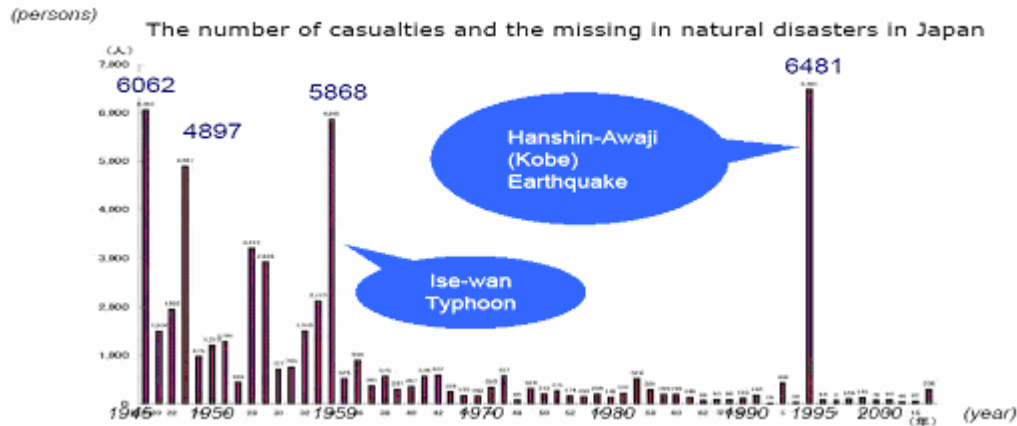


JAPAN

I. Natural hazards in Japan

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Volcanic Eruptions, Typhoons, Torrential Rains, Floods, Landslides and Snow Avalanches



1.2 Recent major disasters

Example Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake
23 October 2004

Earthquake	People killed	People injured	People evacuated	Houses damaged (Houses collapsed)	Fire outbreaks
M 6.8 13km depth	59	4,805	103,178	121,613 (3,175)	9

(National Response)

Immediately after the occurrence of the earthquake, the Emergency Response Team comprised of designated senior officials on duty from relevant ministries and agencies met at the Crisis Management Centre in the Prime Minister's Building. The Minister of State for Disaster Management and the Emergency Response Team discussed emergency response countermeasures based on rapid disaster information collection and analysis. Based on such inter-ministerial consultations, an emergency survey team consisting of 8 ministries and agencies was immediately dispatched. Search and rescue teams were also mobilized from fire brigade, police, coast guard and defense force.

The inter-ministerial emergency response Headquarters for this disaster (chaired by the Minister of State for Disaster Management) was established, which had 21 meetings in total from 24 Oct. to 19 Nov. The Minister led inter

–governmental team to the affected areas on 24 Oct. to investigate the situation and discuss with heads of local authorities.

In the affected prefecture, an on-site operation support/coordination centre was established and Senior Vice-Minister of State for Disaster Management and government officials from relevant ministries and agencies were dispatched to the centre until 3 Dec. 2004.

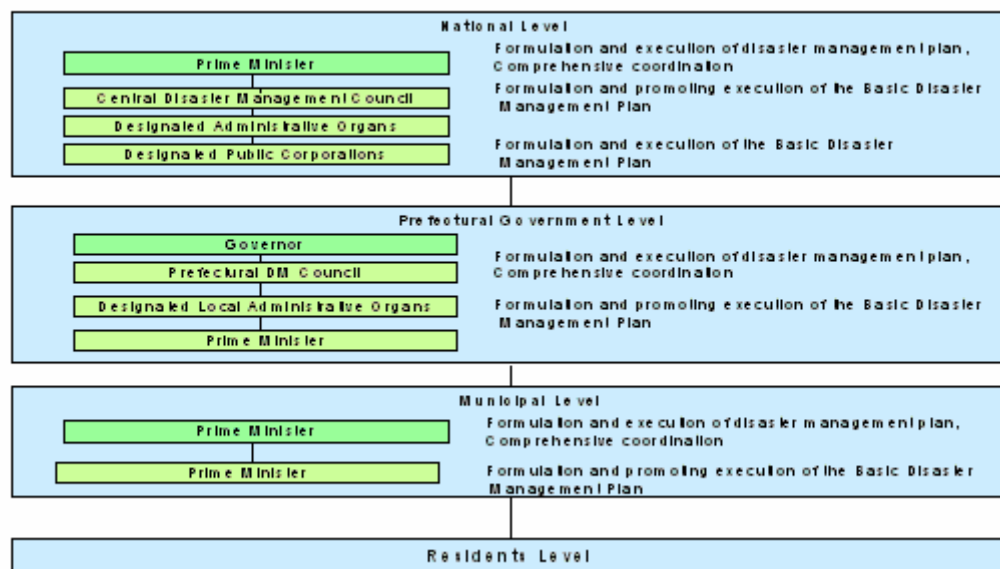
Based on needs assessments in the affected areas, the National Government has provided full-fledged support including through sending emergency goods (food, potable water, blankets, tents, etc.) as well as mobilizing S&R, medical and other expert personnel.

II. Disaster management system

1. Administrative system

Japan has three (3) administrative levels of governance; national, prefectural and municipal. Each level of governments has its own disaster management organizations, policy frameworks and budgets. When disasters occur, municipalities respond first. In case disasters are large in scale beyond their capacity, national and prefectural governments provide every possible support.

Responsibilities by Administrative Level



2. Legal system, legal framework

The cornerstone of legislation on disaster risk reduction is the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act enacted in 1961.

Main Features of the Act

- Responsibilities of national and local governments as well as the private sector and people
- Organization of multi-sectoral coordination bodies for disaster management at the national and local levels
- Disaster management planning system
- Basic actions to be taken in each phase of the disaster management cycle: prevention/preparedness, emergency response, and recovery/rehabilitation
- Annual Government Official Report on Disaster Countermeasures

A number of laws are enacted to address all the phases of disaster reduction. For example, Large-scale Earthquake Countermeasures Special Act and Earthquake Disaster Management Special Measures Act for building nation and communities resilient to disasters.

Disaster Relief Act and Act Regarding Special Measures to Weigh the Preservation of Rights and Profits of the Victims of Specified Disasters for immediate support to the affected populations and local authorities.

Act Concerning Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of Disaster Victims and Act Concerning Special Financial Support to Deal with Designated Disasters of Extreme Severity for better recovery to safer communities.

3. Structure of disaster management

(Cabinet Office and the Minister of State for Disaster Management)

All the line ministries and agencies have responsibility to take actions related to disaster reduction within their own mandate. The Cabinet Office is responsible for formulating basic policies, strategies and guidelines for disaster reduction and for securing coordination of government disaster reduction activities.

A post of Minister of State for Disaster Management was newly established in the Cabinet in 2001 who takes lead in the responsibilities for disaster reduction in the Natural Government.

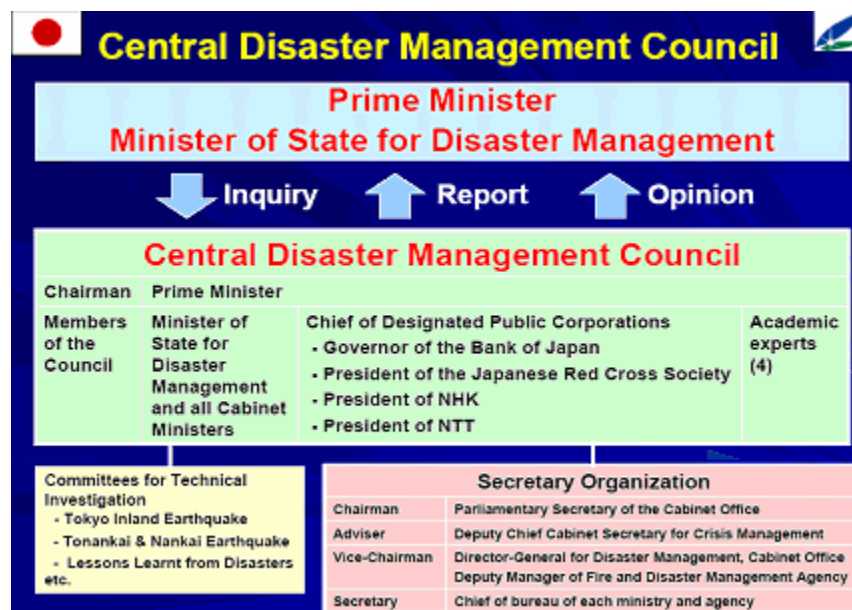


(Central Disaster Management Council)

Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council was formed to ensure multi-ministerial and multi-sectoral involvement in disaster reduction in a coordinated manner.

The Prime Minister is its Chair and the Minister of State for Disaster Management supports the Chair. Not only all the Ministers but also Heads of relevant public corporations such as the Bank of Japan, the Japanese Red Cross Society, NHK (public broadcasting corporation) and NTT (telecommunication company), and some academic experts are the member of the Council.

The Council formulates the Disaster Management Basic Plan and other basic policies, strategies and guidelines.



4. Priority on disaster risk management

Reducing damage caused by disasters, especially sudden on-set earthquakes and tsunamis, through wider involvement of all the stakeholders in disaster reduction activities is continuously required. Among others the prioritized issues are as follows:

- (1) Decrease the number of casualties by earthquakes
 - Retrofit/rebuild old existing houses and buildings
 - Affix furniture and adhere protective films on old windows
 - Encourage companies to make Business Continuity Plan (BCP)
- (2) Decrease the number of casualties by tsunamis
 - Distribute tsunami hazard maps
 - Disseminate tsunami warnings effectively
 - Ensure that people are evacuated to safe places

- (3) Further decrease the number casualties by typhoons and floods
- Provide early evacuation alerts for the elderly and disabled
 - Distribute flood hazard maps

III. Disaster management plan

Based on the Disaster Management Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council formulates and reviews the Basic Disaster Management Plan (latest amendments in July 2005). In accordance with the Basic Plan, all the government ministries and agencies as well as designated major public corporations formulate their own Disaster Management Operation Plan. All the local authorities also formulate their own Local Disaster Management Plan.

Disaster reduction perspectives are incorporated into relevant development plans such as Comprehensive National Development Plan, Social Infrastructure Development Priority Plan, Land Use Plan and urban and rural planning

IV. Budget size on national level

Disaster risk reduction is covered in the budget of national and local governments. At the national level, the annual budget for disaster risk reduction is approximately \$ 34 billion, which is about 5% of the total general-account budget expenditure.

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

Among others the recent prioritized efforts for the implementation of the HFA in Japan are as follows:

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

(a) Initiated nation-wide movement for disaster reduction

A committee on the promotion of nation-wide movement for disaster reduction was established under the Central Disaster Management Council in July 2005 with members from various stakeholders to formulate basic plan of action for the nation-wide movement.

(b) Formulated Earthquake Disaster Reduction Strategy

The Central Disaster Management Council formulated Earthquake Disaster Reduction Strategy in March 2005, which set an overarching goal to halve estimated damage caused by possible large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis in the next decade.

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

(c) Promoting hazard mapping for various disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and floods at community level

(d) Enhancing early warning capabilities for all the possible disasters including thorough R&D for emergency earthquake alerts by using the arrival time difference of P and S waves of earthquakes

3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

(e) Promoting disaster reduction education for school children including thorough participation-oriented events to involve children in practical disaster exercises

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors

(f) Promoting rebuilding and retrofitting of old houses and buildings vulnerable to earthquakes

To accomplish a strategic goal to decrease the ratio of old houses from 25% to 10% in ten years, the Government is increasing the budget for subsidies and developing a new tax reduction policy for building safer houses.

(g) Promoting efforts of the private sector to make Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

(g) Formulating emergency contingency planning in response to possible large-scale earthquakes such as Tonankai and Nankai Earthquake

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by your Ministry

Same as above

VII. ADRC Counterpart

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