

Section 4: International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan has accumulated a great deal of experience and knowledge concerning disasters, along with numerous policies on disaster risk reduction. By sharing these with other countries, it is driving global discussions in the field of disaster risk reduction and contributing to initiatives in this field in countries worldwide. In particular, the international communities expect Japan to play a leading role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), which was concluded at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Japan in Sendai City in March 2015. Accordingly, the Cabinet Office is proactively promoting cooperation in disaster risk reduction through the UN and other international organizations, as well as bilateral disaster risk reduction cooperation.

4-1 Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation through the UN and Other International Organizations

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

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is undertaking intensive activities focused on the following three strategic objectives, to promote the SFDRR.

Strategic objective 1: Strengthen global monitoring, analysis and coordination of Sendai Framework implementation

Strategic objective 2: Support to regional and national Sendai Framework implementation

Strategic objective 3: Catalyze action through Member States and Partners

As well as playing a leading role in the activities of UNDRR, Japan provides financial support for those activities, contributing a total of approximately \$5.12 million (approximately ¥563.37 million) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Cabinet Office in FY2018.

The establishment of an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OEIWG) to formulate indicators to measure progress toward the global targets and relevant terminology was approved by the UN General Assembly in June 2015 and the OEIWG began its deliberations that September. In this process, Japan made a substantial contribution to the OEIWG's discussions, conducting a prior survey to ascertain whether countries held any data concerning indicators that were tabled for consideration. As a result of these deliberations, the Recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Global Indicators for the Global Targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and on the Follow-up to and Operationalization of the Indicators were adopted at the UN General Assembly in February 2017. Accordingly, various countries have submitted their indicators to date. The UNISDR plans to conduct follow-ups on these indicators.

Ms. MIZUTORI Mami, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, visited the Cabinet Office on May 17, 2018 and had a discussion with H.E. Mr. OKONOGI, then Minister of State for Disaster Management. The SRSG expressed her gratitude to Japan for its international contribution and leadership in disaster risk management and established a shared understanding of closer collaboration between the Government of Japan (Cabinet Office) and UNDRR in promoting the SFDRR.

(2) 8th Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)

The 8th Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) hosted by the Mongolian government and the UNDRR was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 3 to 5, 2018. Once in every two years since 2005, Ministers in charge of disaster risk reduction from Asia gather to report the progress of each

country's initiatives under the Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks, exchange opinions on measures to promote such initiatives, share the results and challenges of DRR efforts, and discuss preparedness measures for disasters that may occur in the future. The 8th Conference was attended by approximately 3,000 people from about 50 countries and regions.

From Japan, H.E. Mr. AKAMA, State Minister of Cabinet Office, attended the Conference and delivered a speech in the Ministerial Session, in which he expressed Japan's support for the Sendai Framework and presented Japan's efforts for implementing initiatives under the Sendai Framework. He also chaired the Technical Session regarding "disaster governance" to enhance DRR management measures.



H.E. Mr. AKAMA, State Minister of Cabinet Office, giving a speech in the Ministerial Session

(3) International Recovery Platform (IRP)

The Hyogo Framework for Action was adopted in 2005 at the Second UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in the city of Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture. In response to this, the IRP was established in the Kobe city the same year, to enhance networks and frameworks for supporting smoother post-disaster reconstruction, disseminate lessons concerning reconstruction and develop common techniques and mechanisms to facilitate reconstruction and provide advice and support to those formulating reconstruction plans and visions following a disaster. The IRP's activities include holding the International Recovery Forum, preparing guidance notes on recovery and organizing workshops for human resource development. The SFDRR advocates that the IRP should be enhanced, as an international mechanism for promoting the "Build Back Better" approach, which is positioned in the SFDRR as the fourth priority area for action. The Government of Japan (Cabinet Office) supports the activities of the IRP, as well as contributing to enhancing the infrastructure for its development, as Co-Chair of the IRP Steering Committee.

The International Recovery Forum in FY2018 was held in Kobe on January 18, 2019 focusing on the theme "Attaining the Build Back Better Dividend." It was attended by 168 people from 32 countries, including the Deputy Director General for Disaster Management of Cabinet Office, Mr. KANAZAWA Kazuo, Vice Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, and Mr. HAYASHI Haruo, President of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED). At the forum, the participants shared case studies of recovery from past disasters and the lessons learned, and discussed strategies to extend the benefits of "Build Back Better."



The International Recovery Forum

(4) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum

The 12th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) was held in Papua New Guinea (Kokopo) on September 25-26, 2018. The Chairman of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) attended the forum from Japan and presented recent Japanese initiatives for the development of an early warning platform in the session about warning communication, using the quasi-zenith satellite technology.

(5) Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation through the Activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ARRC)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture in July 1998 to share the lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in January 1995 and other disasters in Japan with the rest of Asia. FY2018 marked its 20th anniversary. With Turkey joining in October 2018, the number of members became 31 (Fig. 4-1-1). The ADRC's activities center on four key areas: sharing information about disasters, human resource development in member countries, improving the disaster resilience of communities and promoting partnerships with member countries, international organizations, local organizations and NGOs. It also hosts visiting researchers from member countries each year: as of March 2019, the ADRC had hosted a total of 111 such researchers, thereby helping to foster personnel who contribute to policymaking in the field of disaster risk reduction in member countries. The ADRC also gathers information about disaster risk management systems and the latest disasters in each country and publishes this on its website, as well as providing information obtained from satellite observation of the extent of the damage when a disaster occurs.

Reference: <https://www.adrc.asia/>

Fig. 4-1-1

Asian Disaster Reduction Center member countries and advisory countries

Source: Asian Disaster Reduction Center

The ADRC convenes the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) jointly by the Cabinet Office every year and invited persons in charge of disaster risk management from member countries and international organizations to share information on disaster risk management and mitigation, exchange opinions and strengthen collaboration in Asia, which is prone to frequent disasters. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ADRC, the 14th round of the ACDR was held on Awaji Island, Hyogo Prefecture from October 30 to November 1, 2018, based on the themes of “cross-border collaboration to tackle disasters” and “enhancement of a global disaster database.” More than 110 people attended the conference from member countries (25 out of 31 countries) and international organizations such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and JICA. Disaster management representatives shared information on strategies and systems for reducing the disaster risk in individual countries as well as the progress of initiatives concerning SFDRR.



Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction

4-2 Bilateral Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation

Alongside the initiatives through international organization, the Cabinet Office also strengthened its

collaboration with disaster management agencies in the governments of various countries by sharing experiences of disaster management policies through various opportunities such as visits from ministerial level personnel overseeing disaster management from abroad.

(1) Partnership between the Cabinet Office and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Cabinet Office enters into an action plan every year based on the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) concluded with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in December 2014 for sharing information in mutual interaction and international meetings. In FY2018, the Cabinet Office visited the U.S. to see a drill held in May, conducted an investigation on areas affected by Hurricane Harvey, and held a Japan-U.S. Video Conference on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction in December 2018.

(2) Partnership between the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs in India

In September 2017, the Cabinet Office concluded an MOC with the Ministry of Home Affairs in India, aiming to develop and extend bilateral cooperation and relationships in disaster risk management. Based on this MOC, the Cabinet Office and the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs jointly held the 2nd Japan-India Conference on Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tokyo on October 15, 2018. At the Conference which was attended by about 70 people including H.E. Mr. YAMAMOTO, Minister of State for Disaster Management, H.E. Mr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, officers from government agencies, experts and private companies in both countries, efforts for strengthening bilateral cooperation were discussed in the sessions concerning disaster preparedness drills, flood measures, and the early warning system technology.

On March 18, 2019, the 3rd Japan-India Conference on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi, the capital city of India. Japan led by the Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination and India led by H.E. Mr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, discussed mutual exchange among research institutions including the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) and the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHARM), cities including Nagoya and Kumamoto Cities, and twenty private companies including the members of the Japan Bosai Platform (JBP).



2nd Japan-India Conference on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

(3) Partnership between the Cabinet Office and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD)

Through the Japan-Turkey Summit in September 2017 and the visit to Japan by H.E. Mr. Akdag, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey in April 2018, the two countries agreed to promote cooperation in disaster management. In October 2018, Turkey joined the ADRC as its 31st member.



H.E. Mr. OKONOGI, Minister of State for Disaster Management, and H.E. Mr. Akdag, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

(4) DRR Exchange with Chile and Peru

From February 27 to March 1, 2018, the Japan-Peru Public-Private Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar and the Japan-Chile Public-Private Disaster Risk Reduction Seminar were held in Peru (APEC Chair in 2017) and in Chile (APEC Chair in 2019), respectively. From Japan, the representatives of the Cabinet Office, Senior Research Fellow at Tohoku University, and Japanese private companies (25 companies in Peru, and 18 companies in Chile) attended the seminars. The bilateral public-private exchange was promoted through sessions in which the participants shared Japan's DRR policies, BCPs, and DRR technologies and know-how of Japanese companies. Bilateral meetings were also held with Mr. Carranza, General Secretary of the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI), and Mr. TORO, National Director of the Oficina Nacional de Emergencia del Ministerio del Interior (ONEMI), to exchange opinions on bilateral cooperation in disaster risk management.

(5) DRR Exchange with the Western Balkans

In the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative announced by Prime Minister ABE in January 2018, DRR is defined as the core of cooperation between Japan and the Western Balkans. In February 2019, the Japan-Western Balkans Conference on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sofia, the capital of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Conference was attended by the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia, and Republic of Albania. The discussion was focused on flood disasters, which happen especially frequently in the Western Balkans.

4-3 Development of the Overseas Expansion Strategy in Disaster Risk Management

In the 40th Meeting on the Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation Strategy (chaired by H.E. Mr. SUGA, Chief Cabinet Secretary) held in the Prime Minister's Official Residence on December 17, 2018, the members discussed the strategy and direction of overseas expansion in disaster risk management. The strategy was developed based on the Infrastructure System Export Strategy (revised in FY2018).

The government ministries will collaborate with each other in promoting initiatives to ensure that Japan's technologies and know-how on infrastructure planning, development, and renovation and mitigation will be well-understood and utilized across the globe for disaster prevention and mitigation.

Column:

USNS Mercy Visits the Port of Tokyo

In June 2018, the Cabinet Office invited hospital ship USNS Mercy, which conducts humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) operations, to make a call at the Port of Tokyo. During the port call, various events were held, including a ship tour, bilateral HA/DR exercises for medical transportation, and a seminar and a symposium for people involved in disaster medicine and disaster management, in order to make opportunities for a wide range of people to learn from the response capability of Mercy against large-scale disasters and widely disseminate information to Japanese citizens.

About 5,000 people applied for the ship tour on June 16, of which about 400 were able to join the tour. On the following day, bilateral HA/DR exercises for medical transportation and a seminar were held on Mercy, which were attended by about 100 Japanese people working in the fields of disaster medicine and disaster management. The exercises included the transportation of patients by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopters and Japanese medical team to Mercy, as well as demonstrations by medical staff on Mercy. Then, the Japanese participants and Mercy staff exchanged their opinions. These events were great opportunities to learn Mercy's capability to respond to injured persons in large-scale disasters.

On June 19, a commemorative symposium was held with Japanese and U.S. participants. In this symposium, the results of the foregoing seminar on the 17th were presented to the public and discussion was held to gain insights into disaster medicine for large-scale disasters in Japan.

The above seminar and symposium were a great learning experience for Japanese participants working in the disaster medicine and disaster management as they could directly see the scale of Mercy as a hospital, the rich medical human resources, the patient transportation process, the clearly defined instruction order structure for ship operation and medical activities, the relief supplies procurement process, and other various know-how specific to hospital ships.



USNS Mercy calling at the Port of Tokyo



Bilateral disaster medical transportation exercise



On-board surgical operation



Commemorative symposium