

UNISDR “*Making Cities Resilient*”

*World Disaster Reduction
Campaign 2010-11*

Nomination Form

NAGAOKA City, Niigata, JAPAN

申請者：日本国新潟県長岡市

28 June 2010

Annex I

A Ten-point checklist for local governments¹ - Ten essentials for making cities resilient

1. Put in place **organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk within the local government, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society-build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role and contribution to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
2. **Assign a budget** for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
3. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, **prepare risk assessments** and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
4. Invest in and maintain **critical infrastructure that reduces risk**, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
5. Assess the **safety of all schools and health facilities** and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce **realistic, risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles**. Identify **safe land for low-income citizens** and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
7. Ensure **education programmes and training** on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
8. **Protect ecosystems and natural buffers** to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
9. Install **early warning systems and emergency management capacities** in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills in which everyone participates.
10. After any disaster, ensure that the **needs of the survivors are placed** at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

(Conditions of Nagaoka City are described in the following pages.)

1. Put in place **organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk within the local government, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society-build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role and contribution to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Nagaoka city is carrying out reviews of disaster management systems based on huge damages caused by the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake occurred on 23 October 2004.

1 In order to utilize for disaster management measures, a “Review of the Disaster” has been summarized, collecting direct opinions and ideas on disaster experiences and counter-measures from citizens, enterprises, institutions and staff of the municipality.

2 As well as the “Review of the Disaster”, 11 disaster management experts organized a “Committee on Review of Nagaoka City Disaster Management System” in October 2005, and the committee has submitted a “Proposal on the establishment of new disaster management systems” in February 2006.

3 Nagaoka city established a “Guideline on Strengthening Nagaoka City Disaster Management Systems”, in order to strengthen disaster management systems through cooperation among citizens, enterprise bodies, academies, and the government based on the “Review of the Disaster” and the “Proposal” in 2006. Its main counter-measures are as follows;

(1) Disaster preparedness and reduction

To protect myself and family, conduct disaster preparedness and minimize damages;

(Major counter-measures)

- 1) Introduction of subsidy systems for earthquake risk assessment and retrofitting;
- 2) Improvement of life-lines (water supply, electricity, gas etc.) through Water Supply System Earthquake Resistant Plan to adopt quake-proof water pipes and so on;
- 3) Implementation of earthquake retrofitting of elementary and junior high school buildings and gyms;
- 4) Preparation of a “Brochure for Citizen’s Disaster Management” focusing on preparedness and disaster reduction, and distribution to all households.

(2) Improvement of regional disaster resilience

To promote daily connection systems that can be helpful in the cases of disaster based on regional community;

(Major counter-measures)

- 1) Preparation of a “Guide for the Establishment and Activities of Voluntary Disaster Management Groups (VDMG)” that assists creation of VDMG and its management;
- 2) Establishment of the Chuetsu Citizen’s College for Disaster Management and Safety and education for a qualification of “Citizen’s Disaster Management and Safety” who is expected to be a leader of regional disaster management;
- 3) Implementation of creation of hand-made citizen’s evacuation plans and drills conducted by the VDMG.

2. **Assign a budget** for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.

Disaster Preparedness and Reduction Measures

To protect myself and family, conduct disaster preparedness and minimize damages;

(Main measures)

- 1) Introduction of subsidy systems for earthquake risk assessment and retrofitting;
 - Nagaoka municipality promotes earthquake risk assessment by providing subsidy (self cover costs: 10 thousand yen), since buildings constructed before the revision of the Law in 1981, especially need to be evaluated the earthquake risk.
 - If a building is rated as “necessary for retrofitting” as the result of assessment, municipality promotes retrofit works and assists a part of the cost of seismic retrofitting (maximum 600 thousand yen and less than one third of retrofitting costs: in case of elderly or challenged households, additional assistances are provided to retrofit columns and so on.)
- 2) Improvement of life-lines (water supply, electricity, gas etc.) through Water Supply System Earthquake Resistant Plan to adopt quake-proof water pipes etc.;
- Old facilities are retrofitted and old pipes are renewed programmatically to make earthquake resistant based on the Earthquake Resistant Plan of Water Supply Systems in Nagaoka City.
- 3) Implementation of earthquake retrofitting of elementary and junior high school buildings and gyms;
 - Nagaoka city decided to finalize retrofitting of elementary and junior high schools where are used as evacuation facilities in case of disasters by 2010, although the national program aims at finalizing retrofitting by 2012, i.e. two years earlier target for Nagaoka City.
 - Improve water tanks of elementary and junior high schools to put water plug so as that the evacuees can use water.

5. Assess the **safety of all schools and health facilities** and upgrade these as necessary.

Information on earthquake resistant performance of each facility has been accurately investigated through seismic risk assessment of all schools except some schools that are now retrofitted and the information is being provided on the City web-site to the public. Municipality is positively promoting retrofitting of school buildings earlier than the national average by retrofitting from lower performance schools against earthquakes.

Daily safety check is also conducted every month at all schools in order to early find dangerous points based on the uniform manual. In addition, all schools are checked by expert building engineers, Kenchiku-shi, every three years.

Contents of safety check are also updated based on the recent information. For instance, municipality ordered every school to utilize a new check list in the “Guidebook for Retrofitting of Non-structural Parts of School Buildings” provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Moreover, municipality is planning to incorporate the check list into its uniform safety check manual.

7. Ensure **education programmes and training** on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.

Every school is conducting evacuation drills and disaster management training around three times per year. In addition, disaster and safety education is implemented according to the achievement level of the grade during the class guidance and regular curriculum of health education and so on. Moreover, each school prepared regional safety and hazard map that indicates dangerous places like irrigation routes and rivers.

Furthermore, regional communities that represent community based organization (CBO) or VDMG, conduct regional disaster management drills once per year and so on, supposing earthquake, flood and/or landslide disasters.

9. Install **early warning systems and emergency management capacities** in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills in which everyone participates.

Review of the Nagaoka City Regional Disaster Management Plan etc
Nagaoka city has prepared “Review of Nagaoka City Regional Disaster Management Plan” and “Manuals for Disaster Response (both Earthquake and Tsunamis Section and Wind and Flood Section)” that indicate concrete response measures in case of disasters, based on the “Guideline on Strengthening Nagaoka City Disaster Management Systems”.

In addition, Municipality has introduced an early warning system against earthquake at the principal municipal building in order to secure the safety of citizens and conducts disaster management drills and trainings.

Moreover, municipality will introduce the Spontaneous Alert and Warning System (J- Alert) that can provide information using satellite system when a tsunami and/or an earthquake occurs without so many time to prepare and respond.

Nagaoka city is aiming at “developing the most resilient city in Japan against disasters”, making the maximum use of power of citizens and regional potential.

10. After any disaster, ensure that the **needs of the survivors are placed** at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

Municipality formulated the “Nagaoka City Recovery Plan” in August 2005 in order to respond the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake and other disasters (flood in 2004 etc).

The Plan has been revised in March 2008 to correspond the merger of surrounding cities, towns and villages based on the review of projects and plans for targeted new projects.

Before deciding the Recovery Plan, a “Committee for Recovery of Nagaoka City” was established so as to incorporate opinions of disaster victims and regions, as well as community meetings at district level, interview/questionnaire surveys and explanation at the regional committees were carried out.

Moreover, public comments were collected in order to hear broader opinions. Municipality has also requested opinion leaders for their ideas and decided the Plan, referring proposals from related institutions, academies and research groups.

The measures in the reconstruction stage (until October 2007) in the Recovery Plan have finished as planned, and measures in the rehabilitation (regeneration) stage are now being promoted.

Annex II

Nomination form for “role model” cities and local governments

Please send the nomination form to isdr-campaign@un.org. Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout 2010-11.

	Specifications
City / Local Government (name, location, size)	Nagaoka City (address: 2-1-1 Saiwai-cho, Nagaoka city), Population: 283,280 as of 1 April 2010, City area: 891 Km2
Name of Mayor / Governor / Community leader	Mayor: Tamio Mori (Mr.)
Major Disaster Risks (indicate major disasters that have occurred, prevailing hazards and vulnerable conditions)	1 Niigata-Fukushima Heavy Rain (13 July 2004), death 4, destroyed 3,996 2 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake (23 Oct. 2004), death 28, injured 2,438 3 Niigata Chuetsu-oki Earthquake (16 July 2007), injured 243, units 7,957 Nagaoka city is located in a quite vulnerable region against natural hazards such as ground related disasters, land slides, floods, tsunamis, because of wide-spread hill-side areas and the Japanese largest river, Shinano-gawa, as well as the Sea of Japan.
Progress and results (indicate main areas of progress, based on the “ten essentials”)	1. VDMG (Voluntary Disaster Management Groups) based on the Chonai-kai CBO (Community Based Organization) were not so well organized in Nagaoka city before the 2004 earthquake. However, currently VDMGs are organized in 88% of the city while the national average is 73%. In addition, 50 Bosai-shi (expert of disaster management) are certified through the Chuetsu Citizen’s College for Disaster Management and Safety that was initiated after the Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004, and they are actively mobilizing citizens as the leaders of regional disaster management. 5. Municipality has finished earthquake risk assessment of all school facilities that are used as evacuation place, and will finalize seismic retrofitting works within this fiscal year (2010) even though the national program plans to finish the works by 2012. Improvement of such schools to become barrier-free has been completed by equipping western type toilets and slopes for wheel chairs. Gyms where evacuees are expected to live for a while are also equipped with telephone, TV, personal computer lines in order to collect information. 10. Nagaoka city tries to establish the “Nagaoka” recovery model that aims at providing “regional recovery facilitator” who assists recovery under the conditions of typical hill-side areas such as less population, less-child and elderly at the recovery from Chuestu Earthquake.

Which local institutions will be engaged in the Campaign? (in addition to the local government)	Chuetsu Organization for Safe and Secure Society (COSSS) (President: Shigeru Ito, Professor emulates of the University of Tokyo)	
Which part of the city administration will be the focal point for the Campaign?	Nagaoka City	
Achievement in all of the ten essentials areas (make an estimation as follows: 1 - poor/nothing in place, 2 - some progress in place, 3 - in place, well functioning or N/A)	Essential N. 1	3
	Essential N. 2	3
	Essential N. 3	
	Essential N. 4	
	Essential N. 5	3
	Essential N. 6	
	Essential N. 7	3
	Essential N. 8	
	Essential N. 9	3
	Essential N. 10	3

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