



[ACTIVITY REPORT]

FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY

[Foreign Resident's Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness in Kobe City]

"RAISE YOUR AWARENESS, SAVE YOUR LIFE!"

(An initiative by Kobe RMC and supported by Kobe City Government)

ACTIVITY REPORT

Foreign Residents Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness in Kobe City “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY”

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FOREWORD

Kobe City is one of the most important cities in Japan where foreigners live and become part of the city, either for work or education. Some of the foreigners came to Kobe without any adequate knowledge and know-how on disaster prevention or having difficulties in understanding disaster management systems implemented in Kobe particularly and in Japan generally; thus it leaves them vulnerable in the event of disaster. In Kobe City, one of the concentrations of foreigners, especially international students, is the Hyogo International House (also known as Nada Dormitory). Although, the management of Nada Dormitory did some risk awareness activities to new residents, it was still very limited and needs to be improved. In the event of the recent earthquake that occurred in April 2013 which was felt in Kobe City, many of the Nada Dormitory residents did not know how to react and evacuate properly; and for some of them it was their first earthquake experience.

With the brief of situation and consideration mentioned above, Kobe RMC with the support of Kobe City Government has implemented “Foreign Residents Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness in Kobe City (FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY)” project from August 2013 until February 2014. In particular, the project aimed to increase the level of preparedness of Nada Dormitory residents; and other international students in Kobe. At the same time, it was also intended to disseminate and promote Japanese-based disaster preparedness knowledge and information, which might also be transmitted to foreign residents’ home country. As a later part the project also conducted action research on “Foreign residents’ risk perception and disaster preparedness in Kobe City”.

This document is the project implementation report of the “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” intended for Kobe City Government as the main funder of this project, as well as for other supporting persons or organizations to this project. At the same time the report might also be of the interest of general audiences who are interested in the field of disaster preparedness and disaster education for special groups within the society.

Kobe, April 2014

Kobe RMC

Contributors of “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” Report

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The implementation of the “Foreign Residents Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness in Kobe City (FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY)” would not be possible without the help and support of many parties involved. Therefore, in this page we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has, in many ways, supported the implementation of this project.

First of all, we would like to say thank you to Associate Professor Aiko Sakurai of GSICS-Kobe University, the advisor of Kobe RMC, who has encourage and support the establishment of Kobe RMC as well as opened the door of opportunity for us to realize this project. At the same time, we are also indebted to Mr. Takata Kazuya and all staffs in Crisis Management Office of Kobe City, who has entrusted Kobe RMS as one of the grant receiver for developing disaster preparedness activity in Kobe City.

The project would not also be possible without the support of Hayashi-san and Funabiki-san as the management of Hyogo International House who has welcomed us warmly and provide many information about the dormitory, show us the facility and became the talent for Risk Awareness video, as well as endorsed this project to JASSO. Thus, we are also indebted to JASSO as the owner of the Hyogo International House who gave us permit and provide wonderful facilities for us to conduct the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) of this project in 31 August 2013 and *Bousai Festival* in 12 October 2013.

During the implementation of the *Bousai Festival*, we are indebted to our resource persons during the talk show who were willing to come and share knowledge regarding disaster preparedness with us and the participants; they are Dr. Shohei Beniya from Kobe University, Ms. Kim Chiaki from FMYY, Mr. Kobayashi Ikuo from CO-PLAN, and Mr. Takata Kazuya from Crisis Management Office of Kobe City. Last but not least, we are also forever indebted to all Kobe RMC members and voluntary group facilitators during the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for this project and *Bousai Festival*.

We might not be able to mention each person who has provided us invaluable support and input for this project, but we are really thankful to each one of you! At the same we hope that all participants who attended one or more activities of the “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” project gained the most benefit in preparing themselves against any possible disaster. Above all, we would like to thank God to let us take this great opportunity to learn more about life, and for the health and safety given to each of us throughout the project.

Kobe, April 2014

Kobe RMC

Contributors of “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” Report

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I. INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Asia-Pacific region, as the most disaster-prone area in the world, has experienced severe disasters caused by natural hazards for decades. According to the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012 (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [UNESCAP] and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [UNISDR], 2012), nearly two million people in this region lost their lives because of disasters between 1970 and 2011, which represents 75 percent of all disaster fatalities globally. Japan, as the country located in the circum-Pacific seismic belt, so-called the Pacific Ring of Fire, has also been affected by several disasters, mostly earthquakes, such as the Great East Japan Earthquake which struck the pacific coast of northeast Japan, also known as Tohoku region, in March 2011.

Kobe city, one of the most important cities in Japan where a lot of foreigners live and becoming an important part of the city, either for work or education, is also not entirely safe from disasters, as it was severely damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. This also means a number of foreign residents living in Kobe city can be affected by disasters at any time while they are staying in the city. As the number of foreign residents reached 43,702 based on the statistics provided by Kobe City government in 2008, and it is expected that the number has been rapidly increased due to the active exchanges in terms of business and education, the foreign residents should be seriously taken into account when Kobe City government plans and implements a disaster prevention system.

In this context, the important thing that has to be noted is that some of the foreigners come to Kobe without any adequate knowledge and know-how on disaster prevention (*Bousai*, 防災) or having difficulties in understanding the current disaster prevention system particularly implemented in Kobe and generally in Japan. Kobe Risk Management Community (Kobe RMC), which was established by the students of Kobe University to conduct in-depth research on risk analysis and management, strongly felt the imperative needs, as Kobe RMC is also comprised of not only Japanese but also many international students from diverse countries such as America, China, Germany, Indonesia, and Korea.

In order to acquire a better understanding of the current status of foreign residents' risk perception and preparedness, as the first step of the research, Kobe RMC interviewed the staffs of the management department of the Hyogo International House, also known as Nada Dormitory which is regarded as one of the concentrations of foreigners living in Kobe City, especially international students. As a result of the interview, RMC members found out that although the management of Nada Dormitory did some risk awareness activities to new residents such as providing the evacuation map and emergency bag, giving building orientation, and conducting fire drill, it was still very limited and needs to be improved. According to past residents' experience, it was uncertain whether the residents really know the location of the evacuation place although they are provided with an evacuation map. Also, the management of the dormitory places an emergency bag in each room yet it was empty and there was no information as to what kind of things should be included in the emergency bag. Lastly, although there was a fire drill in general, there was no public information regarding risk faced by Kobe both periodic such as typhoon and incidental such as earthquake.

This lack of awareness and preparedness was also shown in the event of the recent earthquake occurred in Awaji-Shima area in April 2013 which is also strongly felt in Kobe City. As being told by the daily manager of the dormitory: *“International students did not know how to evacuate. The residents were scared and they did not know what to do. Probably, it was the first earthquake experience for some of them. We admitted that there was no comprehensive drill in Nada Dormitory.”*

As mentioned above, the Nada Dormitory can be considered as a target group since it has more than 200 residents (as of October 2013) from all around the world. Moreover, the dormitory is occasionally used as a venue for cultural and educational activities by other foreigners living outside of the dormitory as well as with Japanese. With these reasons, designing an event which provides space for foreign and local community to discuss the experiences from Kobe Earthquake 1995 and other recent disasters in Japan, as well as improve risk perception and disaster preparedness in this dormitory is expected to have significant impact.

II. OBJECTIVE

Kobe RMC, supported by Kobe City Government, decided to conduct a preliminary research such as a survey and a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) targeting the residents of Nada Dormitory, to organize the main event *“Bousai Festival (Disaster Prevention Festival)”* in order to raise awareness and improve their preparedness regarding disaster risks, and to carry a final survey and an interview in order to analyze the effect of the event. The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) to increase the level of preparedness of Nada Dormitory residents in particular and other international students in Kobe City, as the project strongly aims to expand its scale,
- 2) to disseminate and promote Japanese-based disaster preparedness knowledge and information, which might also be transmitted to the foreign residents' home countries, and
- 3) to conduct an action research on *“FRIENDS in KOBE CITY: Foreign Resident's Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness in Kobe City.”*

III. INITIAL DESIGN OF THE PROJECT AND BRIEF OF ACHIEVEMENT

The table below summarizes the initial design of the “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” project and its status of implementation. In general, we can see that basically most of the proposed types of activities were implemented, although with some adjustments in its detail as well as some delay.

Table 1 Initial Design of “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” Project and Status of Implementation

ACTIVITY	INITIAL DESIGN	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
Preliminary Research on foreign residents' risk perception	To better prepare and detail the design of Public Event based on inputs from FGD #1 Distributing and collecting questionnaire from Nada Dormitory resident Distributing and collecting questionnaire from non-Nada Dormitory residents Technical Preparation for Bousai Festival	Implemented until 7 September 2013 with 30 questionnaires returned
Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Nada Dorm residents	To get to know in depth regarding preparedness in Nada Dormitory and gain input for Public Event; i.e. including The distribution of Pre-test questionnaire about “Foreigner risk perception and preparedness information” to all Nada Dormitory residents	Implemented at 31 August 2013
Risk Awareness Material Production:	Three Risk-Awareness videos: 1) “How to prepare emergency bag” video 2) “Nada Dormitory, its Surroundings, and Evacuation Planning” video 3) “Doing town watching and preparing evacuation map”	All three video productions have been done. With the first one has two versions. Delivery to Kobe City Government and Nada Dormitory will be together with the report of project
Bousai Festival	1) Talk-show about “Experience of Kobe Earthquake and the future risk of Japan and Kobe City” 2) Interactive risk-preparedness activities with participant (residents and non-residents): Cross-Road Game 3) Town watching (Neighbourhood area and HAT Kobe) 4) Demonstration: <i>Bousai duck</i> , first-aid, emergency bag preparation, using fire extinguisher, etc.	Implemented in 12 October 2013, with 50 participants and 15 volunteers from 20 countries. Implemented activities: 1) Talkshow 2) Cross-road game 3) Town Watching 4) Bousai duck 5) Emergency cooking

IV. REPORT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Preliminary Research on Foreign Residents' Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness

In order to prepare a detailed design of “*Bousai Festival*” and to understand the nature of foreign resident’s risk perception and disaster preparedness, Kobe RMC conducted a preliminary research on foreign residents’ risk perception and disaster preparedness. We distributed the questionnaire sheet that consists of three parts to all residents at Nada Dormitory and received 30 feedbacks. Results and interpretation of each question are shown below.

4.1.1 Sample Profile

Thirty residents who returned their feedback are International students aged from 19 to 35 and mostly undergraduate students, graduate students with small number of research students. Their countries of origin includes China, Korea, Indonesia, Denmark, Taiwan, USA, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Burkina Faso, Serbia, Greece, Norway, and Mexico. As we can see in figure 1 below, 58% of the respondents were female and the remaining (42%) were male. Based on figure 2, most of them (62%) had been living in Kobe for less than one year, while 23% had lived between 1-2 years, and only 15% lived more than two years. This length of stay might affect their experience on disaster in Japan. Important information about our samples is the fact that most of them (88%) living by themselves, and only 8% living with spouse as well as 4% with spouse and children.

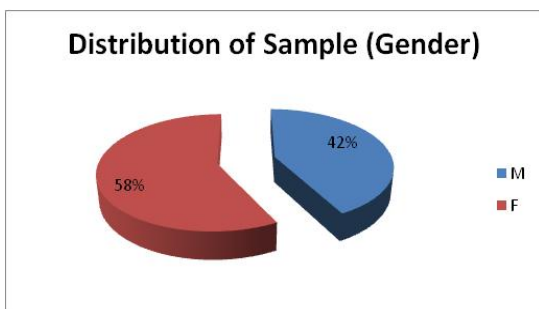


Figure 1 Distribution of Sample (Gender)

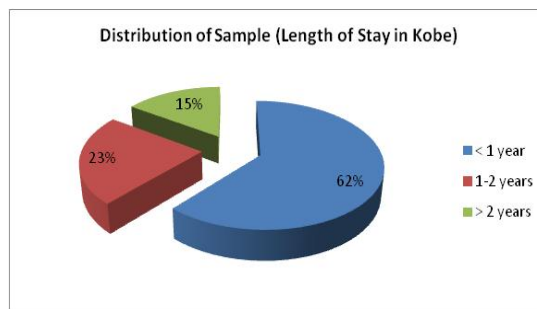


Figure 2 Distribution of Sample (Length of Stay in Kobe)

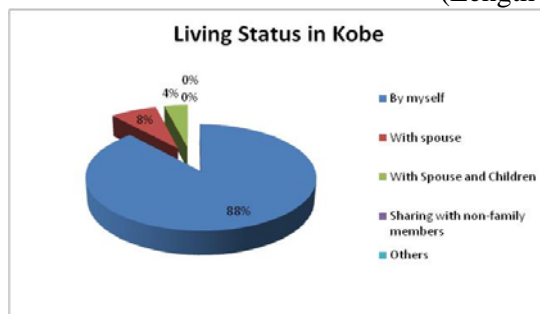
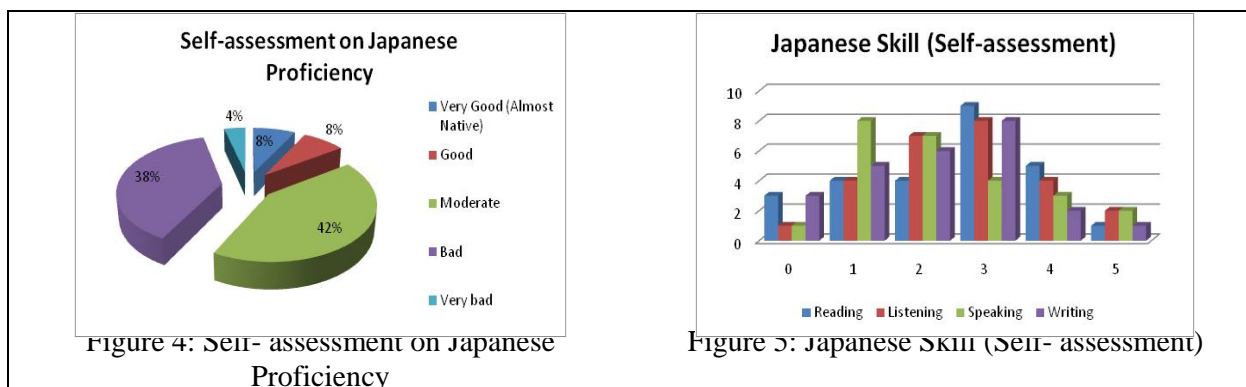
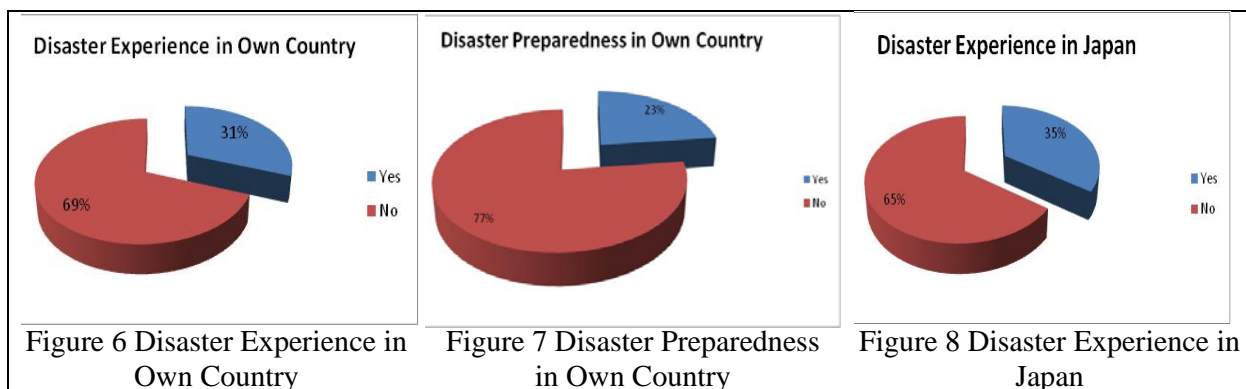


Figure 3 Living Status in Kobe

As one of our first standpoint, we thought that level of Japanese proficiency might affect disaster preparedness of foreign residents living in Kobe. Thus, we asked their self-assessment on Japanese proficiency. Levels of proficiency are divided from A to E; A= Very good (Almost Native); B= Good (I understand without having any difficulty); C= Moderate (I sometimes need help for communication); D= Bad (I just know basic phrase and barely communicate) and; E= Very bad (I cannot understand at all). Based on Figure 4 below, we can see that our samples tend to assess themselves having low proficiency in Japanese, with 42% declared having moderate proficiency and 38% bad proficiency; while in total only 8% each who declared having good and very good Japanese proficiency. Furthermore, we asked the samples to self-assess their Japanese language skill, in which the result can be seen in Figure 5. This information will later be confirmed with the question regarding their understanding on disaster-related signs written in Japanese.



As part of understanding our samples, we also asked them whether they have experienced disaster situations in their country and Japan, and whether they have received any disaster preparedness activities in their home country. From Figure 6, we can see that 69% of the respondents have not experienced in their own country, and only 31% of them have experience at least one disaster. It also should be noted that from the samples, we know that majority (77%) of the respondents also have not received any disaster preparedness activities in their own country, with only 23% have received at least one activity. In addition, 65% of the samples also have not experienced any disasters in Japan, while 35% experienced or felt at least one disaster in Japan; i.e. some of them clearly refer to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 2011, especially those who have lived more than two years in Kobe.



4.1.2 Risk perception

In this section, we would like to understand risk perception of our samples towards disaster risks that might affect themselves, their residential area, and Kobe City. We also asked whether they are aware of the possible Nankai-fault induced earthquake, as well as their perception on the likelihood of disaster events which might affect Kobe City. As we can see in Figure 9 below, respondents clearly pointed earthquake as the biggest disaster risks that might affect themselves, residential area where they live in, and Kobe City in general. It was then followed by tsunami risk, which also showed similar nature whereas risk for Kobe City perceived higher than towards residential area and one-self. On the other hand, there is a pattern exist where respondents perceived man-made and technological disasters, terrorist attack, and financial crisis as threatens to individual compared to their residential area and Kobe City.

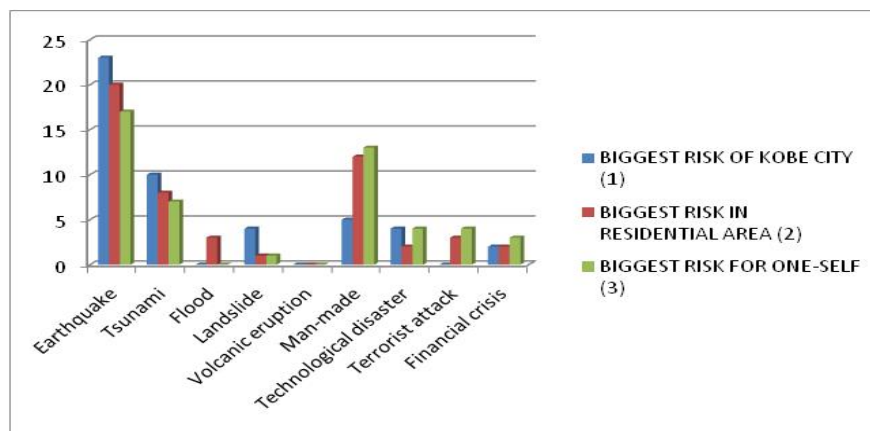


Figure 9: Respondents' perception on the biggest risk of Kobe city, in residential area, and for oneself

As we can also see in Figure 10, most of the respondents (71%) mentioned that they are not aware of the possible earthquake disaster affecting Kobe City, and only 29% of respondents said that they are aware. Among those few who aware, they perceived that the earthquake induced by Nankai-fault will be have the magnitude almost the same as the GEJET. They also aware that the earthquake would happen close to Wakayama or south of Osaka and could also affect Kobe City greatly, with possible collateral disaster, such as fire or tsunami, to follow. Although some of the respondents mentioned that they aware of preparation took by the authorities, they thought that the preparation is still lacking, thus the number of victim might be higher than GEJET.

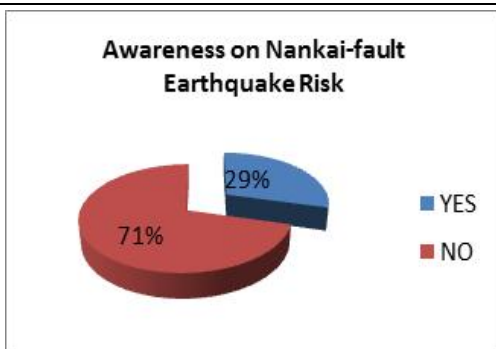


Figure 10: Awareness on Nankai-fault Earthquake Risk

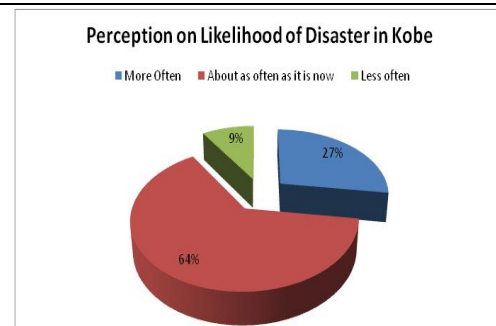


Figure 11: Perception on Likelihood of Disaster in Kobe

On the other hand, most of the respondents (64%) said that, according to their opinion, the occurrence of natural phenomena which imposed disaster risk in Kobe City will be as often as it is at this moment. Those include the perception on deadly earthquake, flood, and landslide disaster. Thus, 27% of them think that the disasters occurrence will become more frequent than present time; and only 9% think that it will be less frequent.

4.1.3 Disaster preparedness

In the aspect of disaster preparedness, firstly we asked them to self-assess on how well they are informed about disaster risks threaten Kobe City and how well they are informed about action that needs to be taken during disaster; e.g. such as evacuation route and evacuation place. From Figure 12 we can see that in general, our samples tend to be not informed regarding disaster risks, although 42% consider they are moderately know the risk. However, 31% of them said that they are not well informed which outweigh 19% who said that they are well informed. Similarly, it was also can be observed on the status of being informed about disaster preparedness action; i.e. 31% said that they are well informed, 34% moderately informed, and 35% said they are not well informed.

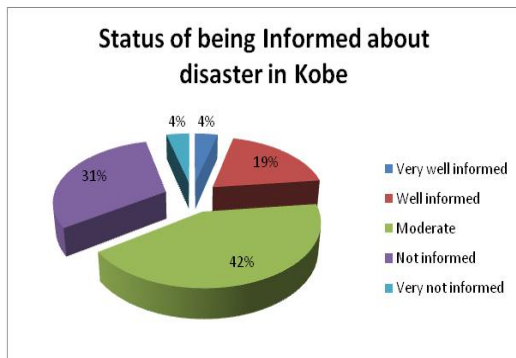


Figure 12: Status of being informed about disaster in Kobe

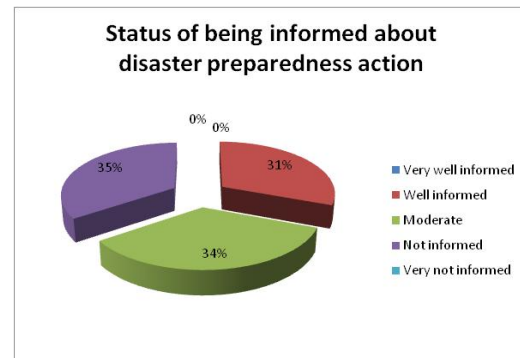


Figure 13: Status of being informed about disaster preparedness action

Furthermore, we also asked the respondent about their source of information about disaster preparedness action, and means that they took to inform one-self about disaster risk. From Figure 14, we can see that 40% said that the Dormitory management is the main provider for information about disaster preparedness action. It is then followed by school/university (24%), Kobe City government agencies (17%), friends or colleagues (10%), and neighbors (7%). On the other hand, a more even distribution can be found on the way or means taken by respondents to obtain information about disaster risks. As we can see in Figure 15, participating in drill (26%) is the main means to inform one-self about disaster risk, followed by getting material from government office (23%), others or a variety of means (19%), as well as watching TV and reading newspaper (16% each). Within the "others" response, it consisted of information collection from the internet, leaflets, discussion with Japanese local people, as well as because of personal connection and experience regarding disaster risk information. Given this information, when we asked about their self-preparation for emergency situation, as we can see in Figure 16, there is the same number of respondents which mentioned their well-prepared and moderately-prepared resource provision for emergency (32% each), followed by 28% respondents who said that they did not provide and resource for emergency.

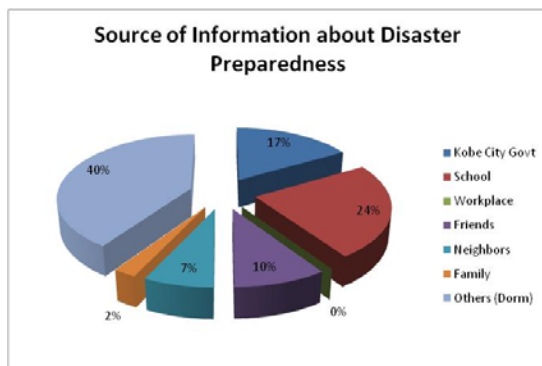


Figure 14 Source of Information about Disaster Preparedness

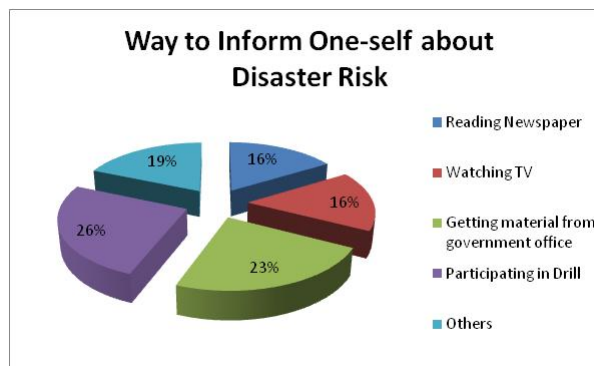


Figure 15 Way to Inform On-self about Disaster Risk

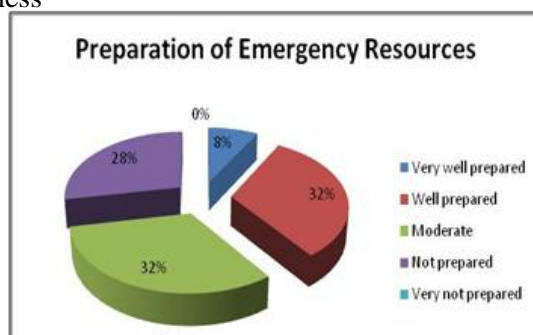


Figure 16 Preparation of Emergency Resources

In relation to the profile of our samples, as we can see in Figure 17 and 18 below, we know that a quite big number of respondents sensed the feeling of being vulnerable (39%), which also confirmed by 36% of respondents that said they felt vulnerable because of their Japanese proficiency. In addition, we asked them whether they understand a meaning of two Japanese terms which are considered as important for emergency; one is “避難所 (evacuation place)” and the other is “非常口 (emergency exit)”. Thus, only 46% of them knew the meanings of those terms.

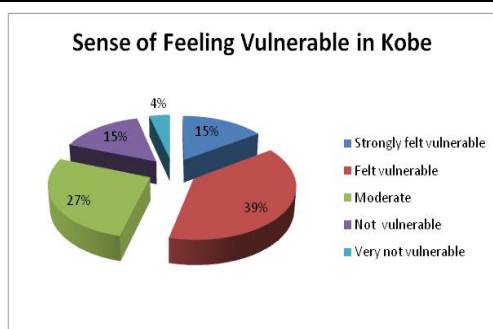


Figure 17 Sense of Feeling Vulnerable in Kobe

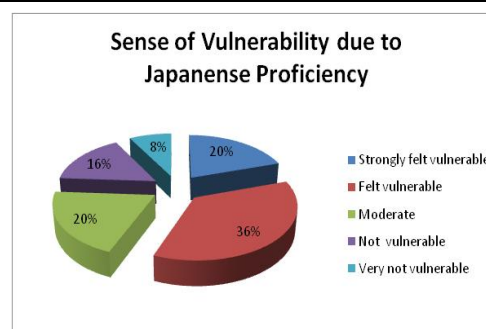


Figure 18 Sense of Vulnerability due to Japanese Proficiency

As our final exploration on foreign residents' perception and disaster preparedness, we would like to know their expectation on to whom they would rely on for information and news provider regarding disaster risks, preparedness action, and emergency situation. From the Figure 19 below, we can see that consistently the respondents gave higher mark to rely on Hyogo Prefecture Government, Kobe City Government, one-self, and local fire fighters. Conversely, for our respondents who represent foreign residents, they consistently put lower grade to rely on family members, local NPOs/NGOs, and own country embassy for disaster-related information and course of action during emergency. This was consistent with the descriptive answer to the respondents when we asked them of any means or disaster-information obtained from own-country embassy; i.e. more than 80% of our respondents said they never received any such information from their embassy, thus leaving them losing expectation to them.

Afterwards, we thus asked openly to respondents about type of disaster-related information needed. The following are which greatly needed (each mentioned more than 85% from the respondents): information regarding disaster drill activities, evacuation place and route, emergency bag preparation, hazards and disasters mechanisms, useful Japanese terms during emergency, and country-based disaster drill. Lastly, we asked the preference of language for disaster-related information provision, based on the feedback we know that 64% preferred English as means of communication followed by 18% each for both Japanese and specific native language.

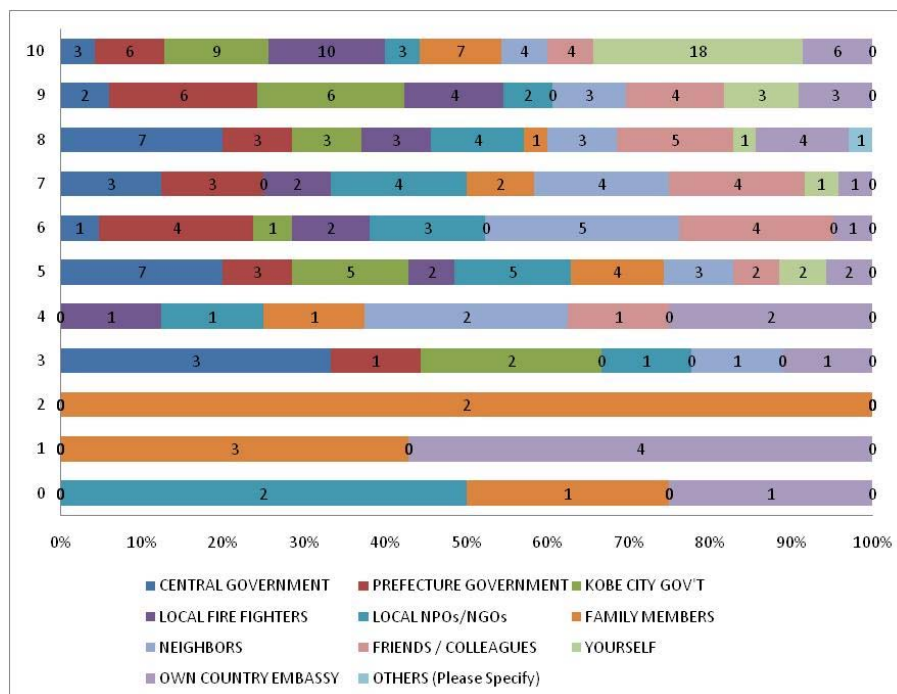


Figure 19 Rate on Expectation to Actors for Disaster-related Information and Action

4.2 Focus Group Discussion

As part of the project, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held on August 31st 2013 from 1 to 4pm at the Hyogo International Dorm (Nada dormitory). Four RMC members, 11 residents of Nada dorm, and the dormitory management joined the FGD. Objective of FGD was to get to know in depth regarding preparedness in Nada dorm and gain input from participants about their risk perception. The agenda that covered during the FGD was as follows:

- Introduction of Kobe RMC
- Brief introduction about “FRIENDS in Kobe city”
- Ice-breaking
- Introduction to “disaster” and movie screening
- Bousai Quiz
- Group discussion and Presentation
- Closure

The coordinator of FGD started the session by giving participants the explanations on Kobe RMC and our project “FRIENDS in Kobe”. After he emphasized the importance of “FRIENDS in Kobe” in terms of its feedback about foreign resident’s risk perception and disaster preparedness in Kobe city and improvement for the level of preparedness of Kobe city and Nada dorm, he provided explanation on disaster in order to enable participants to acquire general information about it. According to him, disaster risk is a combination of hazards (geological, hydrometeorology, manmade, technological), vulnerability, and capacity (see figure 1).

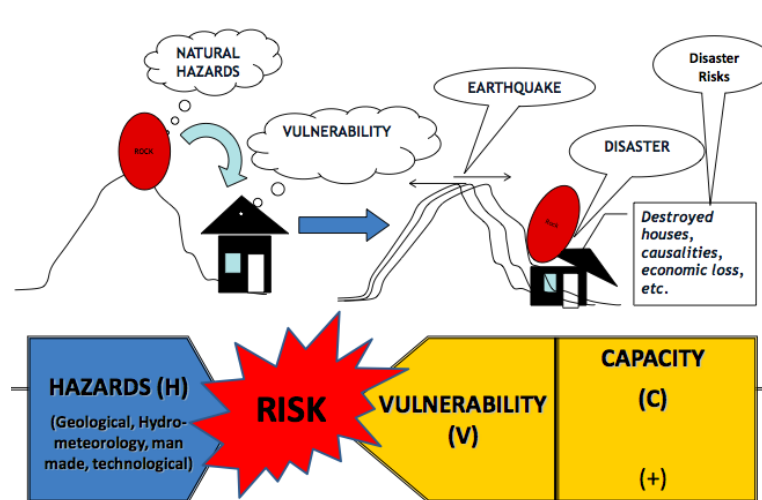


Figure 20 The Concept of Disaster Risk Discussed during FGD

“Since disaster risk can be reduced by reducing vulnerability and increasing capacity, it is really important to prepare beforehand”, he emphasized. After general explanation on disaster, participants took several questions regarding Nada dorm preparedness for disaster. Questions such as “Where can we find AED tool in Nada dorm?”, “How many fire extinguisher are equipped in each floor?”, “Where are the potential assembly points for residents at Nada dorm when disaster happens?”

enabled participants to realize what they already know and what they don't know at that time. At the last session of FGD, participants were divided into 2 groups and had a group discussion and presentation session. Discussion themes are as follows:

- 1) In your group, please discuss what are the possible disaster risks that face by Japan, Kobe city, and Nada dorm as a community?
- 2) Please share among your group members, what were your past experiences in disaster situation? How does it relate or might occur in Japan and Kobe city?
- 3) If disaster happens in Kobe city and affect your well-being, as well as Nada dorm as a community, what are the things that you most concern?
- 4) In your group, please discuss, whether Kobe city in general and Nada dorm are well prepared in the future disaster risks? What are the things that are prepared and why?
- 5) On what aspect does improvement can be made to better prepared yourself and Nada dorm in the face of future disaster risks?

Participants in each group had an active discussion among members and prepared for each presentation. Answers and opinions for each discussion theme are indicated in table 2 below.

Table 2 Response Points Discussed during Focus Group Discussion

	Group A	Group B
No1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthquake. - Tsunami. - Typhoon. - Flood, Landslide. - Disappearance of artificial islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthquake. - Typhoon. - Flood and landslide. - Tsunami. - Fire
No2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthquake happened in April 13, 2013 in Kobe→ I didn't know what to do. - Typhoon and tsunami in my hometown (in Japan)→ city hall, fire-fighters office in my hometown were situated near ocean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire (high possibility to happen in anywhere). - Thunder storm (tree collapse and it block the street).
No3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Own life. - Neighbour - Friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety of relatives/ourselves. - Our basic needs. - Educational concerns.
No4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings. - Brochures. - Structure (Assembly points, equipments, and etc). - Information in general→Only written in Japanese. Hard to disseminate information to people. - Kobe city government is located near ocean (vulnerable to tsunami). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very well prepared. - Assembly points, Fire alarm, Fire extinguisher, Automatic window operator, Evacuation place, Emergency exit.
No5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More training. - Awareness on risks. - Improve explanation about the equipments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness. - Swimming practice. - Fire training in every three months.

By concluding group presentations, we found that participants concern about their own safety, that of relatives and friends, and neighbours when disaster happens. In order to help not only us but also people around us, we need to know how to do it in proper way. However, it can be seen from presentations that their knowledge about how to use equipments is limited and information regarding instruction of equipments/anything related to disaster risk preparedness in multilingual is lacking. Therefore, more frequent trainings and multilingual instruction/information distribution are needed.

As one of objectives of FGD, we could acquire information about “foreigner risk perception and preparedness information”. Based on these inputs, we prepared for Bousai Festival and its detail is explained from next chapter.



Figure 19 Photos from Focus Group Discussion 31 August 2013

4.3 Risk Awareness Video Production

As mentioned above, the “FRIENDS IN KOBE CITY” project produced three risk awareness videos entitled: 1) “How to prepare emergency bag”, 2) “Nada Dormitory, its Surroundings, and Evacuation Planning”, and 3) “Doing town watching and preparing evacuation map”. As its implementation, all has been done with the first one (“how to prepare emergency bag”) have two versions. In addition, a slideshow video about *Bousai Festival* implementation also has been made. The following part will summarize the content of each video. All videos can be found in DVD format which can be copy by anyone. In addition, all videos also published independently in Youtube.

Risk Awareness Video 1: How to Prepare Emergency Bag?

In this video, two of Kobe RMC volunteers present and explain how to prepare emergency bag based on the guideline provided by the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) in Kobe City located in HAT Kobe area. Each video has the duration of about 4 minutes, where Kobe RMC volunteers explained and pointing out items that must always be prepared inside the emergency bag; or which based on DRI’s terminology classified as “carry-at-all-time items”. The video production was also conducted at the Kobe Earthquake Museum belongs to DRI.



Figure 18 Photos from Risk Awareness Video 1 Production

Risk Awareness Video 2: Nada Dormitory, its Surroundings, and Evacuation Planning

In this video, at first, Kobe RMC reconstructs Hayashi-san, the manager of Hyogo International House (Nada Dormitory), way of giving orientation to new residents of the dormitory. After that, together with him Kobe RMC volunteers discussed and enriched the way of dormitory building and surroundings orientation with the content of disaster preparedness and evacuation planning. It is expected that the video can be use to supplement the way of orientation for new residents of the dormitory and give awareness on disaster preparedness.



Figure 19 Photos from Risk Awareness Video 1 Production

Risk Awareness Video 3: Doing town watching and preparing evacuation map

The third risk awareness video is the documentation of Town Watching activity during the *Bousai Festival* whereas two groups were formed to check the neighbourhood of Nada Dormitory towards the north (Oji-koen) and south (HAT Kobe) directions. In the video, it was shown the basic steps of conducting “town watching” and its visualization based on the documentation during *Bousai Festival*. At the end of the video, it was shown the example of group presentation on their participatory made *Bousai Map*.



Figure 20 Photos from Risk Awareness Video 3 Production

4.4 Bousai Festival

Kobe RMC on 12 October 2013 held “Bousai Festival” in Hyogo International House, Chuo-ku, Kobe City. The Bousai Festival aims to inform foreign residents about disaster experiences and future risks in Japan, particularly Kobe City, as well as to increase disaster awareness and preparedness of foreign residents in Kobe City. Within the six hours of Bousai Festival, Kobe RMC organized several fun yet informative activities, such as *Bousai Duck*, Crossroad Game, Emergency Cooking and *Kanpan Grandprix*, Talkshow “Experience of the Hanshin- Awaji Earthquake and Future Risk of Japan and Kobe city”, and lastly Town Watching around Nada ward. In total, more than 50 people of Kobe City residents came to the activity and 15 volunteer members of Kobe RMC involved.

The MC of Bousai Festival started the activity at 10.30 am, and introduced that Bousai Festival is the first public event held by Kobe RMC (Kobe Risk Management Community), a newly born student circle based in Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University, and that the festival was also as part of commemoration to International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction which is 13 October. Afterwards, all participants watched two disaster-related videos, which were entitled “Act Now Save Later” and “The Tale of Disaster and Preparedness”. Both videos basically informs that preparedness is the most effective way to reduce and lessen the impact of disaster, and it can be in the form of small steps which in the long run can be helpful during disaster and ultimately save lives.

Thereafter, the participants were assigned to groups where they play “Crossroad Game”; i.e. a group game aims to have players think about disasters as their own business and exchange their opinions with others. In this game, each player has to answer “yes” or “no”, with its reasoning, to dilemmatic questions common in disaster situation, with most dilemmas are based on real experiences of Kobe Earthquake. As many participants also expressed, by playing this game they were able to discuss and listen to different perspectives in facing disastrous situation. Ultimately, there is no complete right or wrong answer, rather the point is to make discussion and exchange additional information or assumption on what should be the best course of action in managing disaster.



Bousai Festival: Bousai Duck (left), CrossRoad Game (center), Emergency Cooking (right)

By the time Crossroad Game finishes, then the MC introduce the concept of “emergency bag” and essential goods which should be put within the emergency bag; such as water, emergency food, medicine, personal sanitary item, raincoat, and so on. Participants of Bousai Festival were

encouraged to check on Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute's website (www.dri.ne.jp) to find out more exact items needed for emergency situation. After that, lunch time was on the brink. In Bousai Festival, a very special lunch was prepared by the participant themselves mainly using *kanpan*. "Kanpan" is a highly-nutrition biscuit commonly consumed in Japan as an emergency food. By using "kanpan" and additional ingredients prepared in the emergency bag of each group, participants use their creativity to make a new "emergency dish" and being contested among them. Many new dishes were created such as "romantic kanpan", "practical kanpan", and so on; with those having lunch in shelter will not be a boring situation.

After the lunch time with special "kanpan", the Bousai Festival continued with talk show entitled "Experience of the Hanshin- Awaji Earthquake and Future Risk of Japan and Kobe city". The talkshow basically aims to provide information about disaster experiences in Kobe City and recent update about future risks in Japan as a whole and particularly in Kobe City. Acted as moderator for this talkshow was Associate Professor Aiko Sakurai from GSICS Kobe University, she is also the advisor of Kobe RMC. While, the speakers of the talkshow were Ms. Kim Chiaki from FMYY (a multi-language local radio which born after Kobe Earthquake 1995 and also serve disaster-related information); Mr. Kobayashi Ikuo, urban planner from CO-PLAN who has extensive knowledge about city development in Kobe before and after the earthquake in 1995; Associate Professor Shohei Beniya from GSICS-Kobe University who explain about essential information needed by foreigner living in Kobe City; lastly, Mr. Takata Kazuya from Crisis Management Office of Kobe City Government came and provide knowledge about disaster risks in Kobe City and what has been prepared by the government for reducing the risk.



Bousai Festival: Speakers of the Talkshow (left), Talkshow (center), Town Watching (right)

Soon after the talkshow finished, and to release stiffness after deep discussion, the participants were asked to play *Bousai Duck*. Bosai Duck game aims to train young children on how to respond to a threat. *Bousai* (in Japanese) means disaster prevention, and *Duck* (in English) refers to the pose associated with 'duck', the animal. The 'duck' image somehow present the position "to drop, cover and hold", which is a recommended first-act response if an earthquake occurs. *Bosai Duck* was created by T. Kikkawa and K. Yamori in 2005, which mainly targeted pre-school children and/or above 4 years in Japan; since the function of this game is to stimulate nerve motor, verbal and cognitive in children. However, some practices showed that this game is also interesting as an "ice-breaking" for adult participant.

After having some fun with *Bousai Festival*, Town Watching activity was conducted. In each group, participants were asked to walk around Wakinohamacho and HAT (Happy Active Town) Kobe Area and collect information about surrounding and thus produce a *Bousai Map*. Basically Town Watching aims to get participants know more about area near the dorm, identify important places, source of collateral hazards & vulnerable places; as well as to share own view regarding hazardous aspect of neighborhood or useful things in disaster situation. Along the route, important places such as designated evacuation shelter for Nada Dormitory residents (which is Science and Technology High School) were visited. Participants also actively discussed whether buildings, parks, roads, or any other things they found along the way are beneficial for otherwise give more threat in the case of disaster. After walking around about one hour, each group returned to the main venue of Bousai Festival, where then they discussed among themselves and gave presentation of their *Bousai Map*.

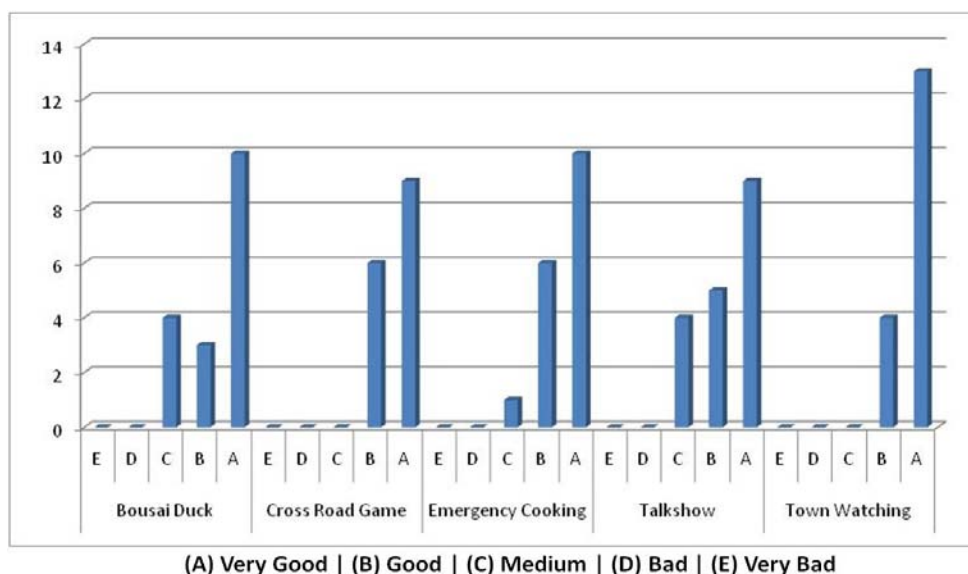


Figure 21 Feedback for Methods used during Bousai Festival

When you take a look at the graph above, majority of participants were satisfied with the five different programs prepared by Kobe RMC. In particular, Cross Road Game, Emergency Cooking, and Town Watching were popular and well received. One of the festival participants from South Korea mentioned *“every session has been carefully designed in order to enhance participants’ knowledge regarding risk management. Personally, Cross Road Game was the most interesting for me due to the fact that we were able to share our knowledge and opinions regarding the subject matter.”* Moreover, three quarters of participants considered that Town Watching was informative and practical for foreign residents living in Hyogo International House to be aware of how to do and where to go in the state of emergency. As a male participant from Africa said, *“The cross road game was awesome and the town watching as well. It was really nice and necessary festival for me”*.

However, for improving the festival, many participants left comments about the Talk show. A Brazilian nationality said that *“we learned lots of things from the Talk Show, but if we don’t save the information, we can forget very fast, for example, information about website. The Talk Show can be more dynamic, or could separate in two parts.”* Also, many people noted that giving a lecture in

English would be less distracted, save more time without translation and enhance the understanding for foreign audiences. Yet, all in all, quoting a female participant from America which generally thinks that Bousai Festival as follows: “*Great organization, contents, speakers, involvement of students in the process, and overall organization of the day ... GREAT JOB :)*”.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In the contemporary globalised world where a number of people easily go abroad not only to travel but also to live in foreign countries, having awareness as to risks in the new environment and capacities to adapt as well as deal with those risks becomes more important and inevitable than ever. It has become one of important issues in Japan, in particular, as it receives a lot of foreign residents who visit the country for education or business.

Nevertheless, the preliminary research of this project showed that the foreign residents living in Kobe city, which was severely damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, also experience difficulties with dealing with this issue and feel vulnerable to the risks around them as shown in the section 4.1. The FGD conducted to achieve better understanding of the current status of risk perception and preparedness of foreign residents’ showed that there is a room for improvement.

The *Bousai Festival* could be described as a small step to not only enable foreign residents’ to pay more attention to the risks around the area they live in, but also meet their needs and demands as to the information and resources which have not been very visible in the disaster discourse and planning in Japan. Several programs including town watching, crossroad game, and emergency cooking effectively encouraged the participants to be involved in more practical situation. These programs also enabled them to be engaged in the discussion with the others from different countries and backgrounds which possibly gave them a chance to see the same situation from different perspectives. The talkshow led by several resource persons also provided the participants with clearer ideas of disaster experience.

Kobe RMC’s long journey to raise risk awareness and to improve their preparedness to deal with those risks of the foreign residents living in Kobe city culminated with positive comments from both the organisers and the participants although there have been mistakes and deficiencies. Last but not least, this should not be stopped as one-time event but continuously conducted in order to meet the needs of the foreign residents who will become more important part of the city in the coming future. We also believe that this project “FRIENDS in KOBE CITY” could be the first step to actively involve the foreign residents when it comes to local disaster management planning.