency evacuation sites can also be viewed on the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan's web map, "GSI Maps".
(Reference: https://www.gsi.go.jp/bousaichiri/hinanbasho.html)

Along with the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, the Cabinet Office is encouraging local governments to designate their designated emergency evacuation sites without delay. Since designated emergency evacuation sites are to be specified for each type of disaster, local governments nationwide are also being encouraged to follow the "Hazard Specific Evacuation Guidance Sign System (JIS Z 9098) (instituted in March 2016)" when installing or updating guidance sign boards. This system was established to help evacuees clearly identify such facilities (**Fig. 2-3-2**). The International Standard for the Hazard Specific Evacuation Guidance Sign System (ISO22578) was issued in February 2022.
(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoiku/zukigo/index.html)

Fig. 2-3-2 Example of a signboard using the hazard-specific evacuation guidance sign system

- A pictogram indicating it is an evacuation site (required).
- Hazard specific pictograms (required).
- Suitability/unsuitability marks ("o" for suitable and "x__ for unsuitable.)

- Stating that it is an evacuation site. (Example of a evacuation site name)
- Preferably also in a foreign language.(Example in English)

Source: Cabinet Office data

The number of designated shelters in accordance with Article 49-7 of the Basic Act on Disaster Management has increased from 48,014 as of October 1, 2014, to 82,184 as of December 1, 2022.

Improving the quality of life and ensuring a good living environment, even under conditions where people are forced to live inconveniently in shelters during a disaster, is important. For this reason, the Cabinet Office has extensively examined issues related to promoting the designation of shelters and welfare shelters in municipalities, the improvement of toilets at shelters, and the development of support systems and consultation services for persons requiring special care and is taking necessary measures.

In recent years, the "Sub-Working Group Concerning Evacuation of Elderly and Other Persons with Special Needs Based on Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "SWG for the Elderly")" was held in FY 2020, wherein it was deemed appropriate that a new system be established to specify the persons who would be accepted at each welfare shelter and, by publicly announcing such information when designating such facilities in advance, clarify that such designated shelters are only for these persons and their families. In light of this, the "Regulations for Enforcement of the Basic Act on Disaster Management" (Prime Minister's Office Order No. 52, 1962) and the "Guidelines for Securing and Managing Welfare Shelters", etc. were revised in May 2021.

Moreover, there has been a requirement at shelters to implement measures to prevent infectious diseases, to improve living conditions, to ensure appropriate opening and securing of disaster prevention functional facilities according to the location of shelters, and to manage shelters from a female perspective. Accordingly, in April 2022, the "Guidelines for Ensuring Satisfactory Living Conditions at Shelters" was published, based on which the "Shelter Management Guidelines" and the "Guidelines for Securing and Managing Toilets at Shelters" were prepared.

In July 2022, the Cabinet Office published the “Examples of Efforts to Improve the Living Environment and Countermeasures against COVID-19 in Shelters,” which provides examples of advanced initiatives in shelter operations.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hinanjo/index.html)

2-4 Formulation of Individual Evacuation Plans

In recent years, a large number of the elderly and persons with disabilities have been affected by disasters. Therefore, the final reports of the SWG for the Elderly identified that it is necessary to promote the smooth and prompt evacuation of the elderly, etc., by further promoting the formulation of individual evacuation plans, which are designed to support residents in need of assistance in evacuation, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities who have difficulty in evacuating on their own. It was also deemed appropriate to obligate municipalities to make efforts to formulate individual evacuation plans, which are already under formulation in some municipalities, from the viewpoint of encouraging more municipalities across the country to formulate these plans.

Based on suggestions by the SWG for the elderly and the amendment and enforcement of the "Basic Act on Disaster Management" in May 2021, the “Guidelines for Measures for Residents in Need of Assistance in Evacuation” were revised and published to promote the smooth formulation of individual evacuation plans in municipalities. The Guidelines suggest that municipalities formulate individual evacuation plans for persons who are deemed to be a high priority for requiring assistance in evacuating within around five years and describe the procedures for formulating such plans.

New local allocation tax measures to cover the cost of formulating individual evacuation plans were introduced in FY 2021 and will continue to be implemented in FY 2024.

Since regional circumstances, such as disaster conditions, hazard situations, climate, population size, age distribution and status of securing shelters, vary by municipalities preparing the individual evacuation plan, each municipality faces different challenges when formulating individual evacuation plans.

For this reason, model projects for the formulation of individual evacuation plans were conducted in 34 municipalities and 18 prefectures in FY 2021, in 23 municipalities and 11 prefectures in FY 2022, and in 57 municipalities and 21 prefectures in FY 2023 to build an effective, efficient method for formulating these plans. The process and knowledge of planning were then shared with local governments across Japan (**Fig. 2-4-1**).

Since FY 2023, the Cabinet Office has been strengthening support to prefectures by holding prefectural-level meetings to promote individual evacuation plans and providing peer support (supporter dispatch), in which local government officials (supporters) with experience in formulating individual evacuation plans are dispatched to local governments in need of support, to discuss issues together and provide advice and other support, with the aim of realizing multilayered and detailed support.

Fig. 2-4-1 FY 2023 Model Projects for Formulation of Individual Evacuation Plans

FY 2023 Model Projects for Formulation of Individual Evacuation Plans

4. Implementation of individualized support targeting prefectures

To support municipalities through prefectural governments, various case studies tailored to regional characteristics will be collected and organized. This aims to develop and disseminate a foundation of knowledge and expertise to enable effective support to municipalities by prefectural governments.

- Sixteen Organizations Selected

(Hokkaido, Yamagata Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Tokyo, Kanagawa Prefecture, Niigata Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Shiga Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, Fukuoka Prefecture, Nagasaki Prefecture)

1. Prefectural Individual Evacuation Plan Promotion Meetings

A conference will be held with the participation of representatives from all prefectures nationwide. The agenda includes introducing advanced case studies, sharing the progress of individual evacuation plan creation by prefectures and municipalities, and promoting municipal support by prefectural governments. (To be held four times during the fiscal year.)

1st Meeting: June 6 (Completed), 2nd Meeting: August 25 (Completed), 3rd Meeting: November 9 (Completed), 4th Meeting: December 3 (Completed)

2. Peer support (dispatch of supporters)

Municipal officials who are leading the way in these efforts will be dispatched as supporters to municipalities across the country to provide advice and address challenges, helping to facilitate the creation process.

- Implemented by 62 organizations

3. Dissemination and awareness-raising (conducted by the Cabinet Office)

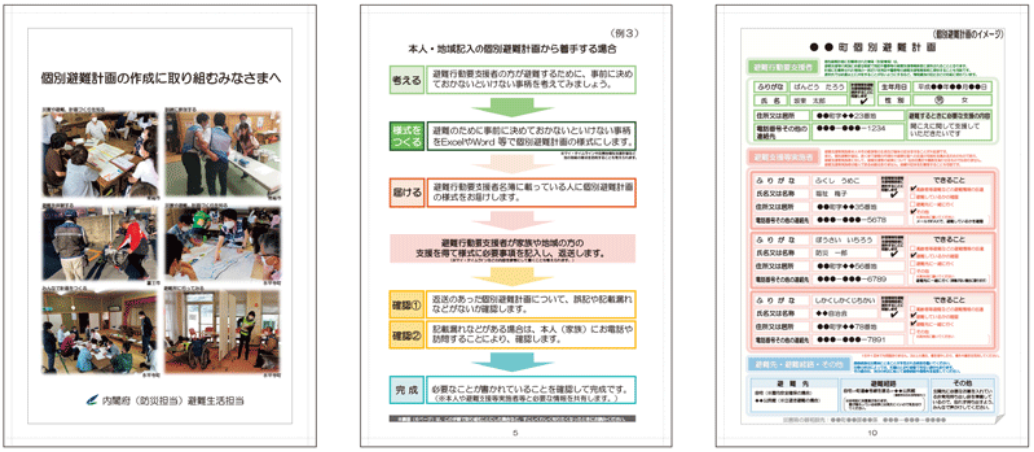
The Cabinet Office will promote further dissemination and information sharing of the project results to local governments and related organizations.

- A portal site will be established to publish relevant notifications, case studies, templates, and recorded videos of training sessions conducted by municipalities

Source: Cabinet Office data

Based on the initiatives of the model organizations, a streamlined procedure for preparing individual evacuation plans was presented to municipal officials and others involved in the preparation of individual evacuation plans to promote public awareness (Fig. 2-4-2).

Fig. 2-4-2 To Those Working on Individual Evacuation Plans (Excerpt)



Source: Cabinet Office data

(https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hisaisyagyousei/r4kohou.html)

These efforts have helped ensure the effectiveness of evacuation for residents in need of assistance in evacuation and encouraged the formulation of individual evacuation plans nationwide.

2-5 Study to Enhance Support for Affected People

Based on the current status of systems and initiatives for supporting disaster-affected people, the Cabinet Office established the “Study Group on Support for Affected People” in May 2022 with the aim of examining more efficient and higher quality support for affected people. The study group is discussing issues such as improving the environment for evacuees, securing and improving their housing, strengthening cooperation among various actors in supporting affected people, and disaster case management (an initiative to provide continuous, attentive support to affected people through the cooperation of related parties, based on an understanding of each affected person’s situation). Based on the discussions by the study group, the following initiatives are ongoing such as the preparation of a guide for disaster case management, the holding of briefing sessions, and the implementation of model projects to strengthen cooperation with NPOs and volunteers. In addition, the study group will continue to discuss and implement feasible measures to enhance and strengthen support for affected people.

With respect to disaster case management, the Cabinet Office has prepared the “Case Book of Disaster Case Management Initiatives,” which contains examples of advanced initiatives by local governments and has prepared standardized guidance for local governments nationwide to implement disaster case management irrespective of their experience with disasters.

In FY 2023, in order to clarify the position of disaster case management in the Basic Disaster Management Plan and to promote and raise awareness of disaster case management, the Cabinet Office held nationwide workshops for administrative staff to show them specific approaches to the guidance, and in cooperation with 10 prefectures nationwide, held briefing sessions for local governments and private organizations including NGOs involved in disaster case management in, with an aim to build face-to-face relationship from normal times.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/taisaku/hisaisyagyousei/case/index.html)

From FY 2024 onward, the Cabinet Office will continue its efforts to promote the dissemination of disaster case management by utilizing the aforementioned case book and guidance. This will include briefing sessions targeting a wide range of stakeholders, such as local government officials, welfare personnel, and NPOs, building a public-private partnership platform, and implementing model projects related to disaster case management for local governments.

2-6 Use of Digital Technology in Disaster Management

(1) Consolidation of information during disasters

In the event of a disaster, it is important to share information collected by the national and local governments and private companies, such as the damage situation, the movement of evacuees, and the availability of relief supplies. To this end, the Cabinet Office established the “National and Local Government Public-Private Disaster Information Hub Promotion Team” in 2017 to discuss information exchange, etc.

(Reference: https://www.env.go.jp/earth/earth/tekiou/page_01311.html)

Based on these discussions, the ISUT (Information Support Team), an on-site dispatch team, began operation in FY 2019 to support disaster responses of local governments by consolidating, mapping, and providing information on disaster damage and shelters in the event of a large-scale disaster. At the site of a disaster, some information, such as damage information and disaster waste, changes from moment to moment and cannot be shared in advance (i.e., dynamic information). The ISUT collects, organizes, and maps such information, then systematically organizes it on the ISUT website, which is a site for displaying electronic maps. This is shared with relevant organizations (i.e., administrative organizations and designated public corporations) to support prompt and accurate decision-making by disaster response organizations.

ISUT has provided information support to disaster response organizations through the ISUT website, sharing information on road restrictions, road closures, and the availability of evacuation shelters and welfare facilities during Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

In order for the ISUT to conduct its activities more quickly and effectively, some of its operations, such as mapping, have been outsourced to private business operators since 2021 in order to enhance the system further. Training programs on the use of the ISUT website were also implemented.

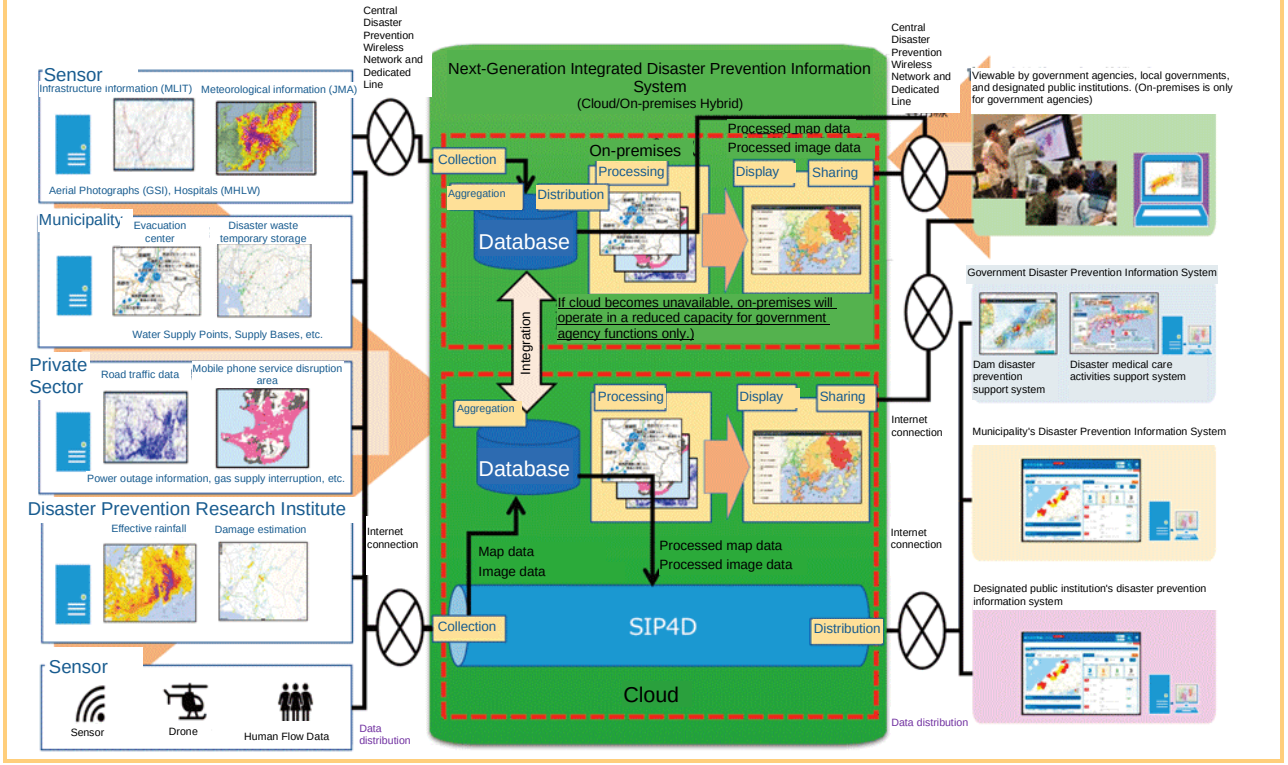
(2) Measures taken based on the recommendations of the Digital and Disaster Management Technology Working Group

Based on the recommendations of the “Digital and Disaster Management Technology Working Group” compiled in May 2021, the Cabinet Office is promoting various initiatives to drive Digital Transformation (DX) in Disaster Management, centered on the following.

1. Development of the next Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB)

The Integrated Disaster Management Information System is a system designed to share disaster information as geospatial information and support prompt and accurate decision-making by the Government in the event of a disaster. However, its information collection and other functions need to be further enhanced. The next system, which began operations in FY 2024, has incorporated mechanisms such as SIP4D (Shared Information Platform for Disaster Management), which the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) operates as part of its R&D activities. The scope of its use will be expanded to include local governments and designated public corporations in addition to central government ministries and agencies. To realize and strengthen functions such as information collection, analysis, processing, and sharing, as well as to link the system with other disaster response organizations, information items that are necessary in the event of a disaster (basic shared disaster response information), and rules for handling such information have been developed.

Fig. 2-6-1 Schematic diagram of the Next-generation Integrated Disaster Management Information System (SOBO-WEB)



Source: Cabinet Office data

2. Study to enhance disaster response using “Disaster Management IoT” data

At disaster sites, in addition to various cameras and disaster management helicopters, aerial photography with drones, etc., is also used to check the situation. To appropriately acquire and share the vast and diverse data from these IoT among disaster-affected municipalities and disaster management organizations, a research project is ongoing to organize technical standards for data formats and specifications of the equipment to be used. A verification system has also been launched to verify the effectiveness of the project.

In FY 2024, a system will be built based on the requirements identified in the research project.

3. Study on the handling of personal information in the field of disaster management

In the past, personal information protection ordinances in each municipality had various rules for handling personal information (the so-called “2,000-piece problem”). However, the Digital Reform-related Acts have established common rules and a system for the centralized monitoring and supervision of the handling of personal data. Taking this as an opportunity, the Cabinet Office established the “Study Group on the Handling of Personal Information in the Field of Disaster Management” in March 2022. In March 2023, the Cabinet Office developed the “Guidelines for Handling Personal Information in the Field of Disaster Management” to clarify the handling of personal information and prevent local governments and other relevant entities from having any doubts about the handling of personal information during a disaster or normal times.

These guidelines are based on the following two fundamental policies.

a Given that the initial 72 hours following a disaster are crucial for saving lives, active use of personal information should be considered.

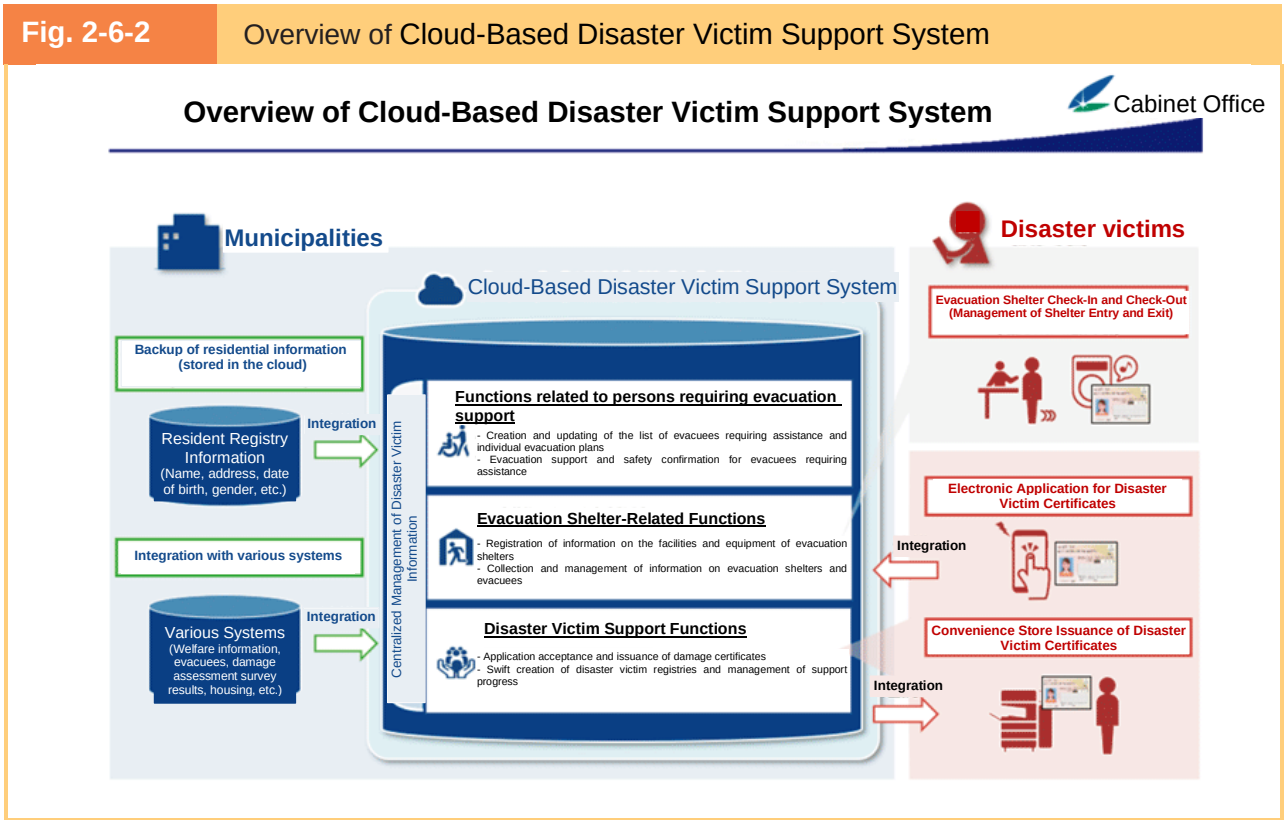
b However, when using personal information, it is necessary to protect the rights and interests of individuals in accordance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and the Basic Act on Disaster Management. For example, it is necessary to give sufficient consideration to those whose individual rights and interests are especially in need of protection, such as victims of domestic violence or stalking.

The Cabinet Office has been disseminating these guidelines through briefing sessions. It will continue to work towards the appropriate handling of personal information by local governments in the field of disaster management.

(3) Building a Disaster Relief Cloud System

The Cabinet Office developed the “Disaster Relief Cloud System” from FY 2021 to FY 2022 to support municipalities in the formulation of individual evacuation plans in normal times, as well as in preparing disaster victim registers based on Resident Registration data and allowing affected people to apply for a Disaster Affected Certificate and other government documents online and receive them at convenience stores by using their My Number Card in times of disaster. The system began operating in FY 2022 after local governments were invited to participate in the Japan Agency for Local Authority Information Systems (J-LIS).

Fig. 2-6-2 Overview of Cloud-Based Disaster Victim Support System



Source: Cabinet Office data

2-7 Holding Meetings for Immediate Natural Disaster Response and Coordination Team

In order for the government to carry out rapid and smooth initial response and emergency measures immediately after a large-scale disaster strikes, it is crucial for disaster management officials, including the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary for Crisis Management, to establish “face-to-face working relationships” during normal times, and to ensure appropriate role- sharing and mutual collaboration and cooperation.

To facilitate the exchange and sharing of information among related parties, the “Meetings of Immediate Natural Disaster Response and Coordination Team” have been held regularly. Additionally, when large-scale disasters such as the Heavy Rain Event of July 2018 and Typhoon Hagibis in 2019 occurred, the government established a cross-ministerial team to support the daily lives of affected people under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary (Administrative Affairs) to provide more comprehensive, prompt, and robust livelihood support to affected people. Through this team, the government has made it possible to quickly restore power and water services at an early phase, assess the needs of the affected people, and anticipate and address necessary measures like providing push-mode support, including water, food, cardboard beds, and partitions, improving the living environment in evacuation centers, dispatching personnel to affected municipalities, and securing housing. Working as one, relevant ministries and agencies put together a package of measures for rebuilding lives and livelihoods in the affected areas.

Based on these experiences, since FY 2020, the Basic Disaster Management Plan has clearly stipulated and institutionalized the establishment of a “team to support the lives and livelihood restoration of the affected” to provide prompt and smooth support for rebuilding the lives and livelihood of affected people in the event of a future large-scale disaster.

In response to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, following the establishment of the Disaster Management Headquarters for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake on January 1, a team to support the lives and livelihood restoration of the affected was set up on January 2 to formulate measures for rebuilding lives and livelihoods in the affected areas.

2-8 Promotion of Development of Ships Utilization Medical Care Provision System in Times of Disaster, etc.

Regarding hospital ships (defined as vessels whose primary function is to provide medical services on-board in times of disaster, etc.), the government has long since conducted research, studies and demonstration drills utilizing existing ships.

In 2021, the Act on Promotion of Development of Ships Utilization Medical Care Provision System in Times of Disaster, etc. (Act No. 79 of 2021) was passed through legislation introduced by a Diet member. In July 2022, the government established the Preparatory Office for the Establishment of the Headquarters for Promotion of Medical Services Utilizing Vessels in the Cabinet Secretariat. In FY 2023, it conducted cross-ministerial liaison meetings, demonstration drills using private vessels and medical modules capable of conducting medical activities in times of disaster, and coordinated with relevant ministries and medical organizations to conduct disaster medical drills utilizing SDF vessels, simulating a trench-type earthquake in the vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches, thereby advancing preparations for the Act’s enforcement as a unified government-wide effort.

The Act aims to promote the development of a medical care delivery system utilizing ships in preparation for disasters, etc., and came into effect on June 1, 2024. The Act establishes basic policies including coordination with land-based medical services, acquisition of ships to be used primarily for providing medical care in times of disaster, and securing of personnel. It also mandates the establishment of a Headquarters for the Promotion of Medical Services Utilizing Vessels in the Cabinet. Based on these basic policies, the government is to implement any necessary legislative and fiscal measures and formulate a plan to promote development.

The government will engage with medical organizations and other stakeholders while continuing to work towards the development of the medical care delivery system utilizing ships in times of disaster, etc.

2-9 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Measures Based on Climate Change Risks

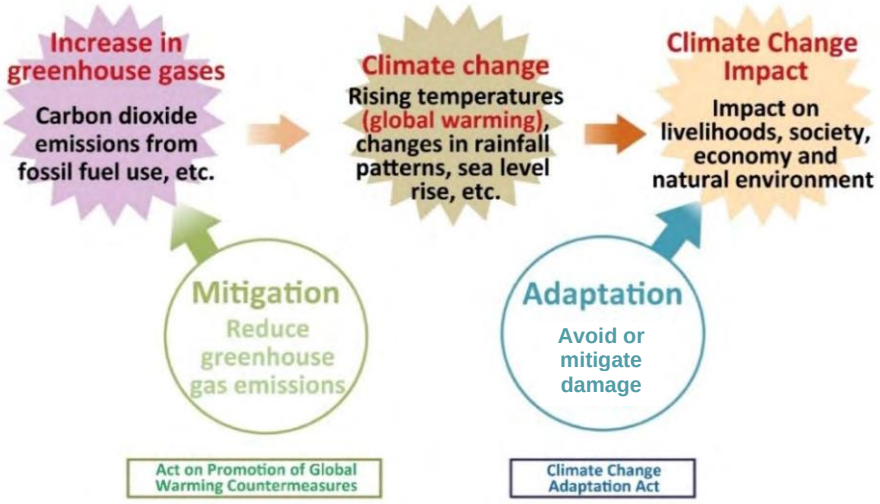
(1) Mitigation and Adaptation Measures are Inseparable for Climate Change Adaptation

Rising average temperatures and more frequent heavy rainfall in recent years clearly demonstrate climate change and its impacts around the world, leading to what is termed a "climate crisis" that threatens the foundations of human survival and the survival of all other living things. Although it is not easy to establish direct causal links between each of these weather events and global warming, projections indicate that continued global warming will increase the risks of extreme heat and heavy rainfall.

Japan has set an ambitious target aligned with its 2050 net-zero goal to achieve a 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in FY 2030 from levels seen in FY 2013 and will continue strenuous efforts in its

challenge to meet its goal of cutting emissions by 50%.However, even if we steadily promote climate change measures toward achieving the 2050 net-zero targets and limit the temperature increase to approximately 1.5°C, projections indicate increased risks of extreme heat events and heavy rainfall. Therefore, adaptation measures are essential to prevent or reduce current and projected damage (Fig. 2-9-1).

Fig. 2-9-1 Relationship between Adaptation and Mitigation



Source: Ministry of the Environment documents

(2) Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The "Climate Change Adaptation Act" (Act No. 50 of 2018, hereinafter referred to as the "Adaptation Act") was promulgated on June 13, 2018, to establish the legal framework for climate change adaptation and promote it more robustly. The act came into effect on December 1 of the same year. In November 2018, prior to the enforcement of the Adaptation Act, the "Climate Change Adaptation Plan" (hereinafter referred to as the "Adaptation Plan") was formulated in accordance with the Act's provisions.

In December 2020, the government published the "Assessment Report on Climate Change Impacts in Japan", incorporating the latest scientific findings on climate change monitoring, impact assessment, and projections across various sectors. Based on this report, the adaptation plan was revised in October 2021. In April 2023, the Adaptation Act was amended to promote a government-wide approach to heatstroke measures. In May, the Cabinet approved the formulation of the "Action Plan for Heatstroke Prevention" and some amendments to the Adaptation Plan (addition of basic provisions of the "Action Plan for Heatstroke Prevention").

Additionally, the "Climate Change Adaptation Promotion Council," comprising relevant government ministries and agencies, verified a method for monitoring the short-term progress of measures based on the Adaptation Plan. Based on this method, the Council identified the status of implementation of sector-specific and infrastructure-specific measures using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs, which are key indicators designed to monitor the short-term progress of measures contributing to the government's adaptation efforts by quantitatively measuring the achievement of adaptation objectives). It published them in October 2023 as a follow-up report to the Adaptation Plan.

(Reference： http://www.env.go.jp/earth/tekiou.html)

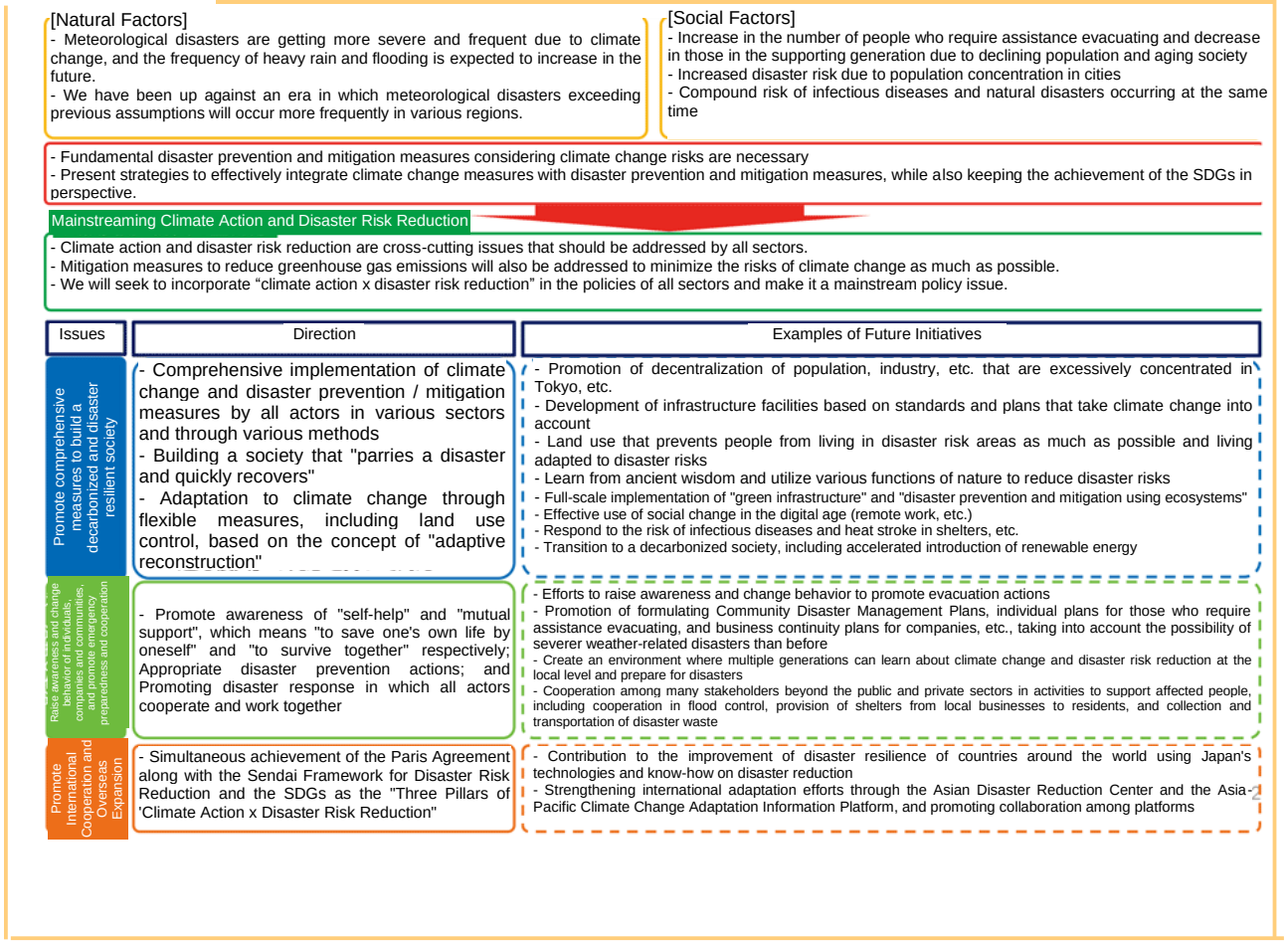
(3) "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction" and "Adaptive Recovery" Initiatives

In June 2020, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Cabinet Office published the "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Era of Climate Crisis", which effectively coordinates climate change measures with disaster management and mitigation measures (Fig. 2-9-2).

MOE has incorporated "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction" into policies across various fields to comprehensively take climate change measures and disaster management and mitigation measures. This concept was included in the October 2021 revision of the Adaptation Plan to promote it as the government's mainstream policy. In March 2024, the Ministry published a manual for local governments titled "Starting from Feasible Steps: A Practical Manual for "Strategy for

Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction" —For Disaster Management and Mitigation Measures Based on Regional Climate Change Risks," which promotes "Adaptive Recovery," an approach that encourages adaptation to climate change by controlling land use beyond mere restoration to the original form. (Reference: https://www.env.go.jp/earth/earth/tekiou/page_01311.html)

Fig. 2-9-2 Outline of "Strategy for Enhancing the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Era of Climate Crisis"

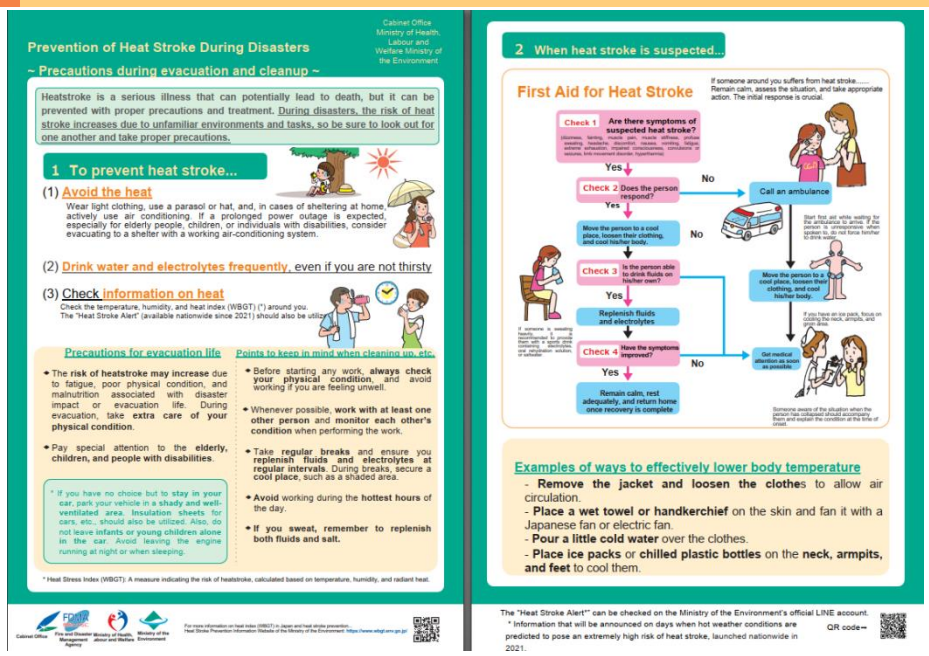


Source: Cabinet Office, Ministry of the Environment documents
(https://www.bousai.go.jp/pdf/0630_kikohendo.pdf)

(4) Heat Illness Prevention in Evacuation Life and Cleanup Operations during Disasters

Natural disasters occurring during summer months may increase the risk of heat illness during evacuation life and cleanup operations due to infrastructure failures and shortage of relief supplies in the immediate aftermath. Therefore, in March 2021, MOE, the Cabinet Office, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) collaborated and published a leaflet on heat illness prevention measures in evacuation life and cleanup operations during disasters (revised in May 2023). In FY 2023, they also conducted awareness-raising campaigns targeting local governments in July before the onset of summer (**Fig. 2-9-3**).

Fig. 2-9-3 Leaflet for Heat Illness Prevention during Disasters



Source: Ministry of Environment website
(https://www.wbgt.env.go.jp/pdf/pr/20230530_leaflet_in_disasters.pdf)

Section 3 Measures against Each Anticipated Type of Disaster

3-1 Measures against Earthquakes and Tsunamis

(1) Reviewing Measures against a Nankai Trough Megaquake

With respect to disaster management measures in the event of a megaquake along the Nankai Trough, the national government, local governments, and private business operators have been collaborating to actively advance measures based on the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Management Countermeasures developed in March 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Plan" in this section). With March 2024 marking 10 years since the creation of the Basic Plan, a review of this Basic Plan has been initiated.

In February 2023, the Cabinet Office established the “Study Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Model and Damage Estimation Method”, composed of experts in seismology and earthquake engineering. The study group proceeded with technical discussions on tsunami height, seismic intensity distribution, and methods of calculating damage estimation based on the latest scientific knowledge.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/kento_wg/index.html)

Further, in March 2023, the Cabinet Office established the "Working Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Disaster Management" under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council in order to check the progress of disaster management measures set forth in the Basic Plan and summarize issues, as well as to review damage estimation reflecting the progress of disaster management measures using the new calculation method examined by the "Study Group on Nankai Trough Megaquake Model and Damage Estimation Method". The Cabinet Office will also study new measures to be promoted in the future.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nankai/taisaku_wg_02/index.html)

(2) Study on Measures against a Tokyo Inland Earthquake

Regarding disaster management measures for a Tokyo Inland Earthquake, the national and local governments and private business operators have been collaborating to advance measures based on the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Tokyo Inland Earthquake Emergency Measures (hereinafter referred to as the "Basic Plan" in this section) created in March 2014 and revised in March 2015 (establishing disaster mitigation targets and specific policy targets for 10 years from 2015). As March 2025 will mark 10 years since the disaster mitigation goals were set in the Basic Plan, a review of the Basic Plan has been initiated.

In December 2023, the Cabinet Office established the “Working Group on Tokyo Inland Earthquake Disaster Management” under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council to check the progress of disaster management measures set forth in the Basic Plan and summarize issues, as well as to review the new calculation method regarding tsunami height, seismic intensity distribution and damage estimation, which are separately studied by the "Study Group on Tokyo Inland Earthquake Model and Damage Estimation Method". The Cabinet Office will also study new measures to be promoted in the future.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/syuto/taisaku_wg_02/index.html)

In addition, the Cabinet Office has established guidelines (in March 2015) regarding measures to be taken for stranded persons due to a large-scale earthquake, and efforts are being made to implement these measures based on the principle of restricting people from returning home at once for three days. On the other hand, in response to recent changes in social conditions etc., and based on the "Future Response Policies for Stranded Persons" compiled by a committee of experts (in August 2022), the Cabinet Office has been considering specific measures to ensure the effectiveness of the Measures for Stranded Persons due to a Tokyo Inland Earthquake.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/syuto/kitaku/kento_index.html)

(3) Study on Measures against a Megaquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches

With respect to disaster management measures in the event of a megaquake along the Japan and Chishima Trenches, a “Working Group for Studying Megaquake Countermeasures in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” was established in April 2020. In December 2021, this working group compiled the results of the estimated human life, material, and economic damages resulting from a maximum-class earthquake and tsunami. In March 2022, the working group compiled disaster management measures based on these estimated damages. After receiving this report from the working group, in addition to designating areas for the promotion of disaster management for trench-type earthquakes in the vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches under the “Act on Special Measures for Promotion of Earthquake in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” (Act No. 27 of 2004), the “Basic Plan for Promotion of Disaster Management for Trench-type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan” in this section) was amended in September 2022.

There have also been confirmed cases of earthquakes (subsequent earthquakes) of a large magnitude that occur following an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 7.0 or more along the Japan and Chishima Trenches. To prepare for these subsequent earthquakes, the “Guidelines for the Response to an Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory” was published in November 2022, and the "Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory" began operating in December 2022.

In preparation for an actual disaster, the national government created the “Plan for Concrete Emergency Response Activities for Trench-Type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches” in May 2023, which clarified the bases of operation for police, fire departments, and Self-Defense Forces rescue teams in advance, and also specified a time-line for prompt rescue operations that takes into account the challenges and geographical conditions unique to snowy and cold regions.

In the future, the Cabinet Office will continue to work on disaster management measures aimed at achieving the disaster mitigation goals set forth in the Basic Plan. It will also promote and raise awareness of appropriate disaster management actions based on the nature and content of the Off the Coast of Hokkaido and Sanriku Subsequent Earthquake Advisory. The Cabinet Office will also continue to promote measures against trench-type earthquakes in the vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches in cooperation with relevant local governments and others.

(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/nihonkaiko_chishima/WG/index.html)

(4) Study on Measures Against an Inland Earthquake in the Chubu and Kinki Regions

In the past, there have been cases in which earthquakes on active faults have caused severe damage in Western Japan, and there have been cases of increased fault activity before and after the Nankai Trough earthquakes. If a large-scale earthquake were to occur in the Chubu and Kinki regions, where urban areas are spread across prefectures, the damage is expected to be enormous and widespread.

Regarding such earthquakes that may occur directly beneath the Chubu and Kinki regions, the National Disaster Management Council reviewed and compiled the damage estimation and disaster management measures from 2004 to 2008. However, these measures must be reviewed in light of the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and the latest scientific findings.

For this reason, in November 2022, the Cabinet Office established the "Chubu and Kinki Regions’ Inland Earthquake Model Study Group," composed of experts in seismology and earthquake engineering. The group is currently reviewing conventional earthquake models for the Chubu and Kinki regions based on the latest scientific knowledge. It is considering the creation of new earthquake models that will take all possibilities into account.

This study group will estimate the expected seismic intensity distribution in the event of an inland earthquake in the Chubu and Kinki regions and then consider the damage estimation and disaster management measures.
(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/jishin/chubu_kinki/kentokai/index.html)

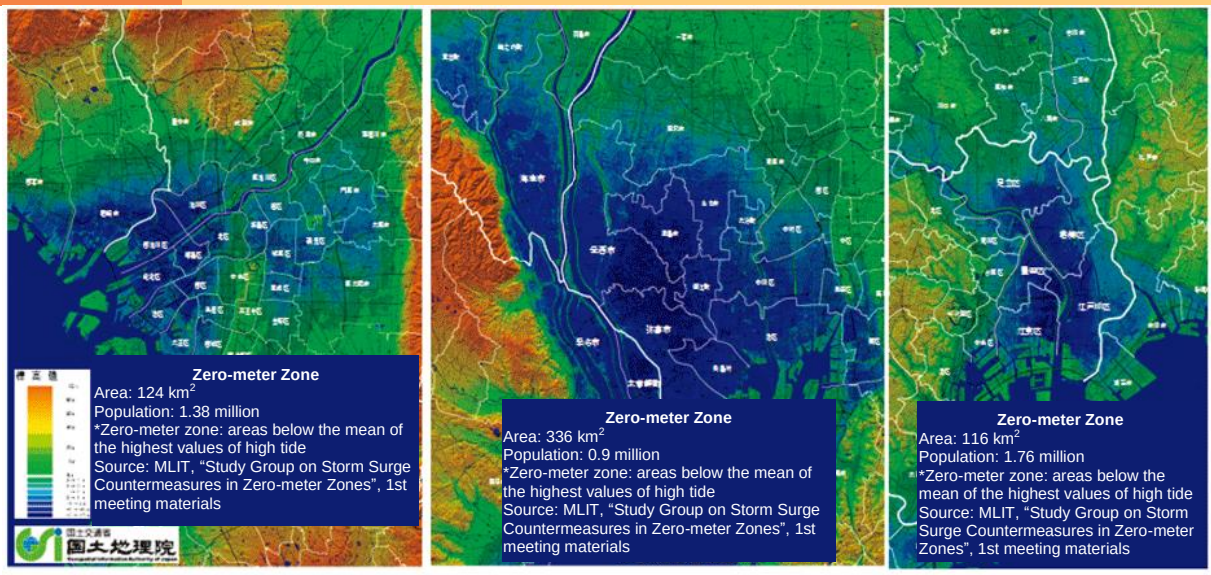
3-2 Measures against Wind and Flood Damage and Sediment Disasters (Landslide Disasters)

(1) Consideration of Large-scale and Wide-area Evacuation due to Flood and Storm Surge Flooding in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area and Other Big Cities

With global warming, there are concerns that the proportion of intense tropical cyclones will increase, and it is predicted that large-scale flooding requiring large-scale and wide-area evacuation will occur in the future. In addition, there are extensive “zero-meter zones” in the three major metropolitan areas in Japan. In the event of a large-scale flood caused by a levee breach or similar disaster, significant congestion is expected due to the evacuation of a large number of residents, as well as numerous isolated people due to delayed escape (Fig. 3-2-1).

Based on this, the “Working Group on Large-Scale and Wide-Area Evacuation from Floods and Storm Surge Flooding”, established in June 2016 under the Disaster Management Implementation Committee of the National Disaster Management Council, examined how large-scale and wide-area evacuation from floods and storm surge flooding should be implemented in the three major metropolitan areas. In March 2018, a report titled “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. 3-2-1 Zero-meter Zones in the Three Major Metropolitan Areas



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

Based on this report, the Cabinet Office established the "Study Group on Extensive Evacuation from Large-Scale Flood Disasters in Urban Areas" in collaboration with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in June 2018 to clarify the issues that should be addressed by government agencies and other relevant organizations working together in order to implement large-scale wide-area evacuations in the event of a large-scale flood, and also to consider cooperation and role-sharing among relevant organizations. The study group was held seven times by FY 2021, and in March 2022, the “Guidelines to Support the Planning of Wide-Area Evacuation (Report)” was created.
(Reference: https://www.bousai.go.jp/fusuigai/suigaiworking/suigaiworking.html)

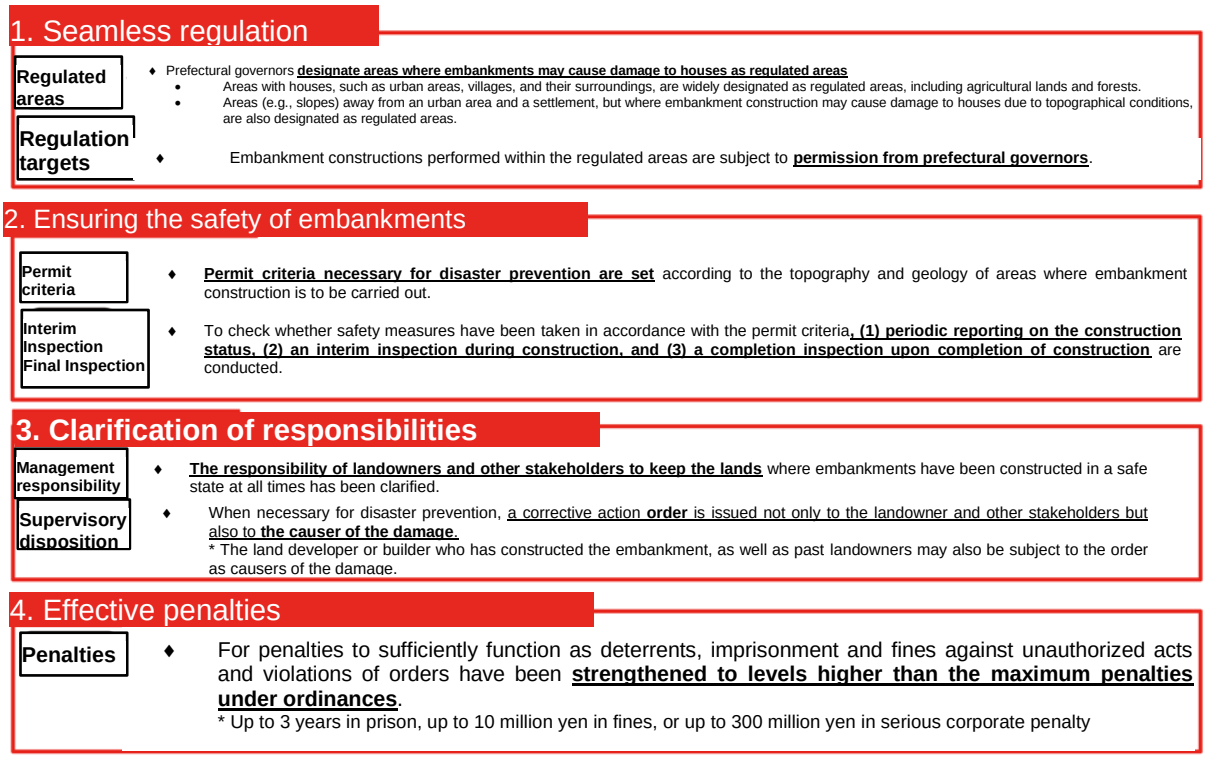
In June 2022, the Cabinet Office and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government established the “Study Group on Specific Measures for Wide-area Evacuation in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area” to facilitate wide-area evacuation in the event of large-scale flooding in the metropolitan area. This group aims to deepen the relationships between relevant organizations during normal times and to concretize further efforts based on the guidelines.

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

(2) Promotion of Measures to Ensure the Safety of Embankments

In light of the collapse of an embankment due to heavy rainfall in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture, in July 2021, which caused a large-scale debris flow disaster, and due to the fact that there are areas where regulations under various land use laws are not necessarily sufficient, the "Act on Regulation of Residential Land Development" (Act No. 191 of 1961) was fundamentally revised, including its name and purpose. Additionally, the "Act on the Regulation of Residential Land Development and Specific Embankments" (hereinafter referred to as the “Embankment Regulation Act”) was enforced on May 26, 2023, to regulate dangerous embankments under a uniform nationwide standard comprehensively, irrespective of the land use (residential land, agricultural land, forest, etc.). The outline of the Embankment Regulation Act is as follows (Fig. 3-2-2).

Fig. 3-2-2 Overview of the Embankment Regulation Act

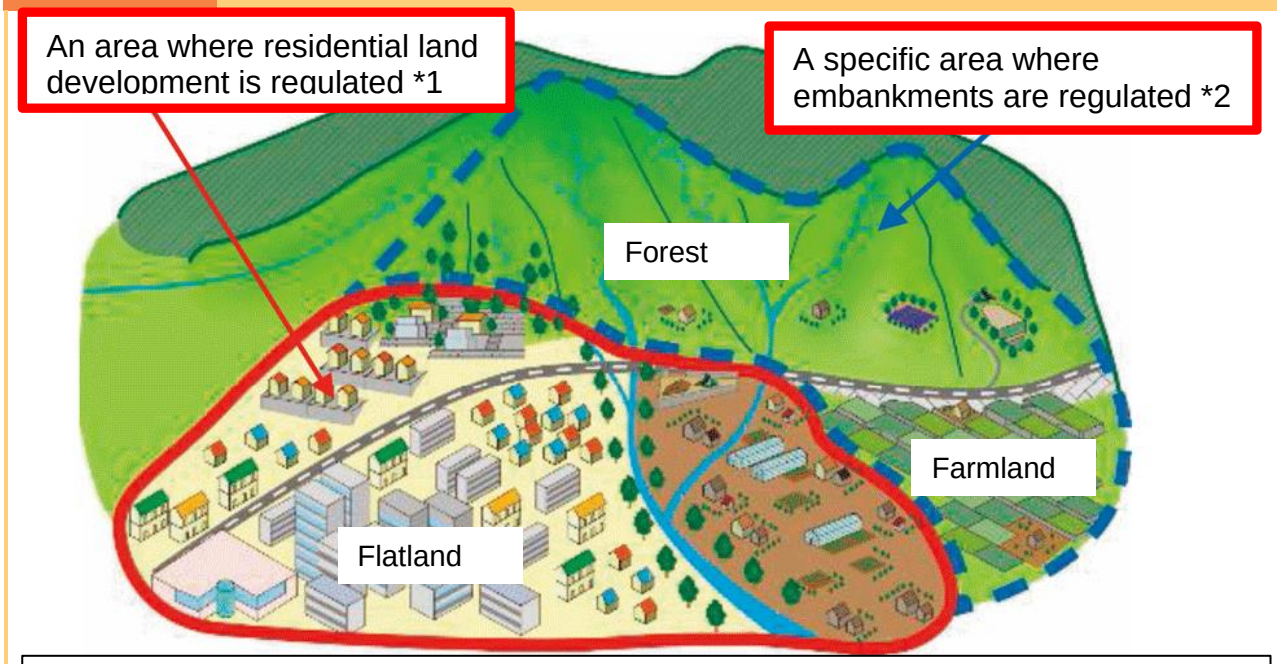


Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism documents

In June 2022, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) established the “Study Group on Embankment Disaster Management” to examine the safety standards for embankments and similar structures. Based on the opinions of experts from this group, the “Guidelines for the Implementation of Basic Surveys”, “Guidelines for the Promotion of Safety Measures for Embankments”, “Guidelines for Dealing with Illegal or Dangerous Embankments”, and the “Embankment Disaster Management Manual” were developed.

To ensure that the regulations under the Embankment Regulation Act are implemented swiftly and effectively, the Cabinet Office will continue to promote measures to ensure the safety of embankments by supporting prefectures in the implementation of basic surveys for designating regulated areas and supporting initiatives against dangerous embankments such as safety assessments and measures for dangerous embankments.

Fig. 3-2-3 Image of the Regulated Area



*1. An area where residential land development is regulated: an area such as an urban area and village where houses are clustered together and embankment construction may cause damage to the houses
*2. A specific area where embankments are regulated: an area away from an urban area and a settlement, but where embankment construction may cause damage to houses due to topographical conditions

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism documents

3-3 Measures against Volcanic Disasters

As described in Chapter 2, Special Feature 1, “Volcano Disaster Management Measures in Japan”, the Act on Special Measures for Active Volcanoes (Act No. 61 of 1973), which was revised in 2015 in light of the lessons learned from Mount Ontake eruption disaster (September 2014), requires that local governments designated as volcanic disaster hazard zones (23 prefectures and 179 municipalities) incorporate specific and detailed measures concerning the development of alert and evacuation systems into their local disaster management plans. These measures will be developed based on the “unified evacuation plan for each volcano,” as deliberated by the “Volcanic Disaster Management Council,” which comprises stakeholders in volcanic areas. The Act also requires the owners of municipality-designated facilities that attract visitors or facilities used by people requiring special care (evacuation promotion facilities) to create an “Ensuring Evacuation Operation Plan” and conduct training based on the plan to ensure the smooth evacuation of facility users. Additionally, further strengthening of measures for active volcanoes was carried out through amendments to the Act made in 2023 (to be enforced in April 2024) from a preventive perspective before a volcanic disaster occurs. As a result, with the guidance of the “Volcanic Disaster Management Council”, the provisions of the Act have been strengthened to enable municipalities to provide information, advice, and other assistance necessary to create evacuation operation plans. In addition, August 26, the date of establishment of Japan’s first volcanic observatory at Mount Asama and when observations began, has been designated as “Volcanic Disaster Preparedness Awareness Day”, with the addition of a new provision stipulating that events such as Volcano Disaster Prevention Drills be conducted on this day.

However, many local governments face challenges in creating evacuation plans since the number of personnel who have experienced a volcanic eruption is limited, and volcanoes differ in the scale of expected eruption and regional characteristics. To this end, the Cabinet Office has been creating a guidebook that summarizes specific procedures and key considerations for planning and collaborating with local governments in developing evacuation plans and ensuring evacuation operation plans. The Cabinet Office is also revising guides and creating a collection of case studies based on the knowledge and outcomes gained from collaborative discussions. Additionally, people with experience in leading roles in volcano disaster risk management at local governments are being dispatched as “volcano disaster risk management experts” to volcanic areas to promote volcano disaster risk management measures nationwide.

In FY 2022 and FY 2023, the Cabinet Office provided support for the planning and implementation of drills in model areas to encourage local governments to conduct volcano disaster management drills, as well as to review evacuation plans and local disaster management plans developed based thereon, intending to raise awareness of volcano disaster management among residents. In August 2023, the Cabinet Office compiled the knowledge and outcomes gained through collaborative discussions with local governments into the “Guide for Planning and Operating Volcano Disaster Management Drills at Local Governments” and the “Casebook on Volcano Disaster Management Drills.” In the future, the Cabinet Office is expected to promote initiatives such as volcano disaster management drills in each volcanic area, utilizing these materials while taking advantage of opportunities like “Volcanic Disaster Preparedness Awareness Day”.

Additionally, considering the impact of ash falls and the basic approach to ash fall countermeasures compiled by the “Working Group on Countermeasures for Wide-Area Ash Falls from Major Volcanic Eruptions” in 2020, the Cabinet Office is continuing its efforts to examine specific countermeasures in collaboration with relevant ministries, agencies and local governments.

3-4 Measures against Snow Disasters

Japan is an arc-shaped archipelago consisting of steep mountain ranges. During the winter, cold seasonal winds blow from Siberia, while warm ocean currents from the south flow into the Sea of Japan, resulting in heavy snowfall and snow accumulation on the Sea of Japan side. As a result, snow disasters, such as people falling off roofs during snow removal, avalanches, snowstorms, paralysis of urban functions and disruption of traffic due to snow accumulation, occur every year. When heavy snowfall was expected in FY 2023, the government took all precautions, such as holding Inter-Agency Disaster Alert Meetings. When heavy snowfall occurred, the government took unified emergency disaster response measures considering the damage.

Additionally, based on past snow disasters, the Cabinet Office created the “Guide on Snowfall for Municipalities” in January 2019 (revised in November 2023) to enable even municipalities with little experience of snow-related disasters to respond quickly and appropriately to heavy snowfall and continue to update the guide with the latest efforts, ensuring it is disseminated to local governments.

In heavy snowfall areas, comprehensive measures for heavy snowfall areas, including snow disaster prevention, are being implemented following the “Act on Special Measures concerning Countermeasures for Heavy Snowfall Areas” (Act No. 73 of 1962) and the Basic Plan for Heavy Snowfall Areas, formulated based on this Act. In FY 2023, MLIT provided Grants for Emergency Measures for Ensuring Safety in Heavy Snowfall Areas to support areas involved in the formulation of safe snow management policies that establish a future vision for safe regional development and local rules and measures to achieve that vision and to provide support to local governments that are implementing experimental measures aimed at ensuring safety during snow removal activities (including developing a system for mutual support for snow removal, holding safety seminars, promoting the use of safety anchors for fixed lifelines, and developing and introducing automated and labor-saving technologies for snow removal).

Section 4 International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

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

Japan has accumulated extensive experience and knowledge regarding disasters and disaster prevention measures. By sharing this knowledge, Japan is leading global discussions in disaster risk reduction and is contributing to strengthening disaster risk reduction efforts worldwide. Particularly, following the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, in March 2015, countries around the world are expecting Japan to play a leading role in implementing the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” (hereinafter referred to as the “Sendai Framework”), which was adopted at the conference. As a result, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are proactively promoting disaster prevention cooperation through international organizations such as the United Nations.

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

To promote the Sendai Framework, the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have jointly contributed approximately 5.37 million USD (about 735 million yen) in FY 2023 to support the activities of the

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which is responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and assisting with the implementation of the framework across various regions and countries.

In FY 2023, which marks the midpoint of the Sendai Framework's implementation period, a mid-term review was conducted to assess the initiatives and achievements under the framework and to identify challenges for the second half of the implementation period. Each country, including Japan, reported on the progress of their efforts to the United Nations.

Based on the results of this review, the first UN high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction in eight years was held at UN Headquarters in May 2023. Japan was represented by the then Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, Nakano, who announced Japan's initiatives to achieve the goals of the 2030 Sendai Framework. Additionally, a side event on the "investment in disaster risk reduction" theme was co-hosted by Japan, the G7 chair, and India, the G20 chair.

At the high-level meeting, a "Political Declaration" (an 11-page document of agreed statements by various countries) was adopted to accelerate progress in the second half of the period. The Political Declaration confirmed that initiatives would be further strengthened in the following areas: enhancing disaster risk analysis in light of climate change impacts, fostering collaboration between disaster management agencies and climate change departments, reinforcing measures to encourage investment in disaster risk reduction, including private sector investment, and sharing experiences on "Build Back Better" in response to the increasing number of disaster-affected areas.

High-level meeting for the mid-term review of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030"

(2) International Recovery Platform (IRP)

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, in March 2005 following adopting the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015" at the 2nd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kobe. The IRP aims to enhance the network and framework to support smooth recovery, spread awareness of lessons learned from recovery efforts, develop common methods and systems for recovery, and provide advice and support for formulating recovery plans and strategies. The Sendai Framework calls for strengthening the IRP as one of the international mechanisms for promoting "Build Back Better". As co-chair of the Steering Committee, the Japanese government (Cabinet Office) is contributing to laying the foundation for its development while supporting IRP activities.

The "International Recovery Forum 2024" was held in Kobe on January 25, 2024, with 347 participants from 70 countries under the theme "Build Back Better: Increasing Climate Risks and Resilient Recovery." At the forum, discussions were held on the challenges of resilient recovery, preparations for recovery, and recovery initiatives in island nations. In addition, during the group sessions, Japan shared its experiences and lessons learned to promote "Build Back Better" worldwide.

International Recovery Forum

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

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in 1998 in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, to share lessons learned from disasters with the Asian region. As of March 2024, 32 Asian countries are members. The ADRC leads the promotion of the Sendai Framework in Asia, focusing on three pillars: sharing disaster risk reduction information, developing human resources in member countries, and improving community disaster resilience. As part of its human resource development initiatives, the ARDC invites visiting researchers from member countries (132 visiting researchers in total since its beginning as of March 2024) to train human resources who can contribute to the planning and formulation of disaster risk management policies in their respective countries through research on disaster risk reduction policies. Additionally, the ADRC collects and provides information on each country's disaster management system and the latest disaster information on its website. It also promotes using satellite data to provide disaster information when disasters occur.

The Cabinet Office, in collaboration with the ADRC, hosts the "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR)". With the participation of member countries and international organizations, the conference facilitates information sharing, exchange of opinions, and promotion of cooperation on disaster prevention and risk reduction issues in Asia. The 19th conference was held on October 20, 2023, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, under the theme "Effective Implementation of DRR Measures — Enabling Digital Transformation (DX) in DRR." The Representatives from member countries(18 out of the 31) at the time, along with international organizations, regional bodies, the private sector, and academic and research institutions, totaling 120 participants, attended the event on-site, while 111 participants from 7 member countries joined online. At the conference, the Minister of State for Disaster Management, Mr. Matsumura, delivered an opening message via video in which the progress and challenges faced in implementing the Sendai Framework were reviewed. Information was shared, and opinions were exchanged on advanced technologies to reduce risks from earthquakes and ground disasters, as well as on initiatives to address climate crises such as glacial lake outburst floods and the escalating threat of wildfires.

Asian Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

4-2 Bilateral and Multilateral Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination

In addition to its initiatives through international organizations, the Cabinet Office is deepening cooperation with disaster prevention departments in governments worldwide, including by sharing experiences of disaster management policies through opportunities such as visits by ministers in charge of disaster prevention from overseas.

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

The “Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management” was launched in October 2021 by the Government of Japan (Cabinet Office) and the departments in charge of disaster management of the 10 ASEAN member states to strengthen further cooperation on disaster risk reduction between Japan and ASEAN.

On October 12, 2023, the 3rd Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management was held for the first time in a face-to-face format in Vietnam. Then State Minister of Cabinet Office, Mr. Horii, attended as co-chair and reviewed the progress of the “Japan-ASEAN Action Plan for Disaster Management” developed in 2022. Additionally, since 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation and the 50th anniversary of Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations, a commemorative ceremony was held to review the achievements of past disaster prevention cooperation. A public-private disaster prevention seminar to promote the expansion of Japan’s disaster-related companies into ASEAN was also conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and Commemorative Ceremony

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

Based on the memorandum of cooperation signed in December 2014, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cabinet Office share information and exchange opinions through international conferences and video conferences.

(3) Cooperation between Japan and South Korea through the Japan-Korea Meetings on Disaster Management

Based on the “Action Plan for Japan-South Korea Joint Declaration: A New Japan-Korea Partnership towards the Twenty-first Century”, which was agreed upon at the Japan-Korea Summit in October 1998, the Japan-Korea Meetings on Disaster Management have been held annually since 1999, on rotating basis. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event had been suspended since 2016, but after South Korea expressed its intention to resume the meetings, it was held on December 18, 2023. At the meeting, the two countries presented best practices in disaster management, and on the same day, they also visited the Central Disaster Safety Situation Room, which serves as the hub for disaster response in South Korea.


Japan-Korea Meeting on Disaster Management

(4) Activities of the Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD)

The “Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD)” was established in 2019 to promote the overseas deployment of disaster management technologies and expertise, Japan’s strengths, through public-private cooperation. As of March 2024, 209 companies and organizations are members of JIPAD.

JIPAD hosts the “Public-Private Disaster Management Seminar” to introduce Japan’s disaster risk management policies, technologies, and expertise comprehensively, build a public-private network and strengthen cooperation in disaster management.

In October 2023, the Japan-ASEAN Public-Private Disaster Management Seminar was held in Ha Long, Vietnam, in cooperation with MLIT as a side event for the aforementioned “Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management”. In the keynote speech at the seminar, the Director General of the Vietnam Department of Embankment Management and Disaster Prevention introduced the achievements of the Japan-Vietnam Disaster Management Collaboration Dialogue. During the panel discussion, representatives from MLIT, Japanese companies operating in Vietnam, local governments with which they do business, and representatives from ASEAN countries discussed public-private collaboration in disaster risk reduction. Five Japanese companies introduced their products and technologies at the reception that followed, which was attended by about 140 people from ASEAN member countries and companies.

Japan-ASEAN Public-Private Disaster Management Seminar

In addition, taking advantage of the opportunity presented by overseas disaster management administration executives and officials visiting Japan, a public-private disaster management seminar was held at the Cabinet Office. In July 2023, the Cabinet Office introduced Japan’s disaster prevention expertise and the contributions of Japanese companies, which are essential to disaster prevention in Japan, to representatives of disaster prevention-related organizations in Fiji who visited Japan for JICA training, and in November 2023, the Deputy Mayor of Almaty, Kazakhstan, who visited Japan to learn about earthquake countermeasures, and the Director General of the Philippine Civil Defense Office, who visited Japan for a JICA invitation program. JIPAD companies and organizations also gave presentations, after which they exchanged opinions with the participants.

Section 5 Measures to Promote National Resilience

5-1 Formulation of the Annual Plans for National Resilience

The government finalized the “Annual Plan for National Resilience 2023” (hereinafter referred to as “Annual Plan 2023” in this section) on July 28, 2023 (as decided by the National Resilience Promotion Headquarters). The Annual Plan 2023 is based on the new “Fundamental Plan for National Resilience” (hereinafter referred to as the “Fundamental Plan”) approved by the Cabinet on the same day and summarizes the key measures to be implemented in FY 2023 for each of the 35 policy groups. It is also designed to steadily promote these measures through the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle and manage their progress using quantitative indicators. Additionally, the Annual Plan 2023 summarizes the progress of the “Five-year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation, and Building National Resilience” (hereinafter referred to as the “Five-Year Acceleration Plan” in this section), which was formulated in December 2020, at the end of the second year (end of FY 2022). (Fig. 5-1-1).

FIG. 5-1-1 Overview of the Annual Plan for National Resilience 2023 (July 2023)

National Resilience Annual Plans 2023 Overview 1

国土強靱化 NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Based on the "Fundamental Plan for National Resilience", the annual plan outlines the main measures to be undertaken for each of the 35 policy groups during the fiscal year, manages progress using quantitative indicators, and ensures the steady promotion of measures through the PDCA cycle.

1. Key Points of National Resilience Efforts for FY 2023

(1) Direction of National Resilience Policies

Based on the Fundamental Plan, efforts will be advanced in the following areas: "Development and management of disaster prevention infrastructure to protect the lives and property of citizens", "Strengthening lifelines such as transportation, communication, and energy, which serve as the foundation for economic development", "Advancement of national resilience measures through the utilization of digital and other new technologies", "Strengthening public-private partnerships, including ensuring business continuity during disasters", and "Further strengthening disaster prevention capabilities at the regional level".

(2) Promotion of the Five-Year Acceleration Plan (2021 to 2025)

- Progress has been individually managed for 123 measures to achieve their respective medium- and long-term targets. Approximately 9.9 trillion yen was secured by FY2023, the third year of the plan.
- To facilitate the implementation of large-scale, multi-year projects, the flexible use of national treasury liabilities is being promoted.

(3) Promotion of regional resilience

- Regional plans have been developed in all prefectures and 1,724 municipalities (approximately 99% of the total) (as of April 2023).
- In future, we will improve and enhance the regional plans to make them more effective. This will be done, for example, by presenting "regional future visions" that should be common goals for all entities and by clarifying "what" measures will be taken by "whom," "by when" and "where" to achieve the visions.

2. Major policies of the Annual Plan for National Resilience 2023 (main examples)

- Promotion of river basin management measures in cooperation with all stakeholders, earthquake and tsunami resistance-enhancing measures for infrastructure facilities, aging countermeasures, and the promotion of automation and remote operation of water gates, etc.
- Elimination of missing links on high-standard highways and securing energy supply and communication infrastructure to ensure a disaster-resistant national highway network
- Utilization of digital and other new technologies, such as improving the accuracy of forecasts for stationary linear mesoscale convective system, utilizing drones during disasters, and sharing disaster information through the networking of information systems
- Strengthening public-private partnerships, including the enhancement of supply chain resilience, promotion of BCP formulation by private companies, and securing emergency power supplies at private facilities
- Strengthening disaster response efforts from gender-equality perspectives, strengthening regional disaster prevention capabilities, including disaster prevention measures to protect valuable regional cultural assets, etc.

National Resilience Annual Plans 2023 Overview 2

国土強靱化 NATIONAL RESILIENCE

3. Progress in management of Five-Year Acceleration Plan

- We had targeted an overall project size of approximately 15 trillion yen (including the use of fiscal investment and loans and projects by the private sector), and by FY2023, the third year of the project, we secured approximately 9.9 trillion yen.
- The progress of the 123 measures as of the completion of the first fiscal year (end of FY2022) is summarized as a list of progress statuses as follows:

Category	Estimated scale of projects (at the time of Cabinet decision)	Scale of projects (As of FY 2023)	Of which, government funds (As of FY 2023)
Five-Year Acceleration Plan for Disaster Prevention, Disaster Mitigation and Building National Resilience	**Approx. 15 trillion yen**	**Approx. 9.9 trillion yen**	**Approx. 5.0 trillion yen**
1 Measures to cope with increasingly severe wind and flood damage and imminent large-scale earthquakes	Approx. 12.3 trillion yen	Approx. 8.0 trillion yen	Approx. 3.8 trillion yen
2 Aging countermeasures for a shift to preventive maintenance	Approx. 2.7 trillion yen	Approx. 1.7 trillion yen	Approx. 1.0 trillion yen
3 Promotion of digitization, etc., for efficient implementation of measures related to national resilience	Approx. 0.2 trillion yen	Approx. 0.2 trillion yen	Approx. 0.2 trillion yen

* Of the total project size of the five-year acceleration plans, which is approximately 15 trillion yen, the government expenditures are generally in the mid-7 trillion-yen range.

* Some of the totals do not add up due to rounding.

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/pdf/kakuteigaiyou_r057028.pdf)

5-2 The National Resilience Related Budgets and Revision of Tax Systems Contributing to National Resilience

In the FY 2023 supplementary budget, approximately 1.5 trillion yen in national funds (including 0.3 trillion yen allocated for the National Resilience Emergency Response) was for accelerating and enhancing the Five-Year Acceleration Plan, which aims for a project scale of around 15 trillion yen over five years. Approximately 11.8 trillion yen in project scale has been secured so far (November 2023). In addition, approximately 0.4 trillion yen in national funds has been allocated as expenses to steadily promote initiatives for national resilience based on the Fundamental Plan. Additionally, in the initial budget for FY 2024, approximately 5.2 trillion yen in national funds was allocated for the national resilience budget.

Furthermore, to promote national resilience initiatives undertaken by private business operators through the tax system, the government has been working in collaboration with relevant ministries to enhance the tax system's contribution to national resilience further. Eight items, including two expansions, were compiled in the tax revisions for FY 2024 and made public.

5-3 Improving the Effectiveness of a Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience

To make national resilience effective, it is essential that not only the national government but also local governments and private business operators, along with other stakeholders, make a concerted effort. The “Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience” (hereinafter referred to as “Regional Plan” in this section) serves as the basic plan for promoting regional resilience. All 47 prefectures and nearly all municipalities have formulated it. To further enhance resilience efforts moving forward, it is important to incorporate lessons learned from past disasters, consider changes in socio-economic conditions, and ensure collaboration and cooperation with various local stakeholders, such as community residents and private business operators, from the planning stage. This approach will help enhance regional plans and make them more effective. In addition, the Fundamental Plan has positioned “further strengthening of regional disaster resilience” as one of the directions for developing national resilience policies, and the content of regional plans must be improved to serve as a guiding compass for promoting regional resilience.

In light of this, the government created the “Guidelines for Developing and Revising a Fundamental Plan for Regional Resilience (2nd Edition)” (October 2023), which outlines important points to consider when reviewing regional plans, and the “Collection of Unique Policies and Project Examples of Prefectural Governments Contributing to National Resilience” (November 2023). It provided these to local governments across the country. In addition, the government supported regional efforts to enhance resilience by holding briefing sessions by its officials and prioritizing projects for which the project site and implementation period are specifically stated in the regional plans for grants and subsidies administered by relevant government ministries and agencies.

5-4 Encouragement of Measures for National Resilience by Private Sectors, Promotion of Public Relations, and Raising Public Awareness

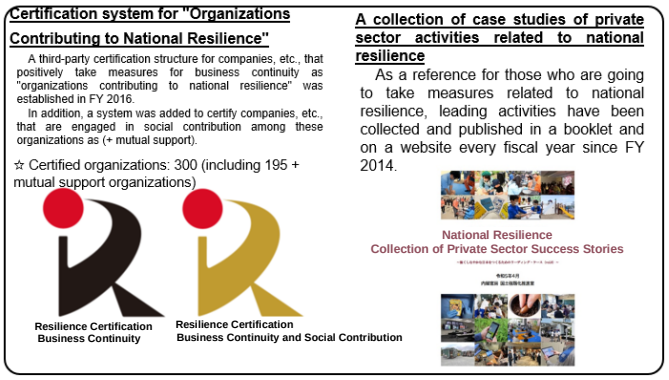
(1) Encouragement of measures for national resilience by private sectors

To promote efforts by private companies and other entities contributing to national resilience, the government has operated a system since FY 2016 in which a third party certifies companies and other entities actively working to continue their business as “Organizations Contributing to National Resilience.” During a large-scale natural disaster, maximizing mutual support throughout society is important, not just the self-help of individual companies. Therefore, in FY 2018, a system was added to certify companies and other entities actively working to contribute to society as “Organizations Contributing to National Resilience (+ Mutual Support).” As of the end of November 2023, 300 organizations (195 of which are “+ Mutual Support” organizations) have been certified.

In addition, concerning the pioneering initiatives by private companies and other entities in national resilience, the government is working to disseminate these initiatives by compiling a “Collection of Case Studies of Private Initiatives Contributing to National Resilience” every year and introducing them on its website and social media (Fig. 5-4-1).

Furthermore, to expand individual and local activities related to national resilience, “National Resilience Workshops” have been held for the general public, with a total of 5 such workshops held in FY 2023. In December 2023, a symposium was held in Miyazaki City, Miyazaki Prefecture, to promote and raise awareness of national resilience.

Fig. 5-4-1 Encouragement of measures for national resilience by private sectors



Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/torikumi_minkan.html)

(2) Promotion of Public Relations and Raising of Public Awareness for National Resilience

In promoting national resilience, the efforts of the national and local governments and all relevant stakeholders are essential. It is necessary to further increase understanding and awareness at all levels, including private companies, organizations, local communities, households, and individuals, regarding the need for disaster prevention and its effectiveness.

The new basic plan, formulated in July 2023, put forth the following basic policies: 1. Communicate in an easy-to-understand manner specific information on the philosophy and effects of national resilience; 2. Disseminate information from the recipient's perspective and use appropriate media; and 3. Promote independent and proactive efforts by related organizations and further strengthen cooperation among them. Based on these basic policies, the Cabinet Office and relevant government ministries and agencies will work together to proactively engage in public relations and awareness-raising activities for national resilience.

As part of this effort, a new national resilience poster was created and displayed nationwide at train stations, highway rest areas, shopping centers, and government office buildings. Additionally, they compiled and disseminated information about examples of national resilience initiatives that proved effective in times of disaster (**Figs. 5-4-2** and **5-4-3**). Various media, such as social media, banner ads, and radio programs, were utilized to communicate the message in an easy-to-understand manner to a wide range of people.

Fig. 5-4-2 National Resilience Poster

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kouhou.html)

Fig. 5-4-3 Good Practices in Effective Disaster Management, Disaster Mitigation, and National Resilience

Flood Damage Mitigation in the Yamato River System through Basin-Wide Flood Control Measures (Yamato River Basin (Nara City, Oji Town, Misato Town, Tawaramoto Town, etc.), Nara Prefecture)

Five-year Acceleration Plans | Three-year Emergency Measures | Examples of effectiveness during disasters | 国土強靭化 NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Summary of effects: In June 2023, during the heavy rains caused by the seasonal rain front, the Yamato River basin recorded rainfall comparable to the October 2017 flood. However, thanks to basin-wide flood control measures, such as river channel excavation, the development of flood control reservoirs, and stormwater storage facilities, the number of flooded houses significantly decreased.

Ministry name: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

■ Implementation entity:

- Yamato River Office, Kinki Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

- Municipalities in the Yamato River Basin (Nara Pref. area)

■ Outline of measures: River channel excavation, construction of flood control reservoir and rainwater harvesting facilities, etc.

■ Project cost*: 48.5 billion yen (2018 to 2023)

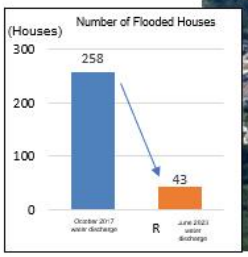
(including 8.5 billion yen for five-year acceleration measures (acceleration and deepening))

(Including 8.7 billion yen for three-year emergency measures)

* River projects under direct control and in Nara Prefecture (information provided by Nara Prefecture)

■ Others:

- In the October 2009 flooding, a 12-hour rainfall of 155 mm was recorded, and 258 houses were confirmed to be flooded.
- Due to flood control measures throughout the basin, the number of flooded houses decreased to 43, even though the June 2023 flood recorded the same amount of rainfall (140 mm in a 12-hour rainfall).



Status of river channel excavation

Status of storage facilities

Measures to Strengthen Road Network Functions by Eliminating Missing Links on High-Standard Roads and Converting Them to Four Lanes and by Creating a Double Network of High-Standard Roads and Directly Controlled National Highways (Miyazaki City - Nichinan City, Miyazaki Prefecture)

Five-year Acceleration Plans | Examples of effectiveness during disasters | 国土強靭化 NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Outline of Measures: To quickly recover and rebuild from increasingly severe and frequent disasters, it is necessary to strengthen the functionality of the road network. To ensure the functionality of the disaster-resistant national trunk road network, with the goal of securing passage for emergency vehicles within approximately one day and passage for general vehicles within approximately one week after a disaster, we will eliminate the missing link in high-standard roads, expand temporary two-lane sections to four lanes, and strengthen the double network of high-standard roads and directly controlled national highways that can function as alternatives.

Ministry name: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Higashi-Kyushu Expressway, Kiyotake JCT to Kitago

■ Implementation entity

Miyazaki River and National Highway Office, Kyushu Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

■ Project Overview

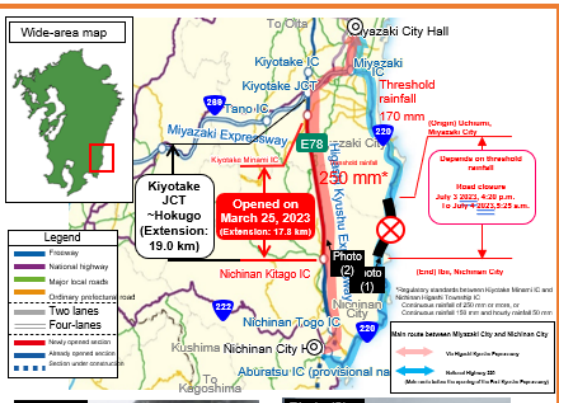
The East Kyushu Expressway between Kiyotake JCT and Nichinan-Hokugo IC (19.0 km long) forms part of the expressway network. It was developed for wide-area linkage in eastern Kyushu, efficient logistics, regional development, and the construction of a disaster-resistant road network.

■ Project cost： 162.2 billion yen

(including 8.5 billion yen for five-year acceleration measures (acceleration and deepening))

■ Effect

During the heavy rainfall in the rainy season of 2023, the Ibii area of Nichinan City recorded a continuous rainfall of 194 mm, exceeding the threshold standard, and National Route 220 was closed to all traffic for about 13 hours. **However, the East Kyushu Expressway section between Kiyotake Minami IC and Nichinan-Hokugo IC, which opened on March 25, 2023, served as a detour and effectively functioned as an alternative route.**



▲ Photo (1): Regulations on Route 220 (Ibii area) (July 3-4, 2023)

Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kouhou/koukahakkijirei.html)

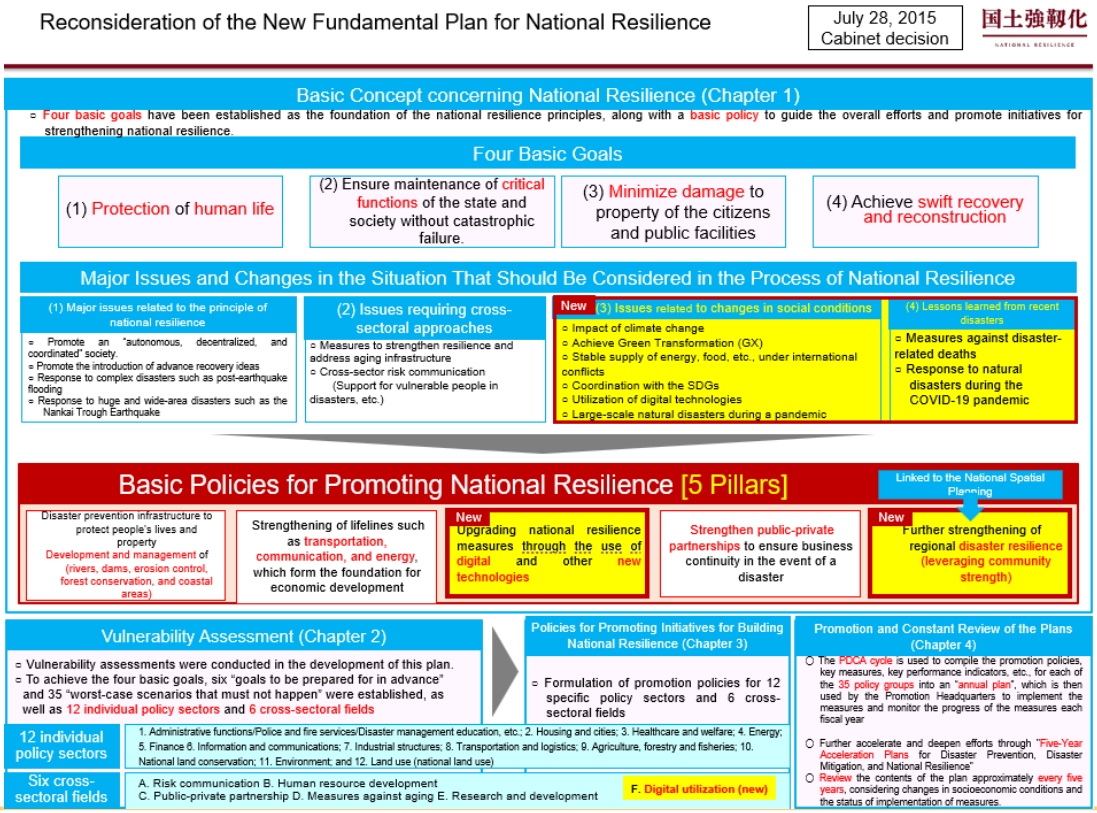
5-5 Reconsideration of the Fundamental Plan for National Resilience

The Fundamental Plan will be reviewed approximately every five years, considering changes in socio-economic conditions and the progress of national resilience initiatives. Following the revision in December 2018, the second revision was made in July 2023.

The new Fundamental Plan takes into consideration the lessons learned from natural disasters that occurred after the previous revision, such as Typhoon Hagibis in 2019, as well as changes in social conditions, such as the impact of climate change and the realization of Green Transformation (GX) as a measure to mitigate it, the stable supply of energy, food, etc. during international conflicts, and the occurrence of natural disasters during pandemics. The plan positions five principles to serve as the direction for developing national resilience policies, which are (1) development and management of disaster risk reduction infrastructure to protect human lives and property; (2) strengthening lifelines such as transportation, communications, and energy that form the foundation of economic development; (3) enhancing national resilience measures by utilizing new technologies such as digital technology; (4) strengthening public-private partnerships to ensure business continuity in times of disaster; and (5) further enhancing regional disaster resilience.

In addition to the ongoing efforts on “Development and management of disaster risk reduction infrastructure” and “strengthening of lifelines,” many new initiatives have been incorporated in the new Fundamental Plan, particularly regarding the “utilization of new technologies such as digital technology” and “enhancement of regional disaster resilience.” Notably, the section on “utilization of new technologies such as digital technology” emphasizes maximizing the potential of digital technologies to significantly improve productivity and convenience for local communities, improve the quality of industries and life, and strengthen national and regional disaster resilience (Fig. 5-5-1).

Fig. 5-5-1 Reconsideration of the New Fundamental Plan for National Resilience



Source: National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Secretariat website
(Reference: https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kokudo_kyoujinka/kihon.html)