Establishment of the Law Concerning Promotion of Countermeasures against Tsunamis

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in March 2011, Japan stipulated the Law Concerning Promotion of Countermeasures against Tsunamis in June 2011 as a basic law to promote comprehensive and effective implementation of tsunami countermeasures. The Law sets forth basic policies, enhances tsunami monitoring systems, promotes tsunami researches, predicts the damage from tsunamis, and improves partnerships for cooperation, while also designating November 5th as the Tsunami Preparedness Day.

Tsunami Preparedness Day (November 5th)

On November 5th, the Tsunami Preparedness Day, national and local authorities hold appropriate events such as disaster drills and symposiums across the country, in order to increase public understanding on and interest in the countermeasures against tsunamis.

Origin of the Tsunami Preparedness Day

The Tsunami Preparedness Day is derived from “the Fire of Inamura (Rice Sheaves)”, which is an episode about a village chief who saved villagers from a big tsunami. He set fire to stacks of rice sheaves as landmarks to guide villagers to a safe route to a hill in the dark, when a tsunami hit Wakayama following the Ansei-Nankai Earthquake(M8.4) that occurred on November 5th, 1854. *Lafcadio Hearn wrote “A Living God” based on the episode of “the Fire of Inamura”.
**Measures and initiatives for Tsunami Preparedness Day**

### July - October

**Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drills Kick-off Event**
- **Date:** Wednesday, 30 July
- **Venue:** City of Wakayama
- **Call to:** Prefectures, cities, towns, municipalities, private sector and others

### November

**Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drills**
- **Disaster Drill for Major Disaster Headquarters (November 5)**
- **Drills organized by prefectorates:**
  - Hokkaido
  - Miyagi
  - Chiba
  - Aichi
  - Wakayama
  - Yamaguchi
  - Kochi
  - Miyazaki
- **Drills organized by private sector:**
- **Drills by Cabinet Office:**
  - 8 locations nationwide
- **Drills by other ministries & agencies:**
- **Drills by cities, towns, municipalities:**
- **Drills by communities:**

**“Tsunami Preparedness Day” Symposium**
- **Date:** 5 November 2014
- **Venues:** City of Sendai
- **Addressed to:** All the people in Japan
- **Event details:** A symposium for improving public awareness on countermeasures against tsunamis, thereby disseminating the Day to the public through media

• Circulate and display posters for Tsunami Preparedness Day, thereby disseminating the Tsunami Preparedness Day (July through November)