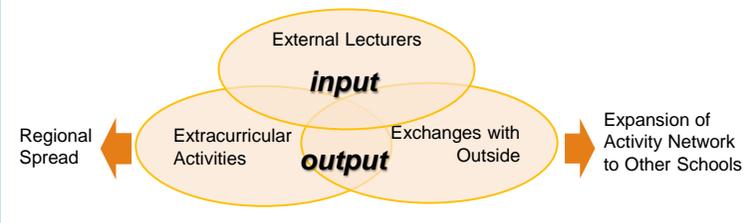


Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake: Maiko High School; Environment & Disaster Mitigation Course

Establishment of Specialized Course on Disaster Mitigation (Part 1)

Region	Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture	Important Aspects to Realize “Better Reconstruction”	Disaster Mitigation Education
Background & Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the lesson learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that there is a need of a place to learn the importance of life and ties with people, and also for the purpose of making schools with special features, which has been promoted as a part of the high school reform, Maiko High School (MHS) established a specialized course on disaster mitigation in April 2002 for the first time in Japan, after two years of preparation started in March 2000. The fact that MHS had been actively involved in disaster mitigation education by utilizing periods for integrated studies has also lead to the establishment of the course. The course is not limited to lessons taught by the school teachers. It contains features such as invitation of many external lecturers, provision of opportunities to learn outside the classroom, volunteer activities by the students, visiting classes in elementary schools by the students, exchange with the local community, expansion of activity network to other schools (developing junior leaders for disaster mitigation), etc. Creation of MHS's own curriculum for a specialized course on disaster mitigation has naturally fostered MHS's basic stance that educators and learners “seriously” make mutual efforts and return their results to the local community. 		
Points of Efforts	<p>1. Creation of a Curriculum for the Specialized Course to Comprehensively Determine Disaster Mitigation from the Viewpoint of Natural and Social Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of the total 91 units, 25 to 31 units are on specialized topics. The course widely teaches the overall disaster mitigation, featuring the focus on ties between people, local communities, and the natural environment, especially such as the town development, the local community, and mental health care of people. Live disaster mitigation education is given by providing input opportunities such as lessons taught by external lecturers in the classroom and lessons given outside the classroom, and output opportunities such as volunteer activities, domestic and international exchange activities on disaster mitigation. 	<p>Points of Specialized Curriculum Structure</p> 	
	<p>2. Provision of Live Learning Opportunities by “External Lecturers”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To examine the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake from various perspectives and learn the importance of life and the necessity of ties with people and mutual help, some 20 lessons are given in a year by inviting a number of external lecturers. External lecturers come from various professions, such as lifeline utilities (electricity, gas, water, telephone), rescue officials (police, fire department, Japan Self-Defense Forces), volunteers (volunteer groups, NPOs), disaster mitigation experts (university professors, government officials), etc. 	<p>External Lecturer (CODE (NGO)) External Lecturer (Hyogo Prefectural Police)</p> 	
	<p>3. Motivation and Deep Understanding of Disaster Mitigation Brought by “Lessons Outside the Classroom”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHS provides various opportunities for lessons outside the classroom with an emphasis on experience. A field work is conducted as an opportunity to learn about disasters in the past and think about reconstruction and town development, by listening to officials about the reconstruction status of Shin-Nagata and Takatori districts of Kobe. Also, visits to various facilities and trial experience in a fire fighting school are made to listen to stories told by disaster victims and explanations given by experts. Through visiting the sites and listening to their voices, understanding is deepened. 	<p>Field Work Activities of Reconstruction & Town Development</p> 	

Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake: Maiko High School; Environment & Disaster Mitigation Course

Establishment of Specialized Course on Disaster Mitigation (Part 2)

Points of Efforts

4. Regional Spread of Disaster Mitigation Education Through Spread of Exchanges

- In exchanges with elementary schools, MHS students teach elementary school students about what they learned from external lecturers and lessons outside of their classrooms, by “visiting classes”. Through this activity, the students’ attitudes are changed from a passive to an active style.
- In exchanges with the local community, in addition to the overall support of preparatory work for the summer festival, MHS students participate in various activities, e.g. various local events such as “pounding mochi”, fundraising, and volunteer activities.

- MHS students also participate in an exchange activity on disaster mitigation where they visit prefectural special education schools and talk about disaster mitigation. As students voluntarily attend sign language classes, it has become an opportunity for MHS students to improve their awareness on disaster mitigation.
- Starting from Fiscal Year 2012, a project to promote the cooperation related to disaster mitigation with special-needs schools has been developed. In cooperation with Hyogo Prefectural Kobato School for Students with Special Hearing Needs, Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya School for Students with Special Needs, Hyogo Prefectural School for Students with Special Visual Needs, and Hyogo Prefectural Kobe School for Students with Special Hearing Needs, MHS has also made case studies relating to the implementation of exchange activities.

Exchange Activities with Tamon Higashi Elementary School

3 rd graders	Safety map making
4 th & 5 th graders	Visiting classes by students: 8 groups (5 persons per group) × 8 minutes
6 th graders	Invitation to events, e.g. disaster mitigation quiz rally

Visiting Class at Elementary School



5. Planning & Implementation of Development Project of Junior Leaders for Disaster Mitigation

- With an aim to spread MHS’s effort within and outside of Hyogo Prefecture, MHS as the managing school has developed and been conducting the “Development Project of Junior Leaders for Disaster Mitigation” by junior and senior high school students of Hyogo Prefecture, starting from Fiscal Year 2012. In Fiscal Year 2015, 26 schools within the prefecture have participated in the project. Participating schools take home a mission to spread the activity network to neighboring schools and aim to expand the spread.
- Three pillars of the project are: “Training Camp for Junior Leaders for Disaster Mitigation”, “East Japan Visiting Activities” for two nights and three days, and “Simultaneous Fundraising Activities in Hyogo Prefecture”. A report meeting is held in November.
- Similarly, MHS has developed and been conducting meetings of junior and senior high school students coming from Hyogo and other prefectures and training camps for junior leaders for disaster mitigation coming from the entire country.

Training Camp of Disaster Mitigation Junior Leaders of Hyogo Prefecture



National Conference on Disaster Management



6. Creating Opportunities for International Understanding & Exchanges

- With the cooperation of the NSET-Nepal (NGO) which is conducting a project “Building earthquake-resistant schools” in Nepal, every year, MHS students and teachers participate in the disaster prevention summit and make exchanges.
- At the time of MHS’s 40th school anniversary events, the NSET-Nepal personnel and local students from Nepal were invited. MHS made visits to China after the Great Sichuan Earthquake and Sri Lanka after the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami, and conducted volunteer activities on sites for a few days.
- MHS students participate in trainings designed for government officials of developing countries, organized by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD, make presentations on their disaster experiences and educational activities of the Environment & Disaster Mitigation Course, and exchange opinions.

Exchange Activities in Nepal

