Japan

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

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Outcomes for 2007-2009

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Outcomes:
Based on the National Spatial Planning Act, the National Spatial Strategies was developed at national level in 2008. And based on the National Spatial Strategies, Regional Spatial Strategic Plans was developed in each of the eight large regional areas in August 2009. One of the strategic goals identified in the Act and the National Strategies is to design disaster resilient nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures. The developments of these plans have provided a new framework for disaster risk reduction through sustainable development policies at both national and regional levels.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Outcomes:
The Basic Disaster Management Plan was amended in February 2008, clarifying strategic promotion of a nationwide movement for disaster prevention and support for corporation activities in disaster prevention. This Plan has been served as a foundation of a national basic policy to encourage people and corporations for participating in activities of disaster risk reduction. And the government has been continuously encouraging people and corporations to participate in disaster risk reduction activities through various measures, such as education and knowledge-sharing, drills and exercises, and establishment of system for volunteer activities.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Outcomes:
During the period, based on scientific estimations of damage, the Central Disaster Management Council examined and publicized comprehensive countermeasures and challenges in Tokyo Metropolitan area (2006-2008) and large-scale floods (2006-2010). With those recommendations, disaster risk reduction measures have been efficiently taken into national policies on disaster prevention, emergency measures, and reconstruction activities.

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:
Thorough and comprehensive disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and vulnerability reduction will be achieved through building of disaster-resilient national and urban structures, preparedness for smooth disaster response and recovery, national movement for disaster reduction and research and hazard monitoring that contribute to reducing disaster risks (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:
Impact of disasters will be reduced through the best and cooperative efforts by the national government, public corporations, local governments, enterprises and citizens in every phases of disaster. In particular, citizen participation on disaster reduction activities will be promoted by education and knowledge-sharing, drills and exercises, strengthening of local voluntary disaster management organizations, establishment of the enabling environment for volunteers, and promotion of disaster reduction by private enterprises (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:
Impact of disasters will be reduced at all the phases of disaster prevention, response and recovery, thorough and comprehensive disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures, quick and smooth disaster response operations, and effective and uninterrupted disaster recovery and rehabilitation programmes (The Basic Disaster Management Plan).

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Is DRR included in development plans and strategies? Yes

* Yes: National development plan

* Yes: Sector strategies and plans

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers

* No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:
The cornerstone of legislation on disaster risk reduction is the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, enacted in 1961, which set out the basis for measures to reduce disaster risk in Japan. The Basic Act clearly defines the responsibilities in disaster risk reduction of national government, local governments, public bodies as well as corporations carrying public functions as business designated by the Prime Minister, and citizens. Under the Act, even the private sector and persons with responsibilities regarding disaster risk reduction must fulfill their responsibilities faithfully, and local residents, besides taking measures to prepare for disasters, must also make efforts to contribute to disaster risk reduction by, for example, participating in voluntary disaster risk reduction activities.
Under the Act, the Basic Disaster Management Plan has been drafted at each level, setting out comprehensive and long-term plans for disaster risk reduction in Japan: based on this Plan, a comprehensive disaster-management planning system has been established.
Furthermore, the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 prompted enhancements to Japan's disaster risk reduction legislation and government policy. The Basic Act was amended to ensure more effective and prompt measures taken at each level of actors. Especially, the Basic Act explicitly states that national and local public bodies must endeavor to foster voluntary organization for disaster prevention, and provide an environment conducive to the performance of voluntary disaster risk reduction activities.
The Basic Disaster Management Plan has been reviewed annually and amended as needed. In a recent review in February 2008, the Basic Disaster Management Plan was revised based on the lessons learned in the recent disasters and the deliberation in the Central Disaster Management Council including the view points of necessity to take follow-up measures of priority issues and to facilitate nationwide movement for disaster reduction.
The relevant laws have been also regularly updated and improved. For example, the Special Measures Act on Earthquake Disaster Prevention was amended in 2008 to support further promotion of seismic

retrofitting of school facilities.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

* 1.2 % allocated from national budget

* 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

* 7.9 billion USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

* 2.74 billion USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)

* 2.68 billion USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:
Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act clearly specifies responsibilities of organizations involved in disaster risk reduction. The Basic Act stipulates the basic principles of taking budgetary steps by the organizations responsible for the implementation of disaster preparedness and response measures defined in the Act.
In the fiscal year 2010, the national budget for disaster management was approximately 1.1 trillion yen. The budget was allocated to the fields of i) scientific technology research (7.7 billion yen); ii) disaster prevention and preparedness (216.5 billion yen); iii) national land conservation (646.4 billion yen); and iv) disaster recovery and reconstruction (219.3 billion yen).

Context & Constraints:
Due to severity of the financial situation, both national and local governments have faced difficulty to allocate enough amount of budget for disaster management and risk reduction measures and even to maintain minimum requirement.
In the national level, for the institutional changes in the budget system, it became difficult to grasp the budget for disaster management and risk reduction continuously in statistics.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR? Yes

* Yes: Legislation

* Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the responsibility of municipal authorities to organize fire service organization including volunteer fire corps and to promote formation of voluntary disaster management organization. The volunteer fire corps members are public employees in special service, and paid remunerations for their work and efforts in case of disasters based on the ordinance in each municipality although the participation in the corps is basically based on volunteer spirit. Meanwhile, voluntary disaster management organizations are established voluntarily guided by a sense of solidarity in communities. In order to promote the activity of the organizations, some municipalities provide subsidy for the activities, conduct training for disaster risk management, and publish guidelines for community activities.

The national government has designated January 17th of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Day and January 15th to 21st of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Week. The designation of the day and week generates more opportunities to share information among volunteer groups and relevant entities and provide useful information to improve the environment for disaster reduction volunteer activities.

To promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage, the Central Disaster Management Council published the “Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety” in 2006.

The Cabinet Office and the relevant organizations have regularly organized the events to encourage the community participation in disaster reduction activities, such as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Meeting, Review Meeting for Volunteer Activities for Disaster Reduction, Disaster Reduction Fair, and Community Development Forum. The Cabinet Office is improving the framework and contents, following the future directions of the nationwide movement summarized by a consultative meeting set up in 2009.

Based on the Guidelines for Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance During a Disaster in 2005, the Cabinet Office developed “How to Proceed the Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance in time of Disaster” with advanced cases, and conducted briefings in more than 20 places in the whole country in 2008 and 2009.

Context & Constraints:

Change in social structure, living environment and lifestyles on a nationwide scale in recent years have led to increase of numbers of elderly people who are living alone as well as sparsely-settled areas mainly consist of aging population, which make difficult mutual support among residents including setting up community organizations.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform? Yes

* 6 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 7 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 2 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council was formed, its brief being to ensure the comprehensiveness of disaster risk management and to discuss matters of importance with regard to disaster management. The Council consists of the Prime Minister, who is the chairperson, Minister of State for Disaster Management, all ministers, heads of major public institutions and academic experts such as heads of local governments. The Council was designated as one of four Councils on key policy fields of the Cabinet Office in the Central Government Reform of Japan in 2001. The duties of the Council are: i) formulation and promotion of implementation of the Basic Disaster Management Plan and Earthquake Countermeasures Plans; ii) Formulation and promotion of implementation of the urgent measures plan for major disasters; iii) Deliberating important issues on disaster reduction according to requests from the Prime Minister or Minister of State for Disaster Management (basic disaster management policies, overall coordination of disaster countermeasures and declaration of state of disaster emergency), and iv) Offering opinions regarding important issues on disaster reduction to the Prime Minister and Minister of State for Disaster Management.

After the reorganization of Government Ministries and Agencies of Japan in 2001, 26 councils had meetings (three times in a year on average) with the participation of the Prime Minister by the end of 2010. In recent council meetings, agenda such as countermeasures against large-scale flood in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, evacuation measures for disasters, and countermeasures against earthquakes in local cities, were discussed.

In order to reflect diverse opinions in the society such as civil society and corporations, Central Disaster Management Council establishes technical investigation committees if necessary, for the purpose of discussing concrete measures for disaster management. For instance, the Special Committee for the Promotion of National Movement to Reduce Disaster Risks was established in 2006, in which 6 civil society organizations, 7 sectorial organizations and 2 women's organizations were represented among the total of 23 members.

Context & Constraints:

N.A.

Priority for action 2

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions? Yes

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 97.4 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 33% schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:
Japan has carried out hazard mapping with regard to tsunamis, tidal waves, flooding, landslides, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Progress has also been made in the development of dynamic flood hazard maps which predict how the flooding will spread over time. The scale of these maps varies from 1/2,500 to 1/25,000 according to purpose. Many hazard maps have been drafted by local public bodies: the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Fisheries Agency, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism and other agencies have drawn up manuals on the subject. In addition, the 2005 revised version of the Flood Fighting Act, for example, obligates municipalities containing zones expected to be inundated as announced by the MLIT to compile a flooding hazard map and to distribute copies of it to each household. In April 2007, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism launched portal site which allows users to search and view various hazard maps compiled by municipalities on the Internet. About 1,137 of the 1,500 municipalities throughout Japan are the areas which have possibilities of major flood. So far, they have published and distributed their flood hazard maps as of the end of March 2010. In addition, 104 municipalities completed inland water hazard maps as of the end of September 2009. Many of the developed maps have been made available to the general public by the internet and other means.
In addition, based on the study by the Committees for Technical Investigation under the Central Disaster Management Council, the government has published assessment of damages and countermeasures in case of possible large-scale disasters including the Tonankai and Nankai Earthquakes, the Tokyo Inland Earthquakes, the Trench-type Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the Japan and Chishima Trenches, and large-scale flood in the Tokyo metropolitan area. For example, in November 2007, the result of the assessment of damages including infrastructure and human damages by the Inland Earthquake in the Chubu region and the Kinki region were made available to the public. Furthermore, in January 2009, the

Committee for Technical Investigation on Large-scale Flood countermeasures, which was established in 2006, summarized and published the estimation of inundation caused by overflow of the Arakawa River or Tonegawa River in Tokyo Metropolitan area, and the assessment of damage by the surge of the Tokyo Bay in case of large-scale flood disaster.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed? Yes

* Yes: Disaster loss database

* Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:
The observation, analysis and dissemination systems are in place for data on climate-related hazard, earthquake and tsunami, volcanic eruption, and river-related hazard covering for all of Japan's national territory. They help to grasp the situation of the disaster early on and promote information sharing among relevant organizations, thereby enabling quick and appropriate decision-making for emergency response operations.
Furthermore, the national government has been currently developing Disaster Information Sharing Platform, a common information sharing system with a standardized information format, where various disaster information provided by ministries and agencies, local governments, relevant organizations and residents, can be posted and freely accessed by all.
In addition, the Cabinet Office has started examination for standardization and utilization of disaster risk information since 2008, in order to make disaster risk information “visible” and promote development of environment where everyone can share such information.

Context & Constraints:
Intensive use of urban space such as expanding of underground space, and increase of living areas below sea level and high-rise buildings, brought us unprecedented vulnerabilities and risks. The aspects should be further understood by the public to take effective action.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? Yes

* Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively

* Yes: Local level preparedness

* Yes: Communication systems and protocols

* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:
All of Japan's national territory is covered by early warning systems for earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, storms, torrential rains, sediment disasters, heavy snow, floods, inundation, tidal waves, and high surf, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism, the Japan Meteorological Agency and local government bodies being the main institutions involved. The organizations use 24-hour systems to carefully monitor various natural phenomena and weather conditions. The Japan Meteorological Agency has further elaborated weather warnings in units of municipalities to support judgement of the evacuation actions since May 2010.
The development of a quick and accurate communications system is essential for the effective use of early warning information. Online system linking disaster management organizations of the national and local governments and media organizations has been developed for the purpose. Radio communications networks exclusively for disasters have also been set up for connecting national organizations, firefighting organizations, local governments, residents, and designated public corporations. Furthermore, as a backup, a satellite communications system has been constructed. Simultaneous wireless communications systems using outdoor loudspeakers and indoor radio receivers are used to disseminate disaster information to residents. Tsunami and severe weather warnings are widely provided to citizens via TV and radio broadcasts.
Furthermore, Since 1 October 2007, the Earthquake Early Warning service has been started for provision through a number of media outlets such as TV and radio. The Earthquake Early Warning system was developed to provide advance announcement of the estimated seismic intensities and expected arrival time of principal motion based on prompt analysis of the focus and magnitude of the earthquake using wave form data observed by seismographs near the epicenter. In the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake in 2008 and Suruga Bay Earthquake in 2009, the Earthquake Early Warning System were fully utilized for people taking actions to protect themselves, stopping production machinery in factories, and securing children's safety in nurseries.

Context & Constraints:
Adverse effect of an overflow of information as highly-advanced information society could lead to excessive social anxiety. Delivering information in an easily comprehensible manner should be further considered as well as the system to disseminate precise information promptly. There should be technological limitation for Earthquake Early Warning System, as in areas that are close to the focus of the earthquake, the warning may not be transmitted before strong tremors hit. Likewise, errors in estimations can be happened. These things have to be well informed and recognized to the public.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects? Yes

* Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues

* Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

* Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

* Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:
Taking into account the lessons learned from bitter experience of the 1960 Chile tsunami formed by seismic activity far from Japan, the government has been making collaborative efforts with other relevant countries to establish an early warning system against tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean. Japan Meteorological Agency acts in coordination with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Hawaii and issues a long-propagating tsunami warning. JMA operates the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center, which provides more tailored tsunami information for countries in the Northwest Pacific region in cooperation with PTWC. From the experience of managing the tsunami caused by Chile earthquake in February 2010, Japan Meteorological Agency is improving the prediction accuracy of distant tsunamis.

Context & Constraints:
Global warming alerts average weather conditions on a global scale, bringing negative impacts including growing potential risks of natural disasters resulting from the frequent occurrence of fierce natural events. To reduce risks from natural disasters by climate and environmental change due to development activities, fostering further efforts for taking mitigation measures in collaboration with all sectors of international society is required.
Furthermore, globalization and rapid spreading out of the economic activities by corporations tend to trigger a regional or global chain reaction of economic damages caused by a disaster in a place. Risk assessment taking into consideration of the chain reaction of the adverse impact should be further considered.

Priority for action 3

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

* Yes: Web page of national disaster information system

* Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:
White Paper on Disaster Prevention (Annual Governmental Report on Disaster Prevention) has been prepared based on the provision of the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and submitted to National Diet. The Report includes information on recent disaster situation in Japan, current progress of countermeasures for disasters, and future plan for improving disaster management system which is collected from all the relevant ministries and agencies. The Report is open to the public on the Internet and also available as publication. Furthermore, as mentioned in the section of priority action 2, Disaster Information Sharing Platform, a common information sharing system with a standardized information format for various disaster information provided by various stakeholders has been developing to be posted and freely accessed by all.
Local governments, especially the prefectures, cities and towns located in disaster prone areas, provide information on disaster risks in the areas and knowledge on how to protect themselves from the risks by various medium including internet and publications as well as conducting workshops targeting residents. Information for kids is also provided by many of local governments to be learned with pleasure. In addition, museums or learning centers where residents including students and kids can interactively learn disasters and disaster risk management have been set up by some local governments.
Furthermore, the utilization of the broadcasting system is effective for conveying disaster information to the public. Accordingly, the national and local governments have made agreements with the Japan Broadcasting Corporation and private broadcasters to cover relevant information on disaster risk by replacing the regular program or running on a telop at the time of looming or occurrence of disaster.
Recently, in the light of the situation that the disasters caused by wind gust including tornado has frequently occurred, a review committee was established among relevant organizations. The committee published the result of the review of countermeasures in June 2007, and developed the brochure to introduce the characteristics of wind gust disasters and how to protect oneself in case of encountering tornado. Japan Meteorological Agency has started to provide tornado warning information since March 2008, and has started hazardous wind potential nowcast to provide more detailed information since May 2010.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

* Yes: Primary school curriculum

* Yes: Secondary school curriculum

* Yes: University curriculum

* Yes: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:
With a view to improving disaster risk reduction education at school, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is implementing policies such as providing teachers with reference material to be used in safety guidance and planning evacuation drills, developing and distributing disaster risk reduction training materials focusing on how to prepare for and behave in the event of an earthquake or other disaster, and holding disaster risk reduction education training sessions.
Cabinet Office and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism also has been making efforts to enhance disaster reduction education such as operating the websites dedicated to disaster reduction education, distributing educational materials, and conducting lectures on demand which the staff of the ministries directly visit and have talks with residents and students. Fire and Disaster Management Agency has been introducing the “disaster prevention & crisis management e-college” designed to provide people with opportunities to learn about disaster prevention and crisis management. It offers courses for general public, local government officials, fire brigade members, volunteer fire fighters, and kids. Furthermore, systematic training on disaster risk management for officials responsible for disaster management in local governments has been regularly provided by the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution.
To share and promote good practices and useful tools for disaster reduction education, a collaborative effort for providing subsidy to the selected educational plans which are designed and proposed as new initiatives by practitioners for enhancing disaster reduction education has been supported by various relevant organizations including Cabinet Office and Fire and Disaster Management Agency. The information of the activities conducted under the plans is also available on the internet for the reference to other practitioners.
In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has recently made study on measures to support the efforts for disaster reduction education with the effective use of the result of the study of science and technology for disaster reduction. The Ministry has initiated a new program for supporting and promoting disaster reduction education since fiscal year 2008, and given assistance to the undertaking for enhancing disaster reduction education in the model areas.

Context & Constraints:
It is required to develop more systematized programs that fit to ages and areas and improve current

official curriculum guidelines.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strenghtened.

Level of Progress achieved:
3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? Yes

* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies

* Yes: Research programmes and projects

* Yes: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:
Scientific Technology Research in Disaster Reduction has been steadily addressed based on the Basic Plan for Research and Development in Disaster Reduction (revised in December 2003). On 6 March 2009, the decade policy for earthquake research “Towards Promotion of Innovative Research Study - the Comprehensive and Basic Policy on Promotion of Observation, Monitoring, Survey and Research on Earthquake“ was compiled by the Headquarters of Promotion of Earthquake Research.
The Fire and Disaster Management Agency has drawn up a procedure enabling local public bodies to make an objective assessment of their own disaster risk reduction and crisis-management systems.
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention has studied the methods for multi-risk assessments in conjunction with the development of disaster information sharing system among various stakeholders in collaboration with local communities.

Context & Constraints:
In the meanwhile, efforts for development of research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments which reflect social and environmental change and cost benefit analysis are currently on going by several actors including governments and academia.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities? Yes

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:
The national government has designated September 1st of each year as Disaster Reduction Day, and the period from August 30th to September 5th as Disaster Reduction Week. A variety of events such as the Disaster Reduction Fair, various seminars, disaster reduction drills and exercises, and disaster reduction poster contests are held throughout the country to disseminate disaster knowledge. These events are held by the central government, local government bodies, and other organizations (jointly, in some cases). In addition to publicity on TV, radio, in newspapers and leaflets, special features are presented by various press organizations. Schools participate by creating slogans and participating in disaster management poster contests and voluntary activities, among other things.
Furthermore, as mentioned in the section of priority for action 1, the Central Disaster Management Council published the “Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety.” to promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage in 2006.
As mentioned in the above section, the Cabinet Office and the relevant organizations have regularly organized the events to encourage the community participation, such as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Meeting, Review Meeting for Volunteer Activities for Disaster Reduction, Disaster Reduction Fair, and “Community Development Forum. The Cabinet Office is improving the framework and contents, following the future directions of the nationwide movement summarized by a consultative meeting set up in 2009.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 4

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes

* Yes: Protected areas legislation

* Yes: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

* Yes: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:
Japan has national land conservation projects such as river improvement, soil erosion control (sabo), and soil and coastline conservation which are carried out strategically for protecting national land, citizens' lives and property from various disasters. In 2005, the National Spatial Planning Act (revision of Comprehensive National Development Act) was enforced in order to make the shift from the policy centered on development. Based on the Act, the National Spatial Strategies was developed at national level in 2008, and Regional Spatial Strategic Plans was developed in each of eight large regional areas in August 2009. One of the strategic goals identified in the Act and the National Strategies are to design disaster resilience nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.
Additionally, the second period of the “Forest Improvement and Conservation Works Master Plan (Five-Year Plan)” was developed as a plan from 2009 to 2014 to promote comprehensive and effective forestry improvement and soil conservation projects.

Context & Constraints:
The task force to comprehensively review the current progress of adaptation to climate change in the national policies has established and just started the activities in March 2009. Furthermore, an examination committee on climate change adaptation was established in May 2010, and developed the report “Direction of adaptation to climate change” in November 2010, as a conclusion of studies. In the report, disaster risk reduction is considered one of the important issues to be examined.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

* Yes: Crop and property insurance

* Yes: Employment guarantee schemes

* Yes: Conditional cash transfers

* Yes: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* No: Microfinance

* No: Micro insurance

Description:
It is required to promptly ensure earthquake resistance of all the school facilities, where school children spend most of their time and are used as evacuation places in case of disasters. Approximately 30 percent of the buildings of public elementary and junior high schools have problems related to resistance to earthquakes and need to enhance earthquake safety. With this point of view, in 2006, the system has been changed to broaden the discretion of local governments in dealing with the expenditures. In addition, the Special Measures Act on Earthquake Disaster Prevention was amended in 2008 to support further promotion of seismic retrofitting of school facilities.
To promote the countermeasures to support the evacuation of those who require assistance in case of emergency, a national plan was developed in December 2007. The Plan called for development of evacuation support master plans by local governments with the view to smoothly proceed with collection and sharing of information of those who need assistance in each city, town, and village, and introduced the model plan formulated by the relevant organizations. The Cabinet Office conducted briefings in more than 20 places in the whole country in 2008 and 2009.

Context & Constraints:
Currently the implementation of the planned activities is in progress.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? Yes

* Yes: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:
The Cabinet Office promotes the enhancement of disaster reduction activities of corporations including the development of BCP (Business Continuity Plans). The "Business Continuity Guideline" to promote the development of BCP for enterprises was developed in 2005. For better understanding and more use of the Guideline, a practical guide of the Guideline was published in Mach 2007. In addition, amendment of Basic Disaster Management Plan (February 2008) clarified the role of the national and local governments in supporting the development of corporate BCP. According to the survey result in 2009, 28 percent of the large-scale enterprises (58%, including enterprises developing the BCP) and 13 percent of medium-size enterprises (27%, including enterprises developing the BCP) have developed the BCP. Furthermore, the Development Bank of Japan launched a new lending mechanism disaster reduction rating system for disaster countermeasures promotion projects, as an incentive for corporate disaster reduction activities.

Context & Constraints:
The efforts have been recently started, and more supportive activities, especially for the medium and small sized enterprises, are expected.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

* Yes: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

* Yes: Training of masons on safe construction technology

* Yes: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:
Japan has City Planning Act which incorporates disaster risk reduction elements in the provisions. Especially it stipulates the measures to be taken for dense populated residential areas. Based on the Act and the related plans, disaster management bases with such functions as information management, operations coordination and logistics need to be developed and networks has been constructed.

Additionally, subsidies are provided to local governments to promote qualitative and quantitative improvements of local disaster management bases.
Japan also has the Building Standard Act (enacted in 1950) and the Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings (enacted in 1995). It has been confirmed that buildings constructed under the revised Building Standard Act (known as the “New Seismic Design Standard”) enacted in 1981 have adequate earthquake resistance.
The Central Disaster Management Council drafted Urgent Countermeasures Guideline for Promoting the Earthquake-proofing of Houses and Buildings in 2005 which set a national target for lifting the rate of earthquake-proofed houses from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years. Furthermore, the Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings were revised in January 2006, and defined the national goal for raising the rate of seismic resistant buildings from the current 75 percent to 90 percent within 10 years.
In consideration of the estimated significant damage in the congested urban areas when an earthquake occurs, the urban areas which have high risks of suffering from conflagration was designated as the prioritized areas to improve the countermeasures within 10 years from 2001. The amendment of the relevant Act in March 2007 and tax incentives have contributed promotion for improvement of old buildings in the congested urban areas.

Context & Constraints:
Many buildings in Japan (roughly one-third of the total) have inadequate earthquake resistance because they had been built before the relevant standards were tightened in 1981; it has been pointed out that little progress is being made in improving the earthquake resistance of these aged buildings. Therefore, to reduce the burden of the cost for seismic retrofitting, especially for housing owned by private sector, by means of subsidies, tax incentives and financing systems has been strategically promoted.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR? -- not complete --

* N.A. % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:
The recovery and rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas focuses on providing support to help rebuild the normal livelihoods of the affected population as quickly and smoothly as possible, as well as on restoring public facilities giving consideration to mitigating future disasters so that affected communities can be made more resilient and have fundamental conditions for sustainable development. Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the recovery and rehabilitation activities should be paid great attention to prevent future disasters. In the case of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the Headquarters for Reconstruction of the Hanshin-Awaji Area (headed by the Prime Minister), followed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Reconstruction of the Hanshin-Awaji Area in 2000 secured integrated reconstruction measures with multi-sectoral collaboration. In the case of the Mt. Usu Eruption in 2000

and the Niigata-ken-Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004, inter-ministerial recovery and rehabilitation committees were established. As such, ministries and agencies work together on disaster recovery and rehabilitation, taking into account the opinions of those in the disaster-stricken area.
The Cabinet Office has organized review meetings and clarified the issues to be considered related to national recovery and reconstruction measures against possible Tokyo Inland Earthquakes.

Context & Constraints:
Due to involvement of private properties, in many cases, the recovery processes tend to be delayed. Moreover, such a long-term period of reconstruction process inevitably accompanies challenges to be tackled in such as the aging society and decentralization of cities.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed? Yes

* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* Yes: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:
The revised Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development was set forth in 2008 to promote prioritized, effective and efficient infrastructure improvement projects. One of the main tasks identified in the Plan is to make a disaster resilient national land. The Plan identifies the disaster risk reduction as one of the four important issues to be addressed and needs improvement of social infrastructure putting emphasis on consideration of impact of global warming, increase of disaster vulnerable persons, and declining of mutual help system in local community.
Environmental Impact Assessment Act, which was enacted in 1997, legislates the system for predictive assessment of the environmental impact by the large-scale public works.
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has conducted evaluation of the responsible public works from a broad perspective including disaster risk reduction when the projects are initiated, revaluation during the projects, and post-project evaluation.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 5

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

* Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:
Based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and other relevant laws and acts stipulate the mechanisms for effective disaster response. The national government collects disaster information at the Cabinet Information Collection Center 24 hours a day, and at the time of a large-scale disaster, the designated emergency response team comprised of the director-generals of the respective ministries and agencies gathers immediately at the Crisis Management Center in the Prime Minister's Office to grasp and analyze the disaster situation, and reports to the Prime Minister. Inter-ministerial meetings at the ministerial or high-ranking senior official level are held to decide basic response policies if necessary. According to the level of damage, the government may establish a Major Disaster Management Headquarters (headed by the Minister of State for Disaster Management) or an Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters (headed by the Prime Minister). Additionally, a government investigation team headed by the Minister of State for Disaster Management may be dispatched, or an on-site disaster management headquarters may be established.
In the case of large-scale disasters that exceed the response capabilities of the affected local governments, various wide-area support mechanisms are mobilized by the National Police Agency (Inter-prefectural Emergency Rescue Unit), Fire and Disaster Management Agency (Emergency Fire Rescue Team), and Japan Coast Guard. Furthermore, the Self-Defense Forces can be dispatched for emergency response activities upon request from the governor of the affected prefectural government. A wide-area medical transportation system for dispatching disaster medical assistance teams (DMAT) and ambulance parties for transporting seriously injured people to disaster management base hospitals outside of the disaster-stricken area is being developed.
Moreover, to promote emergency measures, rehabilitation and reconstructions activities in a coordinated manner among larger areas in a large-scale disaster, Large Area Disaster Management Bases have been strategically developed. In Tokyo metropolitan area, the base in Higashiougishima district (Kawasaki city) has been served since June 2008, and the base in Ariakenooka (Koto city) since July 2010.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

* Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* Yes: Operations and communications centre

* Yes: Search and rescue teams

* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

* Yes: Shelters

* Yes: Secure medical facilities

* Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:
Based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council prepares Basic Disaster Management Plan which is a basis for disaster reduction activities. Based on the Basic Disaster Management Plan, each designated government organization and designated public corporation develops Disaster Management Operation Plan. Similarly, based on the Basic Plan, each prefectural and municipal disaster management council draws up Local Disaster Prevention Plan subject to local circumstances. The Basic Disaster Management Plan states comprehensive and long-term disaster reduction issues such as disaster management related systems, disaster reduction projects, early and appropriate disaster recovery and rehabilitation, as well as scientific and technical research. The Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act stipulates the obligations of conducting disaster reduction drills. In order to promote various drills and exercises nationwide, the Central Disaster Management Council sets forth an annual “Comprehensive Disaster Reduction Drills Plan” which defines the basic principles for executing the drills and outlines the comprehensive disaster reduction drills carried out by the national government in cooperation with local governments and relevant organizations. In recent years, practical disaster reduction drill methods like role-playing simulation systems have been introduced, in which participants are not given any information beforehand and are required to make decisions and respond to the situation based upon the information provided after the drill starts. For example, 1 September 2010, the disaster reduction drill envisioned the occurrence of synchronization of three major earthquakes (Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai earthquakes) was conducted for the first time in the Prime Minister's office with participation of all of the Ministers. Comprehensive disaster reduction drills including government's role-playing simulation exercise, Tsunami disaster reduction drill, nuclear hazard risk reduction drill were also conducted. Local governments also have conducted the drills in line with the hazard situation and conditions in each area. For example, in 2010, such disaster reduction drills were conducted with participation of total 2.12 million people in 47 prefectures.
In accord with the issue that the Local Disaster Prevention Plan has no concrete evacuation plan for

volcanic eruption, a guideline for the establishment of disaster risk management system for volcanic eruption was formulated in March 2008 and reported to the Central Disaster Management Council. The Central Disaster Management Council has estimated the impact of up to 7 million evacuees and up to 6.5 million people stranded without a means of returning home in case of occurrence of Tokyo Inland Earthquake. The Council has discussed the countermeasures to deal with the foreseeable massive number of these people since 2006, and compiled the final report based on the result of discussion in October 2008.

Context & Constraints:
Some local governments have difficulty to make timely revision of the Local Disaster Prevention Plan due to lack of human or financial resources.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

* Yes: National contingency funds

* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* Yes: Catastrophe bonds

Description:
The following mechanisms are in place to take prompt and efficient disaster recovery and rehabilitation measures;
(1) Disaster Recovery Projects
The recovery of damaged public infrastructure facilities, educational facilities, welfare facilities and agricultural, forestry and fishery facilities is either conducted directly by the national government or put into practice by the local government with subsidies from the national government.
(2) Disaster Relief Loans
Persons engaged in the agriculture, forestry or fishery industries, small and medium enterprises and low-income people who incurred damage are eligible for a variety of low-interest loans with rather generous conditions as compared to normal ones.
(3) Disaster Compensation and Insurance
Affected persons engaged in the agriculture, forestry or fishery business can obtain compensation for disaster losses. Earthquake insurance system has been established by the national government.
(4) Tax Reduction or Exemption
For affected persons, measures are taken for the reduction, exemption and postponed collection of income and residential taxes.
(5) Tax Allocation to Local Governments and Local Bonds
For affected local governments, measures such as delivery of special tax allocations and permission to issue local bonds are taken.

(6) Designation of a Extremely Severe Disaster
When a disaster causes extremely severe damage, it is designated as an “extremely severe disaster.” Various special measures are to be taken for disaster recovery projects in the case.
(7) Assistance for the Rehabilitation Plan
Assistance is provided, when necessary, for local government rehabilitation plans, which should be quickly and accurately formulated and implemented.
(8) Act on Support for Reconstructing Livelihood of Disaster Victims
Assistance is provided for victims to support their self supporting efforts through disaster condolence money, disaster impediment sympathy money, money for support of livelihood recovery of disaster victims and loans such as disaster relief funds and livelihood welfare funds. Recently in November 2007, the Act was amended to hand over the support fund by lump sum payment according to the condition of damage or the way of reconstruction of houses, instead of providing the fund by cost reimbursement.

To promote earthquake insurance protection, a system to take a tax deduction for earthquake insurance premiums was introduced as a result of the tax reform in FY2006. Furthermore, the limitation of the payment of premium to the damage caused by an earthquake was increased from 5 trillion yen to 5.55 trillion yen in April 2008.

Context & Constraints:
N.A.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Means of verification:

* Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

* Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available

* Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies

* Yes: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

* Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:
The Cabinet Office has developed databases on the lessons learned through the experiences of the responses of the large-scale disasters. They include analysis of the incidents, responses, issues at all phases of the disasters based on the information from various sources including official reports, general publications, magazines and papers. They are compiled for the purpose of being utilized in the future hazard events and disasters.
Furthermore, the Central Disaster Management Council has established a committee for technical investigation for collecting the lessons learned through the past disasters since 17th century in order to

hand down to the next generation.

Context & Constraints:
Further elaboration would be expected to the effective utilization of the information.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:
Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:
Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:
Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention has been currently developing disaster information sharing system which will be combined with multi-hazard risk assessment.
Furthermore, the National Land Formation Planning Act enacted in 2005 places emphasis on creation of safe and secure nation. Based on the Act, the National Spatial Strategies was developed at national level in 2008, and Regional Spatial Strategic Plans was developed in each of eight large regional areas in August 2009. One of the strategic goals in the Act and the National Strategies is to design disaster resilience nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:
Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
Some local governments incorporate the view of the gender in their Local Disaster Prevention Plan. Also, in some local governments, they promote women's participation for disaster risk reduction activities or works.
Furthermore, by the amendment in February 2008, the Basic Disaster Management Plan clearly stipulated emphasis on a perspective of the gender equality in disaster management measures.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:
Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and the relevant ordinances, each local government has been obliged to implement risk reduction activities. Most of the local governments in the areas vulnerable to disasters have the departments to deal with disaster risk management. In addition, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) regularly provides training program specialized for local government officials in charge of disaster management.
Formation of community-based voluntary disaster reduction organizations, voluntary firefighting teams and flood-fighting teams has been promoted by local governments and others with provision of training

program or workshops to learn disaster risk management.
Furthermore, to promote a nationwide movement where individuals, families, communities, corporations and other various groups and entities participate in continuous activities and investments for mitigating disaster damage, in 2006 the Central Disaster Management Council published the “Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction - Actions with Added Value to Security and Safety. The Cabinet Office is improving the framework and contents, following the future directions of the nationwide movement summarized by a consultative meeting set up in 2009.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:
Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
As mentioned in the previous section, change in social structure, living environment and lifestyles on a nationwide scale in recent years have led to increase of numbers of elderly people who are living alone as well as sparsely-settled areas mainly consist of aging population, which make difficult mutual support among residents including setting up community organizations. Based on the Guidelines for Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance During a Disaster in 2005, the Cabinet Office developed “How to Promote the Evacuation Support of People Requiring Assistance in time of a Disaster” with advanced cases, and conducted briefings in more than 20 places in the whole country in 2008 and 2009.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:
Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
Recognition of the use of localized knowledge and information, many of local governments recently invite local residents in the process of development of Local Disaster Management Plan or/and hazard maps.
The national government has designated January 17th of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Day and January 15th to 21st of each year as Disaster Reduction and Volunteer Week. The Cabinet Office creates opportunities to share information among volunteer groups and relevant entities and provides useful information to improve the environment for disaster reduction volunteer activities.
In order to promote corporate disaster reduction activities, it is necessary for companies that are active in this field to be properly evaluated by the market and the community where they are located. The Central Disaster Management Council also makes efforts to motivate corporate intentions to the activities.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:
Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
N.A.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:
Decrease in disaster risk reduction related budget

Future Outlook Statement:
One of the strategic goals in the National Spatial Strategies identified in the Act and the National Strategies are to design disaster resilience nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:
Lack of awareness on disaster reduction in younger generation

Future Outlook Statement:
Disaster risk reduction can be achieved only thorough the collaborative measures by all the different actors, from citizens and communities to public authorities. Citizens' and communities' understanding cannot be achieved in a day, and tireless efforts are needed to gradually promote their engagement and actions toward concrete preventive measures.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:
Decrease in disaster risk reduction related budget

Future Outlook Statement:
The recovery and rehabilitation of disaster- stricken areas focuses on providing support to help rebuild the normal livelihoods of the affected population as quickly and smoothly as possible, as well as on restoring public facilities giving consideration to mitigating future disasters so that affected communities can be made more resilient and have fundamental conditions for sustainable development.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

* Cabinet Office (Gov)

* Cabinet Secretariat (Gov)

* National Police Agency (Gov)

* Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Gov)

* Fire and Disaster Management Agency (Gov)

* Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Gov)

* Ministry of Finance (Gov)

* Min of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (Gov)

* Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Gov)

* Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (Gov)

* Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Gov)

* Min of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Gov)

* Japan Meteorological Agency (Gov)

* Japan Coast Guard (Gov)

* Ministry of the Environment (Gov)

* Ministry of Defence (Gov)