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A photograph of a disaster-stricken area. In the foreground, a broken clock face with a white dial and orange frame lies on a grey, debris-covered floor. The clock face is tilted and partially obscured by rubble. In the background, there is a large pile of debris, including wooden planks, concrete, and other building materials. A blue folder or book is visible in the bottom right corner, with some Japanese text and the letters 'AIBM' printed on it.

“Memory” preservation activity of disaster areas and its significance

—From Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
to the Great East Japan Earthquake—

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Introduction

Two elements for a stricken area to recover from a catastrophic disaster

- 1) Recovery of hardware, such as building houses
- 2) Recovery of software, such as recovery of the culture supporting a **community**



Community culture based on historical records and documents, and **memory**

Making the **memory** of disaster areas important and succeed to the future

1 What is historical records preservation activity of disaster areas ?

1 — 1 **Two kinds** of preservation activity to keep memory of disaster area

1) Rescue and preserve damaged old documents, old books , memory of family and people

2) Collect and preserve of records about the process of recovery in disaster area

We started these two activities after the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake.

Right: March 20,
Albums,
Onagawa, Miyagi



Left: June 28, Miyako,
Iwate, Individual
“memories” collected
from the heap of
rubble





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※GQnetとは Gaikokujin Q-en net の略です

Issued in 2000 April Kobe University University Library digital archive Earthquake disaster library. Kobe University Library Great Hanshin-Awaji disaster materials collection

1-2 Honma family storehouse as historical material in disaster area



The damage just after Tsunami disaster of DOZO buildings, Japanese storehouse, in the Honma family in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture

Present Situation



The archival box of Old Documents written in Sumi Ink (Edo Era)



1—4 Rescue and preserve historical records of the disaster area in the Great Hanshin–Awaji earthquake by voluntary group (named Kobe Shiryo Network)

○Cooperation of the specialists in historical culture (The volunteers were made up from university faculties, graduate and undergraduate students, staff of archival institutions, and historical researchers)

○Investigating in the disaster area, and rescue the historical records from private houses or assembly houses in communities



The significance which succeeds memory of the area

○Through the memory of the area from the rescued history records, the residents of the area show pride in a community to recover

⇒

○Japanese government, Cabinet Office also noticed in July, 2004.

① Memory of the area does not remain without the will which people of the area take over to the next generation

② Cannot cope well with a catastrophic disaster without the vigorous community which can inherit memory of the area

Damaged historical records rescuing groups (Shiryo Network) in Japan

Iwate Shiryo Net (Great East Japan Earthquake)

Miyagi Shiryo Net (Northern 2003 Miyagi earthquake)

Yamagata Shiryo Net

Fukui Shiryo Net (Fukui Flood 2004)

Fukushima Shiryo Net 2010

Nagano Sakae village Shiryo Net (Sakae village in Nagano Pref. Great East Japan Earthquake)

Ibaraki Shiryo Net (Great East Japan Earthquake)

Niigata Shiryo Net (Chuetsu Earthquake 2004)

Chiba Shiryo Net (Great East Japan Earthquake)

Tottori Shiryo Net (Western Tottori Prefecture Earthquake 2000)

Kanagawa Shiryo Net 2011

Wakayama Shiryo Net (Wakayama Flood 2011)

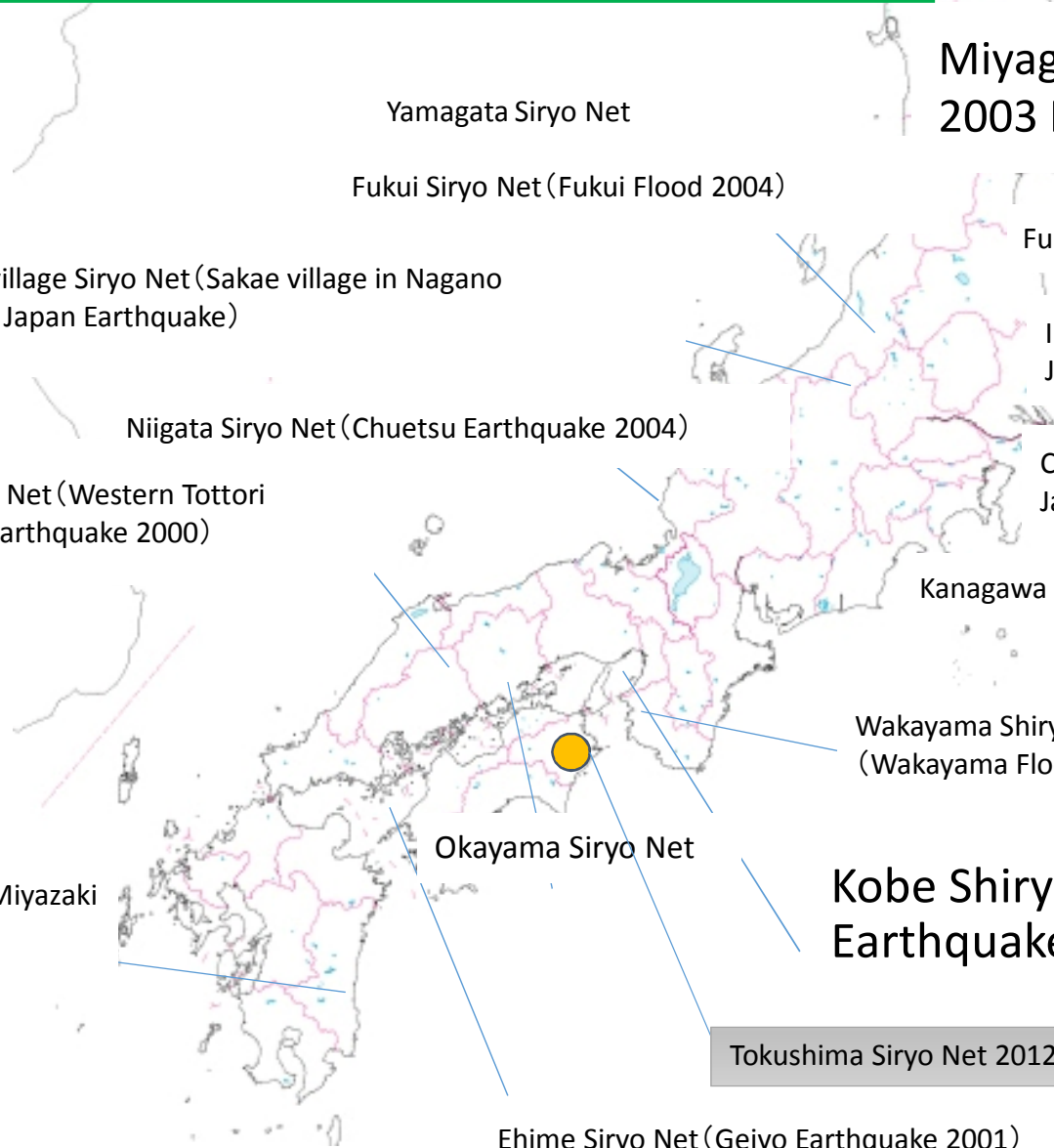
Okayama Shiryo Net

Kobe Shiryo Net (Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake 1995)

Miyazaki Shiryo Net (Miyazaki Flood 2008)

Tokushima Shiryo Net 2012

Ehime Shiryo Net (Geiyo Earthquake 2001)



2. The objective condition that preserving activity is needed after the disaster

① Rapid increase of suffering of the historical records by a large scale disaster

After the occurrence of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Japan is an earthquake prone country and the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011. Frequent occurrence of the flood damage by global warming.

② The rapid decrease of population and the aging in rural area after 1990s

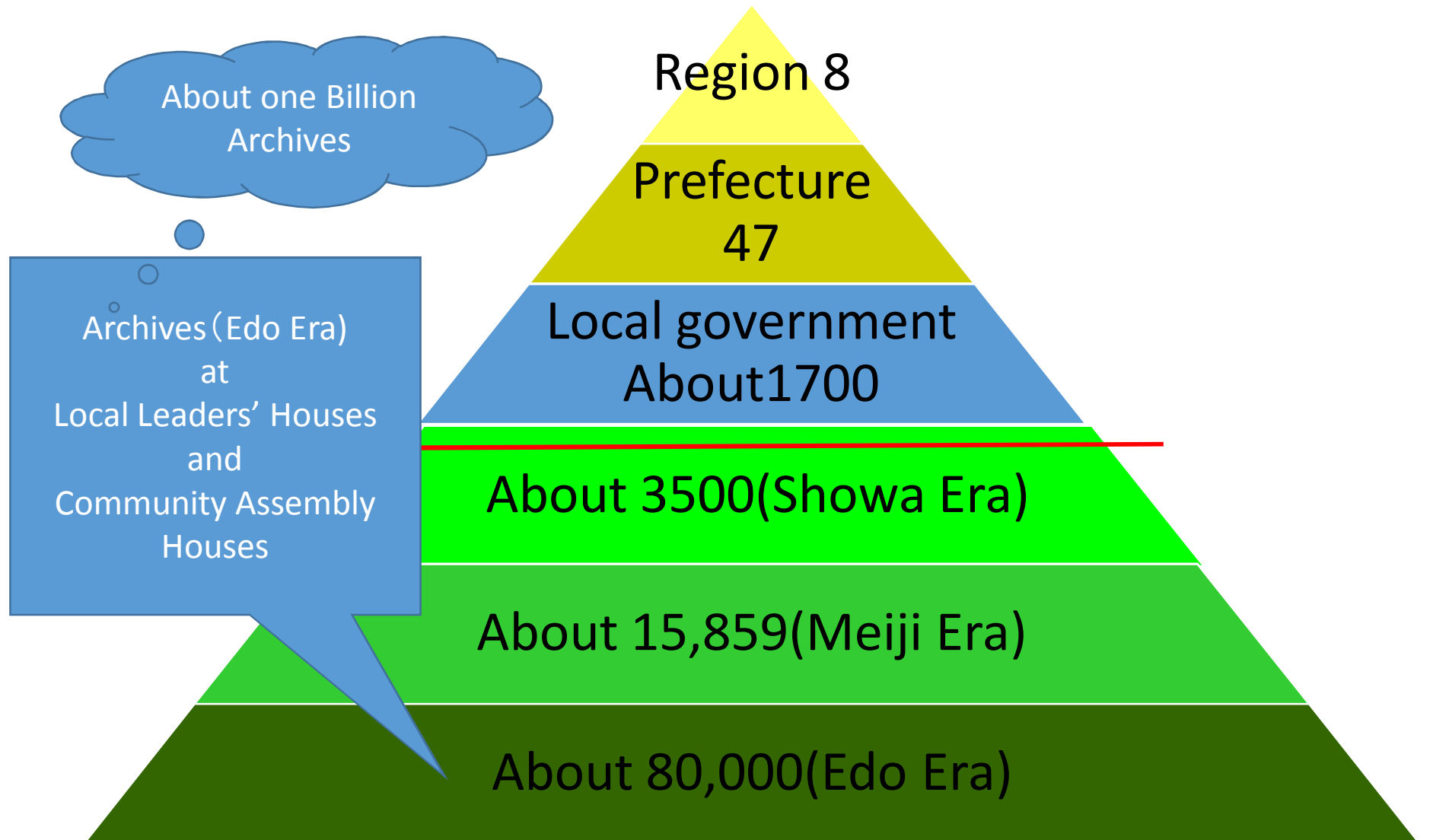
Big change of Japanese life and culture by high economic growth

③ A large merger of the basic municipality from 1999

Edo period 80,000 basic municipalities = one community
(population 300persons)

→ Large-scale Municipality about 1,700 at present

2-1 A lot of old public documents are in the possession of private houses or assembly houses in communities.



3. The significance which preserves historical records in Japan and everywhere

1. Basic information which studies a disaster scientifically as basis of prevention (**Basis of disaster prevention**)
2. When people succeed memory of a disaster, it is possible to form strong society as basis of mitigation (**Basis of disaster mitigation**)
3. People are encouraged to recover from a large scale disaster based on memory of the area (**Basis of recovery from the large-scale disaster**)

- After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, these facilities to preserve disaster records and documents from the Kobe Earthquake were established for the first time in Japan.
- A lot of records and documents regarding the disaster were preserved through citizen's cooperation.



The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution Library
150,000items



Kobe University Library Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster Materials Collection About 50,000items

Conclusion

- ① We require to receiving support (software) of memory of the area for recovery from a disaster
- ② We recognized the importance of community memory after a large scale disaster
- ③ We continue the memory preservation in a stricken area for formation of a strong community against a disaster

Thank you for your attention.