



Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Disaster Management & Reconstruction Toward Sustainable Development Through Improvement of Reproductive Health & Community Capacity Building



**Parliamentarians' Meeting on
Disaster Management & Reconstruction
Toward Sustainable Development Through Improvement of
Reproductive Health & Community Capacity Building**

19 September 2006

Tokyo, Japan

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Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>
9:00~9:30	Registration Room «Green Hall»1F, Banquet Building (Annex), Akasaka Prince Hotel
MEETING «Morning» (9:30-12:30)	
9:30~10:30	<p>Opening Ceremony Opening Address: Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP, AFPPD Chairperson/JPPF Vice-Chairperson; Address by Chairperson of Organizing Committee: Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, JPPF Vice-Chairperson; Address: Mr. Nobuki Sugita, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Tokyo Office, on behalf of Dr. Thoraya Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director</p> <p>Organizer's Address: Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, MP, APDA Vice-Chairperson/JPPF Secretary-General</p> <p>Collective Photo</p>
10:30~11:15	<p>Session I: Reports from Respective Countries on Disasters and Transition from Emergency to Reconstruction Phase (Part I) Chairperson: Mr. Ahmed Zahir, People's Majlis Speaker (Maldives) Thailand Indonesia Malaysia</p>
11:15~11:30	Coffee Break

11:30~12:30	Session I: Continued (Part II) Chairperson: Dr. Prakrit Vathesatogkit, Senator (Thailand) India Maldives Pakistan Sri Lanka
Lunch Reception (12:30-14:00) Hosted by Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, AFPPD Chairperson «Green Hall» 1F, Annex Building	
MEETING «Afternoon» (14:00-17:50)	
14:00~14:40	Session II: Japan's Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance for Asian Countries Chairperson: Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP/JPPF Vice-Chairperson (Japan) Resource persons: Mr. Koji Ota, Team Director, Training Team, Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR), JICA ; Mr. Masami Fuwa, Senior Assistant to the Director-General, Social Development Department, JICA
14:40~15:10	Discussion
15:10~15:30	Coffee Break
15:30~16:00	Session III: Development of Basic Education on Disaster Nursing in Collaboration with Community Disaster Prevention Groups Chairperson: Ms. Chieko Nohno, MP, JPPF Vice-Chairperson(Japan) Resource person: Prof. Mariko Ohara, Japanese Red Cross Nursing College
16:00~16:30	Discussion
16:30~17:00	Session IV: Japan's Disaster Management System and Its Contributions to Multilateral Cooperation for Disaster Management in the Asian Region Chairperson: Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, MP, APDA Vice-Chairperson/JPPF Secretary-General (Japan) Resource person : Mr. Tadahiro Yokoyama, Senior Specialist for Mutual Aid Management, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
17:00~17:30	Discussion
17:30~17:50	Closing Ceremony

A P D A: Asian Population and Development Association
J P F P: Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
AFPPD: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
J I C A: Japan International Cooperation Agency

Opening Ceremony

Opening Address

Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP

AFPPD Chairperson/JPPF Vice-Chairperson

First of all I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your coming to take part in this Parliamentarians' Meeting on Disaster Management & Reconstruction toward Sustainable Development through Improvement of Reproductive Health & Community Capacity Building.

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) was founded 25 years ago from the perspective that coping with the population issues was indispensable for bringing about sustainable development and that in the absence of resolving population problems humankind would not have a bright future.

Building on an idea put forward by Mr. Takashi Sato, former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, established the AFPPD with vital cooperation from Asian countries. It represented the world's first regional parliamentary activities concerning population and development, and it is continuing energetically today to carry out important activities.

At the core of our activities are population issues. The ultimate objective of our activities, however, is not population issues as such. If it were possible to continue to live in peace and prosperity on this earth even with a constant increase in population, there would be no need to particularly address population issues. But when we consider the earth's environment and the planet's capacities for supporting our lives, it becomes quite clear that without dealing with population issues it would be impossible for humankind to lead peaceful and happy lives.

Building upon the conviction that solving population issues will assure the foundation for humankind's sustainable development, we have for over a quarter of a century invested earnest and positive efforts toward achieving sustainable development through resolving population issues.



In this process we have come to share this ideal with almost all of Asia's major countries, and members of national parliaments in the Asian region have kept in close contact, to a really unprecedented degree, as we carry out practical activities in this field of endeavor. As a result, population problems in the Asian region have attained great progress toward practical resolution, and in many countries have at the same time attained notable development also in the economic sphere. Of course these successes are in large part the fruit of the devoted efforts of the people and governments of each country. At the same time, as members of the AFPPD, I think we can take justified pride that to some extent, at least, our organization has made important contributions to these successes.

A large number of the member countries of the AFPPD who maintain close relations in working together sustained large damages in the wake of the earthquake that occurred off the coast of north of Sumatra, and the subsequent Indian Ocean tsunami. In the spirit of what the AFPPD's former chairperson Mr. Shin Sakurai said today that it is true friends who come to one's help in times of need, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), has carried out a variety of measures to help respond to this situation. So I should like to express my heartfelt thanks to APDA's Chairperson Hon. Taro Nakayama, and to other members of APDA for their cooperation.

As one aspect of its activities, on 2 occasions during 2005 APDA sent observation teams, headed by AFPPD former chairperson Shin Sakurai, to the countries most affected by the earthquake and tsunami. During their visits, the members of these observation teams heard from several members of parliaments in host nations that they should like to learn from Japan's experiences.

The observation teams also submitted reports stating that Japan's experiences with traditional cooperation in local communities in combating disasters should be useful, and these types of collaboration at community levels could also contribute to further pushing forward the goals of reproductive health which are being promoted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

After receiving these reports and special requests, APDA, with the understanding and assistance of the UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was able to organize and bring about today's meeting and the study tour which will begin tomorrow. I am deeply grateful to everyone for their efforts in realizing this event.

In today's sessions, we shall hear reports from each country and from Japanese specialists who have taken part in disaster-prevention activities and in post-disaster emergency assistance. Then in the study tour which will begin tomorrow, you will have the opportunity to learn, with the help of first-hand observation, more about Japan's systems for emergency assistance and examples of mutual aid and support at the level of local communities.

When I was growing up, Japan had lost a war and rose from the ashes. We were generally poor and had very little, but I believe what has built today's Japan has been, more than anything else, the way people in local communities voluntarily helped one another. I very much hope you will learn about Japan's experiences and that some of them could be useful points of reference for your own countries' reconstruction efforts and development. I am sure that our 5-day program, including today's meeting, will be enriching. Thank you.

Address by Chairperson of Organizing Committee

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP

JFPF Vice-Chairperson/Former AFPPD Chairperson

I thank you most cordially for having joined us here today for the “Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Disaster Management & Reconstruction toward Sustainable Development through Reproductive Health & Community Capacity Building”. As the chairman of the organizing committee, including the educational study tour, I welcome, from the bottom of my heart, the participation of each and every one of you.

The selfish lives we lead are destroying our Earth. And we see frequent outbreaks of large-scale natural disasters which cause enormous harm, as if the earth is reacting to our irresponsible activities.

In December 2004, what has been referred to as “the biggest natural disaster in human history” took place; the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the accompanying Indian Ocean tsunami that caused colossal damage to countries bordering the Indian Ocean. As the former chairperson of AFPPD, I have over many years continued to carry out activities in close collaboration with all of you as a member of the AFPPD. I have always had the feeling that those of us who have shared in these activities as colleagues must collaborate as “true friends” in difficult times. And it was in this connection that I have made a strong case at the meetings of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) as well as at the board of directors meeting of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), that some kind of support activities was urgently required.

Although I wanted to act as soon as possible, it took some time to arrange the details of the programs, finding time between parliamentary schedules and having to deal with some budgetary restraints that I was finally able to visit Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia in May 2005, and then a half year later in November, to visit India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

In the course of my tour of the areas directly hit by the disaster, I thought of the way how Japan had 60 years earlier lost a war and then risen from its ashes. It is true that many external factors played a role, but a major factor, I believe, was that the Japanese people built a system where, while working toward reconstruction, we were able to earn income, and from which in turn taxes were paid.

However, in looking at the realities of “aid,” although it is certainly not the case in all instances, there are many examples where the aid givers and the aid recipients are divided and it would seem

difficult to assert that a self-reliant scheme for reconstruction have been built. I observed that in certain localities the disaster victims seemed to be simply “waiting” with their hands outstretched for aid.

There was another thing that I noticed while visiting the affected areas. And that is that in places along the coasts where there were wind-break and sand-break trees there was in most cases very little damage. In developing countries, wooded areas are a very important resource. Because timber can be utilized in various ways, and particularly as fuel, it can be a valuable asset. In Japan, too, it used to be that in what were known as iriai-chi (commons), which were commonly managed forest areas and wooded lands that brought shared benefits.

If trees are cut down indiscriminately, it is impossible to bequeath them for future generations. Put in other words, the existence of such forests means that there is an understanding of how voluntarily protecting commonly owned property within the local community “brings benefits for the region as a whole” .

That is to say, in places where such functions of the local community have been maintained, there has been a relatively higher capacity to cope with natural disasters. In Japan, public health and medical care, the prevention and mitigation of disasters, and also the improvement of women’s social status were all achieved through local efforts. It would certainly be wrong to think that they were brought about under the leadership of a government or by government policies. Such improvements were made within the context of the local people’s spontaneous and voluntary efforts.

Speaking about the fields of public health and medical care, I would like to tell you that there was no resident doctor in my village when I was a child. It was the public health nurses and midwives who took care of local medical needs. They did their very best in their own communities, and the activities of women’s organizations which had been voluntarily managed by local residents became the prime force behind improving women’s health and reducing infant mortality.

It was similar in the case of disaster prevention and mitigation and post disaster rehabilitation. The first responses came from local community fire-fighting units (shobodan) or “flood control units” (suibodan) while government provided supportive assistance. It was the strength of local communities, in other words their capacities for voluntarily managing public welfare, which became the basis for Japan’s postwar recovery. Only later when central and municipal governments implemented full scale disaster rehabilitation programs mechanisms were created that enabled people in affected areas to work and earn income. This scheme became a major motive force, and I

am quite sure that it promoted Japan's economic development.

My own constituency, Niigata, is in a part of Japan with a greater than average incidence of natural disasters. Every year we are visited by 3 to 4 meters of snow accumulation, in the summers there are typhoons and floods. Two months before the Sumatra earthquake we had a big quake known as the Great Chuetsu Earthquake, causing enormous harm. You will be able to visit the site of this disaster in the course of your study tour.

I would like you to look at Japan's experience with your own eyes. And I would like to ask all of you to communicate within your own countries what you experience here in Japan. I plan to accompany you, as much as possible, during the entire 5-day program. And I hope there will be opportunities to speak with each of you at various places we will visit during the tour. As the chairman of the program organizing committee, nothing would make me happier than to think that this year's program will be useful references in your countries' disaster recovery and development.

And now at the end of my remarks, I must mention that that our meeting and study tour were enabled thanks to the understanding and cooperation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have also received very great assistance from Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, M.P., who is Secretary-General of the JPPF and Vice-Chairperson of APDA and has herself had a career as a public health professional and also from Ms. Chieko Nohno, M.P., who is Vice-Chairperson of the JPPF and has herself had a career as a midwife professional. I express my deep appreciation to everyone who has put so much effort into organizing this wonderful opportunity to be together. Thank you for your attention.

Address

Mr. Nobuki Sugita

Deputy Director-General,

International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I would like to welcome you to Japan and I congratulate your participation in this very important meeting. The report on health covers 3 of the 8 Millennium Development Goals; Reduction of infant mortality, Improvement of maternal health, and Prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases. And also it is involved with the poverty reduction and hunger eradication, as well as family education, gender equality and improvement of women's status. We had made public in June 2005, an initiative on public health and development and we have decided to budget 5 billion dollars in the next 5 years beginning in 2005 to support the activities in the field of public health. Among the initiatives, the support for productive health is very essential and this meetings takes up 2 of the most important things—the experiences in Sumatra and Indian Ocean. Pakistan makes it clear that the disaster impacts the socially vulnerable. To liberate the individuals from the threat of disaster, we focus on human security and disaster prevention initiative has therefore been adopted. We feel very significant that this meeting addresses reproductive health and management of disaster prevention and reconstruction that the Japanese government focuses.

Lastly, I would like to express my sympathy for the victims and the countries that have suffered a great deal and we feel that we should learn from these experiences. As we know from the Hurricane Katrina, these disasters strike not only the developing countries and what can minimize the damage from these disasters is the disaster prevention/mitigation technology, and cooperation for reconstruction.

We have been able to accumulate experiences, knowledge and technology, and I hope we can share those with you and hopefully your experiences this time would be useful for your reconstruction efforts. Thank you very much.

Address

Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami

Director, UNFPA Tokyo Office,

On behalf of Dr. Thoraya Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director

It is a great pleasure to join you today to attend this important Parliamentarians' Meeting on behalf of UNFPA. Mari Simonen, DED, is not able to be here with you due to an unavoidable commitment, and asked me to convey the message.

Over the last 30 years, Asia was the region, unfortunately, most heavily affected by natural disasters. As Ministers and parliamentarians, you have influence at the highest level of government, as well as in civil society and at the grassroots level among individual men, women, and youth. You are the voices of the people and their natural link to their governments. In that sense, your presence here is most gratifying because it means we are together with many Asian community people. It is my sincere hope that you will use this meeting in Tokyo and Niigata as an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen your commitment to Disaster Management and Reconstruction toward Sustainable Development through Improvement of Reproductive Health and Community Capacity Building.

Statistics show that countries with income below \$755 are particularly susceptible to natural disasters. In times of emergency and aftermath, the disadvantaged people are more vulnerable, due to their limited access to or control over available resources, timely information, communication technologies and social services.

In order to end this vicious circle of natural disaster and poverty, it is crucial to integrate disaster response and reconstruction strategies into sustainable development policy.

Six years ago, when 189 governments adopted the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals (MDGs), they acknowledged that gender equality plays a central role in development and in the fight against poverty and hunger, in order to ensure human security on an individual basis.

In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 179 governments agreed that reproductive health information and services should be universally available by 2015. They agreed that reproductive health is considered as human rights, part of the right to health, and as such, it is an end in itself.

The aim of universal access to reproductive health care is now reflected in the reports of the Millennium Project, and is proposed as a target to measure progress towards MDGs Goal 5 to reduce maternal mortality. Other reproductive health indicators are proposed to help monitor Goal 3 on gender equality and empowerment of women, Goal 4 on reduction of infant mortality and Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS.

Reproductive Health care and education increase women's autonomy and widen their choices in life. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life. When she is healthy, she can be more productive in any aspect of life. Being the main care-taker of the family members, she can promote safe motherhood, maternal and child health, voluntary family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and protection from gender-based violence. Women in good reproductive health are closer to controlling their own lives and escaping from poverty.

Your Excellencies,

Natural disasters, like Tsunami, affect women disproportionately. Recent data show that many more women died in the Tsunami than men. A survey of 8 tsunami-affected villages in Indonesia's Aceh province, for example, found that surviving males outnumbered females by 4 to one. Findings were similar in India and Sri Lanka. This disproportionate impact will lead to problems for years to come. There are reports of rapes, harassments, forced early marriages, and risks related to human trafficking. In addition, women and girls often assume the primary burden of caring for their families and obtaining food and other basic goods for survival. It is very clear that Reproductive health is not only development agenda, but also the agenda to be considered under emergency situations.

UNFPA responded rapidly to protect maternal health after the Tsunami, because there were an estimated 150,000 pregnant women in the affected areas in Indonesia and Sri Lanka while health systems were destroyed, putting the lives of expecting mothers and unborn babies at risk. Immediate UNFPA response included supplying simple provisions for safe delivery, and more sophisticated equipment and supplies towards restoration of comprehensive maternal services, including emergency obstetric care, and training birth attendants for capacity building at the community level.

UNFPA also provided support to address sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls and boys, as this often increases in emergency situations. We acted to reinforce the urgently needed psychosocial support and counseling for those suffering from trauma, and human resource development for counselors.

In most emergency cases, UNFPA works with other UN agencies and NGO partners to coordinate relief efforts across sectors, with staff involved in protection, security and community health services.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that support for reproductive health is especially important for Disaster Management and Reconstruction toward Sustainable Development. In some emergency cases women's voices are not heard and women's needs are not addressed, even though women are the backbones of families and communities. It is important to ensure that men and women can jointly contribute in humanitarian response and recovery. For a society to return to normal, all members of the population at the community and the national levels must be involved and actively engage in the solution.

All over the world, UNFPA quickly responds when emergency strikes –to collect and analyze population data and to protect the reproductive health of communities in crisis. In this connection, Ministers and parliamentarians, your strong and active support to this is highly appreciated. Let us work together toward “Reconstructing Better”.

Last but not least, UNFPA would like to express a sincere gratitude to all of you who came to participate in this meeting, and to APDA for organizing the meeting, and to Japanese Foreign Ministry for the support. Thank you.



Organizer's Address

Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, MP

APDA Vice-Chairperson/JPPF Secretary-General

I express my heartfelt gratitude for your presence at this Parliamentarians' Meeting on Disaster Management & Reconstruction toward Sustainable Development through Improvement of Reproductive Health and Community Capacity Building, which is being hosted by the Asian Population and Development Association.

We, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) serves as the secretariat for the Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF), which is a forum of Japanese parliamentarians on population and development, and also as the office of the chairperson of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). In this capacity every year it holds "Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development" (or, for short, APDA meeting), and is playing a core role in the activities of parliamentarians in the Asian region.

Last year, our association sent a fact-finding mission headed by Hon. Shin Sakurai, who had long served as AFPPD chairman to study at first hand the conditions of damage caused by the earthquake off Sumatra and the Indian Ocean tsunami.

At that time we received many requests from our friends saying they wanted to learn from Japan's experience. And those of us touring the ravaged sites felt strongly that our postwar experiences may be useful to our friends in developing societies.

In the reconstruction that took place following the Second World War, Japan was able to succeed in improving maternal and infant health largely through the efforts of public health nurses and midwives. Such people, supported by volunteer mutual assistance networks such as regional women's associations, traveled often to remote corners of the country and exerted great efforts toward improving regional public health and medical care. It was in this sense that, on the basis of "community solidarity", great improvements were achieved in public hygiene and in particular the health of mothers and children in Japan.

During the recent observations of the tsunami-caused damage, it became clear that Japanese experiences can be quite useful both for mitigating disasters and for "reproductive health", and reflect something that may not be so easily seen in some other parts of the Asian region.

I think what is needed in many of the countries of Asia today are further improvements in medical care of this sort at the grass-roots level. The program of this year's meeting is quite full and has many different facets, but in our conference sessions today we will learn more about systems of international cooperation and efforts in Japan to lessen or cope with the effects of natural disasters.

Tomorrow, we will observe the present state of some of the systems for coping with disasters, including "hyper-rescue teams" in Tokyo, and will also in our study tour look at some of Japan's experiences with "family planning" and improving the state of maternal and infant health. Then, from the 21st to the 23rd of this month, we will visit Japan's Niigata Prefecture.

Portions of Niigata Prefecture were severely damaged by what is known as the Chu'etsu Great Earthquake, which occurred about 2 months before the earthquake which occurred off the coast of Sumatra and the ensuing Indian Ocean tsunami. We will visit, in particular, the area around what used to be called "Yamakoshi Village", which suffered the most severe damages from the 2004 earthquake in Niigata Prefecture.

In Niigata Prefecture we will observe traditional systems of local mutual assistance and the sorts of emergency responses and disaster recovery that are based on these systems, as well as activities directed mainly toward the maintenance of maternal and infant health. I think that during your days in Niigata Prefecture you will be able to see some of the "traditional" types of efforts that the Japanese people have maintained up to the present.

I am extremely happy that the APDA, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund, has been able to host this meeting and educational tour program. As preparations for our program have been made with a rather small staff, I am afraid that some aspects might not meet all your expectations, but as hosts we will be extremely happy if you will be tolerant in this regard and enjoy your stay in Japan, and find some practicable uses to some of the experiences you will gain here after your return home. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Session I

Reports from Respective Countries on Disasters and Transition from Emergency to Reconstruction Phase

Session I (Part I)

Chairperson:

Mr. Ahmed Zahir, People's Majlis Speaker (Maldives)

CHAIRPERSON:

This being the first session of this important meeting, on behalf of the participants, I would like to express our profound gratitude to the Government of Japan, APDA, UNFPA, AFPPD and JFPF for organizing this conference.

In fact, I would like to welcome the parliamentarians for the meetings on disaster management and reconstruction today. Each delegation is going to get 20 minutes for their presentation, but after that I have been told by the organizer that you will have plenty of time later on for these discussions.

Nature bestowed us with many gifts, but at the same time, very often, the same nature brings us destruction, pain and misery, sometimes which last for a very very long time in our own memories. Every time, these types of destruction are brought about by nature, our development goes back by decades.

The member countries are going to present to us their experience in such destructions, and what sort of work they are doing for the rebuilding of their nation. And what sorts of preparations have been made for the future devastations.

Today's first presentation will be Thailand. I invite the distinguished senator from Thailand to go ahead with her presentation.



Report from Thailand

Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Senator

First of all, I would like to thank the Japanese Government and APDA, the organizer, and AFPPD, for inviting me here today. I am very please to be here amongst friends.

As for the disaster, the tsunami was such a tragedy that occurred so suddenly in my country. We never experienced any disaster before. And with the expensive damage like that; in Thailand, we have lost not only our people, but we lost one of His Royal Highness' grandson in that event. But anyway, for the development, reconstruction and prevention, for this tsunami, I will try to present what I have found in my country.

I would like to thank Mr. Shin Sakurai and Ms. Kayoko Shimizu for coming to our country and see the event with their own eyes. I would also like to thank the Japanese Government for sending doctors and group of nurses to help us as well as all kind of funds. I have my hand out to you all.

The earthquake was 9.5 in Richter scale. Its center was in Aceh, Sumatra of Indonesia. In the morning of 26 December 2004, 7:45 am, 10 feet-high tsunami occurred. And then in 2 and a half hour, the Thai coast was damaged all over by physical, financial, economic, psychological and health issues, not to mention reproductive health. The affected areas, 6 provinces in Thailand were damaged —Phuket, Phangnga, Ranong, Krabi, Trang and Satul—by the physical impact.



Human toll, around 8,210. The number of people missing, around 3,000. The number of people displaced around 6,000. Houses completely destroyed, around 3,000. Houses damage 105,000. The number of boats lost and damaged, around 5,000. The environmental impact, lots of agricultural land, 2,000 hectares. Loss of mangrove, 305 acres. Loss of coral, 3,600 acres. Loss of seagrass, 400 acres. Ponds and wells contaminated, around 2,500. Come to the economic impact. Loss of jobs in tourism, 120,000. Loss of jobs in fisheries 30,000. Monthly loss to tourism industry, US\$25 million. Estimated financial loss US\$1.6 billion. Cost of repairing damage US\$482 million.

And psychological impact. All the traumatic stress. I think that physical and economic aspects are easier to reconstruct, but psychological impact is not; you can image how much trauma has been incurred by the orphans. How much is mental damage and how can we restore these people in the future? We have loss of one parent or more in 1,500 families. There is a lot of work to be done on that issue. There is also the health issue; reproductive health and all sorts of health-related issues such as epidemic and all kinds of diseases.

We also have to consider women's rights, because in that kind of situation, we have experience with some widows. The property that is supposed to belong to them, but when their husbands were killed by the tsunami, they cannot own their property because of some religious rule that states that property must belong to men. This is a problem we have to solve.

They have been living there for so long, from generation to generation, but everything is now flushed out after the tsunami, and someone in the government is saying that this land does not belong to you anymore, it belongs to someone else. Parliamentarians have to work on this issue. This is not only human rights and women's rights issue. It involves all kinds of rights and it is the job of parliamentarians.

Now on the issue of reconstruction. In Thailand, about 13.5 million US dollar of committed funds have been spent on reconstruction, mainly on houses, infrastructure, environment, livelihood, community psychological support and care of the orphans. We have many NGOs working for the orphans. Our King also supports the orphans. I want to mention about Japan, the support that has been offered by the Japanese.

On the subject of reconstruction through the early warning system, we need to integrate our efforts to reconstruction in areas including the tsunami warning call system, integrated risk management, community level approaches, public awareness and education. And early warning system through

Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, and have a network sensor to detect the tsunami.

Inter-governmental coordination group met in Kobe, Japan in January 2005 and in Hyderabad, India in December 2005, in Bali, Indonesia in August 2006 to discuss about the networking, warning dissemination, capacity building, decision-making process, hazard perspective, political commitment, awareness and education, operating procedure, data etc.

My conclusion is that, finally, after all of this, you have to consider the transparency and accountability for each step you go on. And the community and people's participation is the most important thing as well as psychological support. Thank you very much.

Report from Indonesia (1)

Mr. Rendy Lamadjido, MP

This is a great moment for us, on behalf of Indonesian Parliament, to stand here and discuss the important issues in the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Disaster Management and Reconstruction Toward Sustainable Development.

As we all know, no humankind would expect such disaster would come into human life. Many disasters are caused by human activities, for example fires, forest fires, pollutions and other environmental damage. Basically, disaster is a form of disruption to community life and livelihood. It is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material or economic or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community (society) to cope using its own resources.

Geographical location makes Indonesia a country with high potential for disaster. Indonesia has hundreds of active volcanoes that could erupt at anytime, also other natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides and hurricanes. The hot and rainy seasons which characterize a tropical climate have tended to change in Indonesia due to several factors such as the change in global temperature, the greenhouse effect, frequent forest fires, air pollution, and others. Meanwhile the high level of rainfall makes the soil unstable as it has lost much of its footholds, and therefore floods and landslides become more frequent.

Economic development which relies on natural resources extraction and ignores the need to preserve the ecosystem has altered the natural environment on massive scale. Destruction of the living environment and ecosystem caused by human act, are naturally prone to disaster. Moreover, geological dynamics caused by mining mineral resources such as oil, natural gas, and other minerals, can give rise to disaster such as tectonic earthquakes, landslide, or land movement and hazards including tsunamis. Indonesia is therefore a country with one of the highest frequency of earthquakes.



The high population of Indonesia consists of many different ethnicities, religions and customs. The social and cultural tradition, ethnicity, religion, faith diversity, economic disparity and political complexity comprise the wealth of the Indonesian people. This diversity also embodies the potential to be the source of disaster in the form of horizontal or vertical conflicts and social unrests. Even terrorist attacks have proven to be threats that have inflicted national disasters.

Indonesia is also vulnerable to threats related to the failure of technology, transportation accidents or the spread of diseases which call for comprehensive handling that could only be undertaken by the government.

All the cause of disasters can be identified in such early moment, due to certain institution/body/council that could work in professional, permanent and independent way. This institution/body/council has responsibility to study, delegate a specific task and to manage disasters, as well as early warning, before and after emergency. The purpose is to reduce the destruction of environment and eliminate human victims.

From the phase of emergency to reconstruction, particularly for the situation in Indonesia, the modalities should at least consist of the following:

1. Comprehensive: institutional arrangement should encompass activities in entire cycle of disaster management, namely from emergency response to management risk of disaster, and rehabilitation.
2. Integrated coordination: in view of the complexity of the disaster management problems and limited managing capacities, the institutional arrangements should enable coordinating

ability of potentials and capacities of various sectoral ministries, government agencies other than ministries, and state enterprises as well as the general public.

3. **Community participation:** in that sense the institutional arrangement should include the element of community participation which express through non-profit agencies, non-government agencies and international agencies, and stakeholders.
4. **Local autonomy:** based on the Indonesian archipelago which consists of 5 big islands and more less 18,000 archipelagos, the disaster management institutional arrangement should be based on the principle that the government is accountable to its nearest constituents. The vertical line at the regional and central government level only applies to extent that it strengthens technical expertise capacity.
5. **Accountability:** The execution of disaster management measures needs to be based on Community's approval especially those vulnerable to disaster hazards. Such approval shall be done freely and preceded with provision of correct information regarding disaster management.

Thank you for all your kind attention. I hope we could find better solutions for better world.

Report from Indonesia (2)

Mr. Anwar Shaleh, MP

Indonesia is both blessed and threatened by nature. It is the largest equatorial archipelago country in the world, approximately consisting of 22.000 islands, extending more than 6000 km from East to West. Due to such a geographical position Indonesia abounds with natural wealth. Geologically, however, it appears that Indonesia lies on the junction where Caroline of Pacific, Philippine Sea, Eurasian and Indian-Australian Plates are collided. This geological position makes Indonesia very vulnerable to natural disasters. The natural hazards vary from geological ones, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, etc., to meteorological hazards, as floods and cyclones. Indonesian earth segment as well as the coastal and marine waters and the atmospheric conditions are quite dynamic and potentially prone to practically all sorts of known natural disasters in the forms of:

- Tectonic and volcanic earthquakes,
- Tsunami and the more subtle sea level rise,
- volcanic eruptions,
- River floods and landslides,
- Droughts and forest fires, and
- Storm surges and hurricanes.

Another aspect of Indonesian problem is the number of 220 Million inhabitants spreading throughout the archipelago. The number of population could bring a lot of casualties whenever any calamity happens. It is observed that within a period of 1901-2005 the natural hazards happens annually, causing a huge number of deaths and loss of materials. The tsunami wave of December 26, 2004, for instance, and the Nias earthquake of March 28, 2005, having ravaged all coastal regions of Aceh and Nias island, causing more than 200 thousand deaths.

After the huge disaster of tsunami in Aceh, during 2005 and 2006, there have been some other less ones happened in Indonesia, such as floods, volcanoes and some smaller earthquakes in Yogya and tsunami along the coast of Pangandaran (South-Eastern region of west Java). These unprecedented occurrences seem to be the confirmation of the facts that Indonesia is vulnerable to natural disasters.

EMERGENCY

Earthquakes, as well as other catastrophes, are usually quick-set events that happen all of a sudden, therefore they cause panic-stricken situation. Consequently they cause a lot of casualties and terrible shock not only to near-by inhabitants but the whole nation as well. It seems to be more sensible

when the sudden events suffered by unprepared inhabitants. They are nearly unable to save themselves. Whereas most outside rescue teams usually come to the spots of disasters merely perform instant response.

The low quality of management on the tsunami catastrophe in Aceh, especially during emergency phase, showed a good example of the Indonesian unpreparedness. Fortunately however, there were a number of global countries apparently showed their great empathy with the disasters by supporting spontaneous aids, bringing packages and task forces to evacuate and accommodate victims. They even extend aids not only during emergency but also efforts on the aftermath, during the phase of restoration and reconstruction of damages caused by the calamity.

AFTERMATH

A special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami was also held promptly after the calamity. The meeting, generally known as the Tsunami Summit was also attended by Leaders and Ministers from non-ASEAN countries, such as Japan, held in Jakarta on January 6th, 2005. The Summit, besides talking about all aspects of the tsunamis and earthquake disasters, also called for international cooperation to develop multimodal and comprehensive disaster management system.

The facts of many kinds of disasters, some of them occur annually, and the great global empathy to the tsunami disaster in Aceh, have motivated the Government and the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI) to make a disaster law, Containing regulations on disaster management. The law, due to the complicated disaster aspects, shall contain comprehensive regulations. The law shall regulate action plans prior to disaster events, such as early warning system, simulation training, and disaster brigade organizations. Regarding global empathy the law shall also regulate ways of global participation.

The process of making the law is currently performed by the Special Committee of the House accompanied by the Government. Making such a law, however, need a number of sessions held within more than one year in the House. For this purpose the Special Committee has to hear and compile legal raw materials from various information sources, through public meetings.

It is ironical of course, the long time for a law making against a prompt need of emergency. To break through the vacancy of law, accordingly, the Government of Republic of Indonesia, a year ago, set up the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency, especially for Aceh, supervised by the vice President. For other Indonesian disasters, prior to the agency for Aceh, the Government has also

established structural bodies, called National Coordinative Body at Central Government, whereas in Provinces the local government has Local Coordinative Unit and LOCAL Executive Unit.

PARADIGMS

There are some important new ways of thinking concerning the substance of the Bill Draft, currently discussed in the Parliament of Republic of Indonesia:

1. The facts of the national hazards have increased the awareness of both the Government and the House of Indonesia to make a comprehensive law regulations in managing the hazards. The law shall cover the entire aspects of management system of the hazards. The regulations of handling any disaster shall not only be the guidance during and post-disaster emergency but prior to the event as well.
2. A very important paradigm in the substance of the Bill Draft is the role of the Government (executive) to aid the victims of disasters, such as evacuating people, facilitating refugee camps, distributing food, clothes, and medicines. Any aid for disaster victims performed by the Government is not a generosity, as generally considered. It is just a performance of responsibility and political obligation. It means that the Government shall be obliged to promptly response any disaster events, by taking every necessary measures to aid disaster victims. Any delay or neglect can be convicted of out law commitment.
3. Another important principle is the paradigm to see a disaster as a humanity problem. Certainly, the responsibility of a national disaster management is primarily obliged to all members of the local community, both the local and central Governments, and the whole nation. But, at present, there is a growing phenomenon indicating global empathy and responsibility. All members of global people seem to have humanity obligation to participate at any stage of disaster management, wherever a disaster occur. Regarding this global participation the substance of the Indonesian Law shall also regulate any kind of international participation to manage disaster clearly and comprehensively, especially on their rights and obligations, following global conventions.
4. Anyway there is a crucial problem of the Bill discussion on the substance concerning the institution or agent, or body of disaster management. The House and the Government have a different points of view, whether the agent to be governmental or not. The House tends to set up an independent agent, managed by non governmental officers, or at least there are mixed officers. Whereas the government would rather tend to governmental one. Up to now there is no definitive solution. We are still exercising some options on it. We believe our participation in this international meeting in Tokyo could enhance our discourse upon the options to the best one.

Report from Malaysia

Dato' Lim Bee Kau, MP

I am honored to be given the task to speak to such distinguished guests and group of participants, and I would like to thank the Japanese Government, APDA and AFPPD for their warm welcome and hospitality as well as for making today's meeting possible.

Malaysia is fortunate in the sense that it does not have frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and typhoons etc. Our worst disaster was the tsunami disaster of 26th December, 2004, whereby a massive underwater earthquake occurred off northern Sumatra, causing a series of tsunamis that have resulted in mass destruction and loss of lives on a super scale. The wrath unleashed by the gushing of tectonic plate that carried the weight of the world, did not care whether it was a 6-star villa for the well heeled or the wooden hut of the poor fishermen. Both were swallowed up and spit out, leaving the way of destruction that experts say it would take a decade to rebuild.

We have to be patient, however, as it might require a different length of time, depending on how quickly the stigma of leaving it at a course can be erased from our mind. In the aftermath of the calamity, even rich cities located by the sea cannot feel safe unless they are equipped with active measures to forewarn the people of any future tsunami. After the tsunami aftermath, as the live of communities are being reviewed, a haunting question we need to ask is "Will we be able to look at the seaside the way we used to" .



In Japan, rapid alert systems to detect the tsunamis in the Pacific have long been in place. But in the Indian Ocean, a less prosperous region, such infrastructure does not exist. Had it existed, more lives might have been saved. The sad fact is that the whole world was unprepared for it. But now we are. Now we know. And we have to ask whether it is worthwhile to invest in systems and infrastructure to make these sites a safer place for us to live. Aside from early detection procedures, this includes installing day-watch sky towers and wave breakers to protect the regions and communities of the certain population.

Natural disasters can happen at any time, at any place. That is the fragility of life. And in a final analysis, despite all that has happened, we need to be near the sea, more than we can afford to be fearful of it. As we come to grips with the tragedy, our instinct for self-preservation should set in motion a global system to protect all shoreline communities, no matter if it is a village or megalopolis. It is not about being afraid of the past. It is about protecting the future.

The tsunami struck 11 countries, spanning southern Asia to Africa, swallowing hundreds of thousands of lives and countless homes. Sixty-8 nations perished in the world's natural disaster in modern history. Notably, Malaysia was not used to a disaster of such scale. The last major tragedy the nation had experienced was the collapse of Block 1 of Highland Towers of Kuala Lumpur in 1993. We have taken certain measures, certain preemptive measures.

On December 30, 2005, Malaysia, with the cooperation of Indonesia, successfully deployed its first tsunami buoy, near the Andaman Sea, off Rondo Island of Indonesia. It will be able to detect tsunami waves that are generated by a large earthquake in the Indian Ocean near Sumatra region and provide warning to residents in Malaysia at least one hour in advance.

The successful deployment of the tsunami buoy is an excellent example of regional cooperation between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia and the Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK) Indonesia. The tsunami buoys are an important component of the Malaysian Tsunami Early Warning System that is being implemented by the Malaysian government. The second tsunami buoy is scheduled for deployment in the Sulu Sea in January 2006 to be followed shortly by the deployment of the third buoy in the South China Sea in February 2006.

Data from the buoys are transmitted on real time to the Earthquake and Tsunami Early Warning Centre located at the Malaysian Meteorological Department Headquarters in Petaling Jaya via satellite link. As part of the Malaysian contribution towards the establishment of a global tsunami

early warning system coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), data from the buoys will also be shared with our ASEAN neighbors and exchanged internationally.

The Malaysian tsunami buoy at Rondo Island is among the first of its kind to be deployed in the South East Asian region, and reflects our strong commitment to have in place a comprehensive and effective national tsunami early warning system.

MANAGING FLOOD PROBLEMS IN MALAYSIA:

Malaysia has also experienced disasters caused by flood. So we have also taken measures to address this flood problem. Malaysia has experienced major floods in the last few decades. The flood of 1926, supposedly the worst in living memory in Malaysia, affected most of Peninsular Malaysia, resulting in extensive damages to property, road systems and agricultural land and crops. In 1967 disastrous floods surged across the Kelantan, Terengganu and Perak river basins, taking 55 lives. A few years later, in 1971, a catastrophic flood swept across many parts of the country. Flood occurrences seem to be getting more frequent in recent years especially in some cities like Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuching where rapid urbanization is taking place.

Malaysia has taken concrete measures to deal with such flood problems. Among these are:

- (a) Establishment of the Permanent Flood Control Commission which was set up by the Cabinet and its mission is to study the short-term measures to prevent the occurrence of floods and long-term measures for flood mitigation;
- (b) Establishment of flood disaster relief machinery;
- (c) Setting up forecast and warning systems;
- (d) Setting up of a nation-wide network of hydrological and flood data collection stations;
- (e) Carrying out of river basin studies and preparation of drainage master plans for major towns;
- (f) Implementation of structural measures;
- (g) Flood control dams;
- (h) Canalization and related works;
- (i) Resettlement of population; and
- (j) Flood proofing.

It is very important that we have regional cooperation. No doubt that devastation such as Asian tsunami forces us to remind ourselves of our roles and duties amongst them to our neighbors. I am

pleased to state that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), participating countries will endeavor to enhance cooperation that support and complement existing regional and international disaster management and emergency response mechanisms.

I would like to share with you some of the measures that Malaysia and Asian countries are putting to task.

- (a) Risk identification and monitoring
- (b) Disaster prevention and preparedness
- (c) Emergency response and disaster relief
- (d) Capacity building

In conclusion, there is no doubt that each country has its own mechanism for managing disaster or crisis. However, I hope that Asian countries can collaborate and coordinate an effective and reliable disaster warning system, as well as the setting up of inter-Asian disaster task force or unit. This involves various issues that need to be dealt with, for example fund collection and management, support team, work force, medical supplies, volunteers and course training. I also hope that members of the Parliament of IPU would play a more proactive role in addressing the issue on disaster management and reconstruction as it is a regional issue affecting our neighbors, which, in turn, affects us.

Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to end my speech by wishing everyone success on their efforts here in Japan and with that, I thank you. Thank you very much.

Discussion

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much Hon. Dato' Lim Bee Kau for your presentation. I think honorable members of the parliament have worked hard enough this morning, so we will have a 15-minute coffee break. But before that we have a little time. If honorable members were to ask any questions or ask clarification from the presenter, I would like you to raise those points.

INDIA:

I would like to know from the representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, what type of international aid immediately came after this tsunami and earthquake, not only from United Nations, but from various countries all over the world.

THAILAND:

In Thailand, we do not have that kind of experience. So they came from all over. Especially in my country, it is different from the others because we have our King and the King has the foundation. And the King offered much support, so this is our country—it is different from the others.

DATO' KAU, MALAYSIA:

Malaysia is similar to Thailand. This is the first major disaster. But Malaysia has been known to be a country that has been giving tools and machinery through our national disaster fund to many countries that had experienced major disasters. So for this particular case where tsunami struck even Malaysia, we raised a lot of funds, a lot of companies came forward and contributed to our national disaster fund.

And these funds are given to committee, or the National Disaster Relief Committee, whereby it is headed by our Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib. And the funds were all managed in such a manner whereby all the data was collected and all the people that were affected will be given specific amount of help, to reconstruct and also for their daily lives. So we have a management committee that we built for our national disaster. We even have our own national relief.

Also from the fund, we also collected for the countries that were badly hit, for example Aceh. In fact, Malaysia contributed quite a sufficient amount to Aceh and also sent our soldiers and NGOs to go to Aceh to help in the aftermath of the tsunami. As far as Malaysia is concerned, I do not think we have any big problem on management of relief fund. We normally ration based on the amount we receive and to whoever that needs it. Thank you very much.

Session I (Part II)

Chairperson:

Dr. Prakrit Vathesatogkit, Senator (Thailand)

CHAIRPERSON:

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese Government and JPPF as well as APDA for hosting this very interesting meeting. Personally, I appreciate that I have been invited to this meeting and chair this session. I would like to start with Honorable Nazim from Maldives to present his country report.

Report from Maldives

Mr. Ahmed Nazim, MP

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers of this conference for inviting us. It is a great privilege to be here to gain from the rich experiences of the Japanese people.

It was a very personal experience for me and my colleagues, the tsunami experience. We were preparing for election on the 31st of December when the tsunami struck on the 26th. I was talking to one of my constituents when the phone went dead. And then soon afterwards, the word “tsunami” became a household name in the whole country and throughout the Asian region.

It was a very sad day for Maldives because only 2 weeks before that Maldives had graduated from least developed country status to middle income country status. We had only passed our budget on the 20th of December with this happy marriage of our achievement. But within minutes, on the 26th of December, our achievements were taken away from us and the country was driven 10 to 20 years backwards.

Maldives is a country in the ocean with 1,192 islands. And people live on 199 of these islands. The country's population stands at 300,000 according to this year's census in March 2006. It was the fastest growing economy in the South Asia region with highest per capita income of \$2,400. All of these perspectives changed on this fateful day in 2004. The country was totally unaware of such

environmental phenomenon and was clueless about its consequences. And we also did not have the resources or the capacity to deal with it.

I would like to show the presentation using some pictures on this tsunami. Maldives experienced its first disaster in 1987 when a tidal wave hit the capital Male' and the surrounding islands. And then Maldives was hit as a nation. Not only one region of the country was affected—the whole country was affected by the tsunami. There were no high grounds in the Maldives because all islands were low-lying islands. And therefore there was no way for people to escape the tsunami. The tsunami waves came from one side of the island and went to the other side. So the whole islands were flooded.



There are 2 main industries in the Maldives, the tourism industry and the fisheries industry. Both were badly affected. There are 21 resort hotels out of 87 that were badly affected by the tsunami and had to be closed. The fisheries industry was badly affected too, because the fishing vessels in the harbors of the islands were badly damaged.

So therefore the 2 main industries were left in a crumbling state. The joint needs assessment conducted by the UN estimated that we lost 364 million dollars which is equivalent to 62% of the country's GDP. Unlike many other affected countries like Thailand or Indonesia, our death toll is very much less. This may be because Maldives has been a country of swimmers or because of the nature of the country. And also it may be because the tsunami had lost its power on its way to the Maldives because Maldives was hit the last.

Now the lucky thing that we have noticed is that the geological surveys that were conducted before and after the tsunami has indicated that Maldives suffered no loss to its coral reef. This is very good because our coral reef is the main attraction of the tourists. Since it was not affected, the island's geology and its beauty are intact.

The tsunami took the Maldivians by surprise as the country had no experience about it there were hardly any graduates in the country with proper training or knowledge to manage such environmental disasters. The people began to learn about the tsunami only after it struck the country. The relief operations were handled admirably by the authorities of government.

There were 3 main phases after the tsunami. The first is the relief efforts which were undertaken within a month or 2 to cater for the people who were affected. That is, provision of water, food, medicine and clothing. I would like to note at this point, the timely assistance made by the government of Japan and also by the neighboring countries, especially the Asian countries, like Singapore and Malaysia, in helping the Maldives with the support, financially as well as materially, and also in logistics by sending helicopters and rescue vessels to search for the missing people.

The second phase of recovery and construction efforts consists of construction of housing. Even now, 10,000 people live in temporary shelters, which means that they are awaiting the construction and completion of houses in their islands. In my constituency, 2 islands were totally destroyed and one island has been declared uninhabitable, and they have been transferred to another island in another atoll. All the islanders, 1,200 of them are living in temporary accommodation and are waiting for their houses to be constructed. My colleague Mr. Afeef who is with me in my delegation, his home island of Vilifushi was totally destroyed. The whole population has been moved to another island pending the construction of his island and the construction effort is well under way now with reclamation being carried out.

The Maldives wants to rebuild itself from this disaster and we are calling it "The Safe Island Concept" because Maldives does not have any high ground. It is a low-lying country—only one meter above sea level. So Maldives wants to construct a safe island in every atoll so that in the future any disaster strikes these islands are designed to provide all the services to other islands in the atoll and also so that the people will be safe in that island.

So the development of Safe Islands, a new concept pioneered by the experiences from the tsunami for rescue and relief operations in the face of such disasters or tidal flooding in the future. So breakwater is going to be constructed around these islands so that they will be safe from tsunami of

this magnitude, and also it will have all the facilities to cater for such disasters in the future. So the health facilities and logistical support will be provided.

I would like to note at this point that we lost all of our communication facilities immediately upon the impact of tsunami. So what happened was that we were not even able to find out about our constituency and our people until almost 24 to 48 hours later when communications was restored. But then it took a long time for communications to be restored in all the islands. So the Safe Islands will have the communications in place to cater for any such disaster in the future. Then they will be able to take care of the neighboring islands and the people so that we will be ready if the disaster strikes.

The Safe Island Concept is a concept that requires a lot of money and assistance. Even though Maldives has received pledges of assistance and donation, there are a lot of funding gaps in the projects and therefore recovery is not on course. For example, housing projects have been going on, but funds have not been allocated for electricity, water and sewage required for the island, because the funds that have been pledged have not materialized. So therefore these difficulties are there.

And then housing is also very difficult because of the logistical problem. Housing is going not on the one side in many islands, so therefore transportation, logistics and everything is a nightmare when compared to other countries. Therefore, it will take time and also a lot of effort.

But the good news is that tourism industry in Maldives has recovered. We had 600,000 visitors in 2004 and we hope that this target will be met at the end of this year. So therefore the recovery from tsunami is well under way.

Fishing sector has also recovered. I hereby note that the contribution made by Japan was very significant and the Japanese Government has offered the soft-loan facilities to the Maldives for the first time, and this will help in the construction of harbors and infrastructure required for full-fledged recovery from the tsunami.

I would also like to point out that the Safe Island Concept is a concept that requires international support because we have to develop as many islands as safe islands in the future. This is only way in which Maldives could be prepared for another disaster of this magnitude and also it will be the only way that Maldives could provide the logistics for the islanders. Thank you very much.

Report from Pakistan

Ms. Gul-e-Farkhanda Siddiqui, MP

Disaster Management is a systematic process of using administrative decisions, organization, operational skills and capacities to implement policies, strategies and coping capacities of the society and communities to lessen the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to avoid or limit adverse effects of hazards. Early warning systems including forecasting, dissemination of warnings, preparedness measures and reaction capacities can considerably reduce the losses.

Incorporating the ICPD Programme of Action and Millennium Development Goals into humanitarian and transitions planning helps to ensure a smooth transition from crisis to development for populations in conflict-affected or disaster-affected countries. It also contributes to social equity and poverty reduction which are important aspects of peace building. Addressing the heightened risk of maternal and infant mortality, HIV infection, sexual violence and exploitation and other reproductive health-related issues during crisis protects the life and well-being of individuals and families and reinforces prospects of community recovery.

Attention to various implications of conflicts and natural disaster of humanitarian response, and all transitions and recovery planning for men and women, girls and boys is critical for effective programs design and implementation. It prevents resources from being wasted and helps to ensure human rights, rebuild the economy and consolidated the peace.

Various divisions of the Executive Board of the UNDP and UNFPA encouraged UNFPA within its mandate to (a) provide appropriate and timely support in emergencies; (b) ensure close cooperation with partners within existing coordination mechanisms; (c) seek extra budgetary resource through the United Nation's consolidated appeal process; and (d) evaluate its organizational capacity and systematize its response to reproductive health needs in special circumstances.



I would also like to share with you Pakistan's earthquake which occurred on 8th of October 2005, related experience in relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts. An earthquake measuring 7.6 on Richter scale that rocked Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Northwest Frontier Province and other areas of Pakistan has caused unprecedented deaths and destructions. Devastation caused by the earthquake has resulted in unprecedented loss of lives and properties as well as extensive damage to social and economic infrastructure.

The magnitude of the earthquake is such that it collapsed mountains, altered the course of waterways and wiped the entire village off the face of the earth and some 400,000 houses were destroyed and need to be rebuilt. This disaster of unprecedented proportion overstretched our human and financial resources. Continuing aftershocks and inclement weather in an inaccessible and inhospitable terrain made the task of rescue and relief a daunting challenge for the Government of Pakistan.

In the wake of tragedy, our immediate priorities were to rescue the survivors, provide them with medical treatment and shelter, and to restore the essential infrastructures. To cope with the unprecedented and gigantic task of rescue and relief, the Government of Pakistan responded promptly and President Pervez Musharraf ordered for deployment of over 30,000 army troops in the affected area within hours of the calamity.

A Government Committee on Reconstruction and Rehabilitation was constituted by the Prime Minister to oversee the work of relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation. A full time Relief Commissioner was appointed to coordinate all rescue and relief operations and channelize the unprecedented response of Pakistani nation for providing assistance in cash and kind.

The response of the international community was equally prompt and within hours, relief and rescue teams from a number of countries were on the way in the earthquake-affected areas. The Government of Pakistan gratefully acknowledges the support of the international community in this hour of need.

The United Nations on its part also acted very swiftly and issued the first appeal within 72 hours of the earthquake. The UNDP, in Pakistan in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, immediately prepared a relief and recovery strategy involving various UN agencies and constituting a number of cluster groups. The Government of Pakistan gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the UN system and UNDP towards the earthquake relief. UNFPA efforts were also commendable to approach the victimized in the earthquake-hit areas of Pakistan.

UNFPA was among the first agencies that reached those areas located in difficult terrains, and brought in mobile medical units and provided effective aid to disaster-stricken areas. UNFPA reproductive health kit and hygiene kit really met the needs to affected women living in tents. The Ministry of Population Welfare also arranged various medical relief activities through mobile service units and provided reproductive health and family planning services to women living in earthquake areas.

To proceed from the phase of rescue, relief and early recovery to reconstruction and rehabilitation, the Government of Pakistan has established an Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authorities (ERRA) with the responsibility to prepare a master plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake-affected areas and coordinate all the construction activities in the earthquake-affected area by various agencies and civil society. A detailed assessment of the losses suffered and the reconstruction and rehabilitation requirement was prepared within 5 weeks from the earthquake by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, Government of Pakistan and several other bilateral and multilateral donors.

Though we are still in the midst of relief phase, I will conclude by sharing some of the following major lessons and experience learned from the disaster in Pakistan that are important for disaster management and sustainable development.

These are the points:

- The lack of preparedness in dealing with the aftermaths of natural disaster still remains a major challenge for developing countries. The disaster preparedness and management plan need to be mainstreamed by preparing plans for achievement of Millennium Development Goals.
- The poor and vulnerable suffer the most in such tragedies. Any further plan needs to especially cater for these groups.
- United Nations could play a key role in complying and disseminating international best practice for preparations of natural disaster preparedness plans for various countries.
- Effective coordination between donor countries, civil society and private sector has been a major factor in organizing smooth relief and recovery operations in Pakistan.
- The government took up the challenge and accepted the lead role in coordinating the relief and reconstruction efforts.
- The role of the UN coordinators needs to be strengthened to provide effective assistance in the relief in line with the national properties and finally the involvement and consultations with the affected communities should not be ignored as the ownership of the entire efforts from the concerned communities can be assured reasons for its success.
- The process and procedures for provisions of relief assistance need to be kept simple and least bureaucratic whereby both the national government and bilateral and multilateral donors need to put in place fast track procedures to provide timely help.
- The timing and scale of these natural disasters requires much greater attention and finances from the international community that can be quickly mobilized in the event of disaster caused by nature, wars and others.
- International cooperation can also help for reconstruction and essentials for sustainable development to meet the Millennium and ICPD goals.

Thank you.

Report from Sri Lanka

Mr. Kumara Welgama, Industrial Development Minister

At the outset, may I take this opportunity to express the deep appreciation of my delegation and also from the Government of Sri Lanka to the organizers, Asian Population and Development Association for inviting the Government of Sri Lanka to send a delegation for this very important meeting.

Just as most of the countries represented by the distinguished delegates present here, Sri Lanka is also subject to a wide range of natural hazards and disasters. But in the annals of our history, no disaster of the magnitude of 26 December 2004 Tsunami has been recorded. Therefore, in my short speech, I would like to focus mainly on the tsunami disaster and share with you some experience and lessons we learned in facing challenges of emergency situation caused by the disaster and recovery and reconstruction efforts.

The destruction caused by Tsunami was such that 35,000 lost their lives and another 5,000 have been reported missing. Number of families affected stands at 260,967, and 98,000 houses were destroyed and 150,000 livelihoods was lost 50% of which was in the fisheries sector.

Coastal districts of Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu—that is to the north in the eastern province—Mullaitivu and Jaffna are in the north, account for 93% of all affected families.

The instant and immediate emergencies after Tsunami struck the shores of the country were to ease the humanitarian misery such as rescuing the buried alive and the ones drifting off sea, save the life of seriously wounded, bury the dead in mass graves, provide general medical attention, provide nourishment to the survivors who lost almost everything, reunite displaced family members, provide therapy to traumatized victims, especially children, and provide temporary shelters.



Help and assistance came from all over the world, which helped ease the emergency situation to more manageable levels and also was instrumental in avoiding the feared emergence of an epidemic of infectious diseases, which usually follow the disaster of this magnitude. Even though the tsunami was an exceptional event, there were many lessons to be learned and challenges to be overcome.

The unprecedented public response and the dedication and commitment of both government and non-government actors in responding to the disaster were excellent. Approximately 43 foreign military forces gave assistance during the emergency period. Coordination of such large number of forces is inherently complex. On the whole, it was done well and the operation was very successful and coordination was reasonably effective. However, there were periods of under-utilization and mechanisms need to be developed to minimize these occurrences.

National Disaster Management Center which was in existence at the time of striking performed a very useful information management function, for the Center for National Operations, which was immediately set up after tsunami in order to provide a one-stop shop service.

Department of Cooperatives and Social Services and government agents of the affected districts played significant roles under enormous pressure. It should also be noted that existing INGOs and NGOs were mobilized within hours and redeployed resources from around the country.

The private sector was mobilized within hours and contributed very significantly in the early difficult period. The military and police were deployed quickly and effectively to support those

affected and minimized secondary problems. The general public responded magnificently in traditional self-help style.

Soon after the tsunami struck the country, following special institutions were established under the purview of the Office of His Excellence the President with the focus on rebuilding, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

1. Rehabilitation of persons, properties of industries (REPPIA)
2. Task force for rebuilding the nation (TAFREN)
3. Task force for Relief (TAFOR)

After achieving individual-specific tasks entrusted to these agencies in a period of more than one year, a single agency was set up, merging all of these; Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA) in order to coordinate various multilateral and bilateral donor funded programs associated with such work under one roof.

It is to be noted that now 75% of households that lost their main source of income are back at work in short- or medium-term. Hundred percent of boats have been replaced except few one-day and multi-day boats. Thirty percent of fishing gear has been replaced within the intervention of the government, but surveys reveal that most of fishing gear has been purchased by beneficiaries themselves. Productivity in the fisheries sector has been estimated to have reached 85% of the pre-tsunami level. In the agricultural sector, productivity also stands at 85% of the pre-tsunami level. Ninety percent of hotels, guest houses and restaurants are back in operation. Twenty thousand fifty-seven hundred thirty five loans and grants were provided to micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises, amounting to total disbursement of Rs. 4,769 million.

Though our country is vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards and disasters, we have no thoughtful, robust and realistic disaster management preparedness plans. Also we need to place emphasis on the need to closely consider institutional preparedness and to focus on standards, guiding principles and values which should form a part of framework for emergency and reconstruction initiatives.

There was no clear warning system to raise the alarm regarding the impending Tsunami conditions. The government needs to adopt a strategic approach to early warning and disaster mitigations. This needs to be incorporated into disaster preparedness strategy, covering a broad range of potential disasters and be decentralized to the district levels.

At the district level it was felt that while total responsibility lies with the government agents, they did not always have the authority to take independent actions and mobilize the resources. Clarity concerning what powers should be efficiently decentralized is needed so that provinces and districts are clear on the level of authority and the amount of resources available for their mobilization.

It was also found that there was no adequate linkage and command and control structures between district secretaries, provincial councils, municipal authorities and other public bodies. That led to delay in mobilization of resources and underutilization of resources.

I just touched upon only a few points that created the disaster faced by my country taught us for the benefit of other countries represented by you, and I hope that it will be useful during the deliberations of this meeting as well.

Finally extending my greetings to the meeting, once again I conclude my brief speech. Thank you.

Report from India (1)

Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, MP

I am very happy to be here on this auspicious occasion of this Conference on Disaster Management and Reconstruction Toward Sustainable Development for the Asian Countries.

We have long association with Japan from the ancient period of the Lord of Buddha who traveled and spread Buddhism. So we have a lot of social, cultural and spiritual tie with Japan for a long period of time. I come from a country where multi-plural culture exists. I will give an example from a song from Raj Kapoor. It means, “My shoes are Japanese, my cap is Russian but my heart is Indian”.

I would like to recall our association with Japan and with sweet memories of Subhash Chandra Bose, who was a freedom fighter for our country to relieve us from the British Imperialism during the Second World War.

Coming to the point, I would like to say a few words regarding disaster management. As Japan is much more advanced in technology and other developments, the problems of disasters like the earthquake, tsunami, typhoon and volcano eruption are well-known to the Japanese people. And we hope to learn so many things from this country in mitigation and reduction of disasters all over the world.

Coming back to the subject again, as I told, India is a multi-plural country; we are facing multi-plural disasters, too. They include earthquake, tsunami, drought, heavy floods, cyclones, chemical and wild fires, gaseous and oil spill explosions, various types of train and vehicular accidents, poisoning, epidemics of various diseases, riots, terrorist attacks and biological disasters. All these are enumerated as disasters nowadays all over the world.

On 26th of January 2001, there are no words that could adequately describe what had happened to Gujarat, in the western part of India, on this historic day of 26th of January when people were celebrating our 52nd Republic Day. An earthquake having an epicenter northwest to Bhuj, having a magnitude of 6.9 in Richter scale, shocked the entire state of Gujarat.



The immediate response of the State Government was to airlift a team of high officials led by Chief Secretary for providing medical relief and handling the site of works immediately. There was a total collapse of telecommunication system—there was no communication between the earthquake-affected area and government machinery. Government declared a state of alert and made an appeal to public. All officials and employees, including those who were on the leave, joined the duty immediately.

The State Government also declared Saturday and Sunday as working days and announced that it would welcome any volunteers and NGOs who come forward to work for the relief operations, rescue operations and rehabilitation works. Immediately after the earthquake, the worst of worst-affected was that hospitals were totally collapsed and killed doctors, so doctors from nursing homes were asked to come forward to perform first-aid services and emergency operations. Some doctors were air-lifted from various areas such as Mumbai, Delhi and other parts of the country. The State Government decided to mobilize all available resources of heavy equipments from various departments for clearing the debris from all over from earthquake-affected sites.

The message was flashed all over the world to help and rescue teams of 18 countries came to help and work in various rescue activities immediately. The first activity of the government was to save lives and then to find the dead bodies and send them for cremation. And medical treatment was offered immediately as I told earlier. Local administrations in all states were alerted to see the extent of earthquake disaster and they were asked to report immediately.

Hence this was the government's initiative. But I would like to tell you about the public cooperation response. Immediately I was there on the site on the same evening and when I visited one of the villages, I asked what had happened. People said because of this 26 January, we were hoisting flags at schools. So almost 99% of villagers were out of their houses at 9 o'clock in the morning. And when the earthquake struck, they immediately counted their total population of the village. And only 2 persons—a 98 year-old female and an 18-year old girl—2 ladies were missing in the entire village. Immediately young lads came forward and found the ladies from houses where they found 2 bodies. What happened after that? Were they satisfied? What had happened had happened. Everyone survived except for 2 persons.

They immediately started a community kitchen at the school. At 12 o'clock they all had full-fledged community kitchen that offered lunch. This was the immediate community response. And they went to the next village. Twenty young people went to the next village where the disaster was more severe. Twenty people had died there. They helped the people with recovery, taking people out of debris and taking them to the hospital. Then they started making food baskets for distribution in the affected areas. So the immediate response of the community was very good and positive.

On the second day, the day was dispose day for places where the damage was substantial and organize relief and rescue work. So the government flew all over the affected areas. Many of the government officials had also suffered damage, either their family members died, their mother or father died, their children had died. But after cremating the dead persons, they started to do their job. They joined their duty and they started working for the relief work. I think this is the best part of the story.

On the day 2, the State Government was supplemented by relief agencies that supplied essential food such as milk powder, water and medicine to the affected areas. And all governmental machineries in the areas where people were working on removal of debris and for people that were under the debris.

Next day, again, the same work continued and the Central Government came into the picture, including all the departments in the field of telecommunication to irrigation, while the military came into action by bringing food to affected areas. Similarly, the State Government started providing temporary shelters to the concerned villagers, the earthquake-affected people. There were temporary accommodations, either in schools or in the tents. More than 1 lakh families, 4.5 lakh persons were affected by this calamity.

The best part was that the then Prime Minister of India immediately visited the affected areas of Gujarat and he assured all types of help from the Central Government without any hesitation. That was the message of sovereignty and solidarity was received by with very good response from the people and they raised the morale of the affected people.

One thousand 6 hundred villages and entities were damaged, and more than 50% of houses had collapsed. After the rescue and relief operation in Gujarat, the world has really become borderless with the power of electronic video and communication, and Gujarat was able to receive not only attention in these crises but it received sympathy offered by all the assistance that one could envision. The Government of India relaxed many rules and regulations, and crisis management group was able to attend to all the requests of the State Government with promptitude and sympathy. Hot line communication between Prime Minister's Office, State Minister's Office and government officials was working throughout 24 hours.

I am placing these thanks on the record for the people in appreciation for those who had made their best efforts. It includes government servants, social workers, youth and old—all workers with the best capability for the rescue and rehabilitation works. There were many occasions of courage, bravery, sacrifice and dedications all throughout this operations.

After these rescue and rehabilitation, the phase of reconstruction came. The Government declared the "Fifty-Fifty Percent Scheme". Fifty percent by NGOs and fifty percent by the state and central government for construction of the houses, schools and hospitals. And so many NGOs and donations came forward for such type of projects.

I would like to say that it turned into blessing in disguise. Previous day, it was really a shocking event for us. But after 6 months or 1 year, it turned into a blessing in disguise because of such type of recovery and reconstruction efforts from governments and various institutions. There was a task used as rehabilitation of orphans and widows, handicapped and disabled. For that NGOs and government came forward. And there was psychological upset among the people, so there was social counseling which proved really good for the treatment of psychologically-upset persons.

After this earthquake, the government realized that disaster management centers are highly needed. And for that, considerable disaster management planning must be registered and government started disaster-preparedness measures. Immediately after this introduction of comprehensive process of vulnerability learning system, reassessment was performed, then building robust and sound information database was performed and created state-of-the-art infrastructure.

But how we should go and acquire the help of developed countries like Japan. You have so much better technology and learning institutes. If we were to utilize your skills for the training of our personnel and use of equipments, they could be used for mobilization and rescue operations.

Then capacity building of the people. Training is the integral part of capacity building as its main component to respond to different disasters. And therefore, multi-sectoral and multi-hazard situation-based approach to the disaster management is required. The focus on the preventive disaster management and development of master plan for awareness and lesson among the people at all levels, lies from the school to community levels.

For facilities for government personnel, as I told you, we started National Center for Disaster Management afterwards. Then we started 4 states to do training where more than 5,000 personnel were trained and we have a disaster management team ready at any time with all the equipment from various parts of the world.

The community-level initiative is education and training and information dissemination, and empowering of the community to overcome disasters, already started not only in earthquake-affected areas but all over the country. We have started a disaster management system. We also have budgetary allocation every year for better construction and building activities as well. We have disaster management authority, and we have passed a bill regarding master disaster management and from where to find the money and what other regulations are there.

And lastly I would like to mention that sustainability is the keyword in the development process and that we have adopted. The development activities that do not consider the disaster laws will fail to be sustainable. That is why all the development schemes we have given priority to plants and buildings, whatever activities are there, we will keep in mind the disaster and rescue operations before building new plants. Meticulous measures at individual levels and at community levels are also taken. Insurance is a potentially important measure and there to be taken into consideration.

Lastly, I would like to summarize. India is heading for disaster mitigation in the future. Technological experience of the developed countries, and the trainings offered by countries like Japan, will boost our morale for disaster reduction. I request you to be a part of the initiative for better society tomorrow. In the end I would like to again recollect one sentence from a very old man that I met when I was visiting the earthquake-affected people. At night, on the second day, I was in my constituency, when an old person said, in Gujarati:

“The Nature has done its job, we have to now perform our duties. Whatever has happened has happened. Now we have to start of rescue activities, rehabilitation activities, reconstruction activities and activities for helping the others”. I think this is a message from an old man who is not educated but his wisdom prevails. We also must go for such type of disaster mitigation and hoping for the best of the society all over the world. Thank you very much.

I have spoken only about the subject. My colleague will speak something about the tsunami also. He is coming from Andaman & Nicobar Island, which was struck with tsunami.

Report from India (2)

Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta, MP

It is my profound privilege to be here. I have to say something about disaster management which we have seen and what has happened to the disaster caused by the natural tsunami episode.

All of you are fully aware of Japan particularly as a country, which has always faced different types of disasters in the world, and they have very capably and meticulously faced such problems in that area. And they were never disheartened.

The tsunami, particularly, is a new thing to us. We have seen floods, we have seen earthquake, we have seen drought, we have seen different types of human problems, but not the tsunami. This is the first time. I remember 26th of December, 2004, I was sitting in my house. At about 6:30, all of a sudden, people started shouting on the road. What happened? The water is coming inside. At that time, we did not know what type of water it was. But the water was coming inside and people were shouting, and I also went out to the street and saw water 2 or 3 feet deep. But it receded after some time. I went to the governor's house and asked for the news. Because Andaman & Nicobar Island is an island territory, we have more than 700 islands and 8,349 square kilometers in area. We are very close to Indonesia and Thailand. We are almost near the border. And those areas suffered the most.

In Nicobar District, which had suffered, many of the villages were washed away. Many of the people, about 7,000 people, died or were missing, and about 39 islands went under the water. Agricultural land also went under water. We were not able to find about what had happened and what the effect of the disaster was. For 1 week to 15 days, there was a logistical problem. You could not reach some

parts immediately. You had to take ships but everything was washed away. There was one runway and we reached there by helicopter. What we have seen was dead bodies lying here, and on the runway there was air force that had been stationed and more than 200 people died there. There were also women and children. The day before that day was 25th of December. Most of the people there were Christians, so they enjoyed the whole night and in the morning hours suddenly these things happened. Those people that survived were with the clothes they were wearing the night before and nothing else was there. So I cannot describe you what I have seen there.

Next day, UPA Government's Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee both landed on that place and immediately started to order the defense people, Air Force, Army and Navy to all start carrying out a joint rescue operation and relief cooperation. All the aircrafts were deployed and they were used to bring water, bottled water, food and biscuit. I can tell you by immediate and timely action that would save not only human beings but at the same time there were no epidemics in that part of the country. And thereafter, right from the Prime Minister, President of India and all the important ministers visited those islands and gave all necessary assistance to the region.



Thereafter, we have now started disaster management activities. We have made it into a school curriculum. All the students will have to read about what disaster is and how to face it. So that we have started. We have started on the livelihood level. We have already built 11,000 houses for temporary shelter. Now there will be permanent shelter. That section has already been started. I must tell that international community and not only all over the world but also in our country, everybody

came and started helping. And many NGOs also came and offered their helping hand. In my opinion, this is a global problem. It should be sorted out globally and internationally. If it cannot be faced by one country, all the countries have to do it together. If we start doing it, I think this problem can be reduced. But I do not think we can fight the nature. Nature is supreme, and in that case we have to work in the manner by such time of episode of disaster by our will, as people say.

Another thing I tell you. Many of the international issues are there, but there are also common interests. In that common interest area, we can certainly play a role, and that can be helpful for the humanity. I have given some of the work we had done in a very detailed manner which you can read. I must appreciate the Government of Japan, Foreign Ministry of Japan and all the participating governments that we are here for a very good cause. I thank you very much, all of you, and by which we also have the opportunity to know something about your country and what you are doing. Thank you very much.

Session II

Japan's Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance for Asian Countries

Session II

Chairperson:

**Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Chairperson of Organizing Committee/
JPFP Vice-Chairperson (Japan)**

CHAIRPERSON:

We would like to start the afternoon session. We have 2 resource persons. The first person is Mr. Fuwa and the other person is Mr. Ota. Each resource person will give us a speech for 20 minutes. And after that we are going to have a discussion. Mr. Ota is going to start first.

Japan's Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance for Asian Countries (1)

Resource Person:

**Mr. Koji Ota, Team Director, Training Team,
Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR), JICA**

This is my honor and pleasure to have this kind of opportunity to make the presentation about our activities. Today, I am going to provide a presentation about the Japanese Government's emergency response to the tsunami disaster which occurred on 26 December, 2004.

Before I go into my presentation, please allow me to introduce myself a little more. I was born in Kobe. Eleven years ago, Kobe was hit by an earthquake. That time, my parents and my sister were living in Kobe. I realized that time that disaster is unreasonable and that it puts us in a very difficult situation. I stayed in Kobe for 3 weeks immediately after the disaster occurred. I realized then that assistance from others is very valuable. Such assistance mitigated the pain experienced by my parents due to the disaster. As a member of JICA staff, I would like to contribute to the disaster response activities and want to contribute to disaster preparedness in order to help reduce the damage from the disaster.

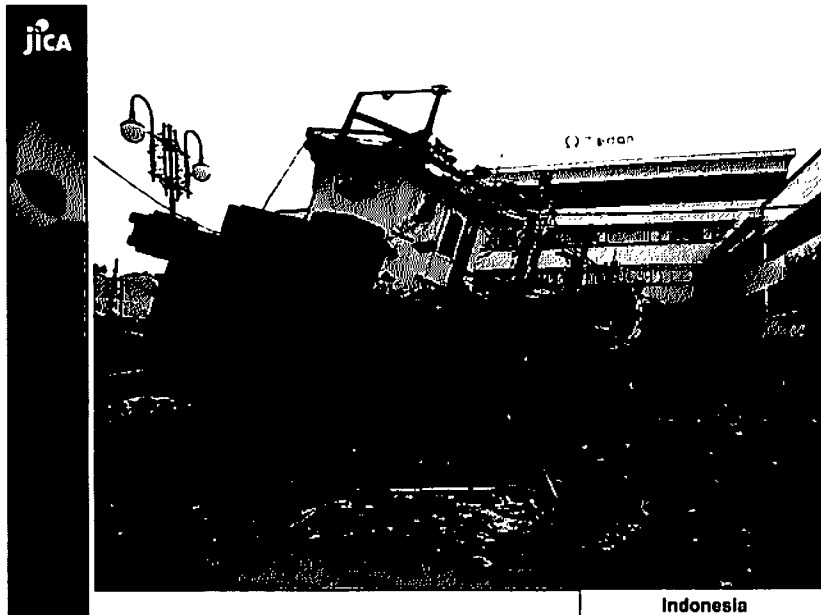


In the first part of my presentation, I would like to summarize the tsunami disaster. As I mentioned, it occurred in the early morning of December 26, 2004. Here, at Universal Time Coordinate shows 00:58:53 hour. The size of the disaster was 9.1 in Richter scale. It was a really large earthquake that affected more than 12 countries, including the countries not only in Asia but also in Africa. The total number of deaths and missing exceeds 300,000.

When we look at the speed and extent of the tsunami, just 7 hours after the disaster, the tsunami reached the African continent. This is tsunami affected many countries around the Indian Ocean. The tsunami reached Asian countries in 2 to 3 hours. That means that the speed of expansion is very quick.

The Japanese Government made a decision to send an emergency relief team to the affected countries. I was dispatched to Banda Aceh immediately after the disaster. I arrived in Indonesia on the 27th of December, on the next day of the tsunami disaster. Everything was washed out and nothing remained.

This photo shows the energy demonstrated by the tsunami. This is about 3 kilometers from the beach. A ship of this size has been carried over that distance.



This is a photo from Sri Lanka. As I told you, the tsunami washes away towns away but leaves some debris behind. We find this huge debris in places that were hit by the tsunami.




After the disasters, affected people faced very difficult situations. They have to live in temporary houses or tents. In these kinds of houses or tents, social infrastructure is insufficient and people are looking for safe water, proper medical service, and ordinary social service.

Here, I would like to summarize the emergency response efforts made by the Japanese Government. The purpose of this emergency response lies in mitigating the pain experienced by the affected people. Affected people are facing a lot of difficulties. They are also experiencing physical pain as well as psychological pain.

Japanese Government's emergency response can be divided into 3 components. First is the dispatch of humanitarian personal assistance. So the Japanese Government dispatched medical teams, expert teams, Self-Defense Forces, rescue team and so on. The second one is the provision of emergency relief goods. The Japanese Government also extends assistance through Japanese NGOs.

In terms of personal assistance, Japanese Government dispatched 7 medical teams to 4 countries; i.e. Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. Two rescue teams were sent to Thailand. Japan also sent 4 expert teams; 2 to Thailand, 1 to Maldives and 1 to Sri Lanka. The Japanese Government also dispatched a rapid assessment team to Banda Aceh because it was close to the epicenter of the earthquake. Actually, we did not have accurate information about the extent of the disaster because even mass media could not get there. We were facing the problem of lack of information, so we dispatched our assessment team to Banda Aceh. The team left Japan on 27th of December. In addition, 2 Self-Defense Forces fleets were deployed; one unit was deployed to Thailand and the other to Indonesia. This is personal assistance.



**Outline of Emergency Response
by Japanese Government
- For Mitigation of Pain of Affected People -
Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:
(Total Number of Personnel : Approx 1,800+)**

- 7 Medical Teams**
- 2 Rescue Teams**
- 4 Expert Teams**
- 1 Rapid Assessment Team**
- 2 Units of Self Defense Force**

**Provision of Emergency Relief Goods
To 4 Countries
Emergency Assistance through NGOs**

The Japanese Government also provided emergency relief items through JICA. Four countries were targeted, i.e. Maldives, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Many Japanese NGOs applied for funds from the Japanese Government and carried out their activities in the affected countries.

I am going to go over the assistance offered by the Japanese Government to each country. Before I move on, there are some important things that I have to explain. Japanese Government, of course, can extend assistance based on requests from the affected countries. We understand that disaster should be managed by respective affected countries. There are times when the scale of disaster exceeds the capacity of affected countries. In such cases, these countries can ask for assistance from other countries and the international community can respond to such request.

We received such request from Sri Lanka immediately after the occurrence of the tsunami disaster. So we dispatched 2 medical teams and one expert team for needs assessment immediately after the emergency period, so recovery and rehabilitation can be attained. That is why we sent our expert team to share the information about the damage caused by the disaster. We have to share the information to discuss what kind of cooperation can be offered in the future for recovery and reconstruction.



2-1 Emergency Response

to Each Country

Sri Lanka

Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:

2 Medical Teams

- From 27th Dec. to 18th Jan.
- Supporting local medical system 2,207patients

1 Expert Team for Needs Assessment

- From 16th Jan. to 31st Jan.

Provision of Emergency Relief Goods

1st Jan. Tents, Sleeping mats, Generators, etc.

We also provide emergency relief goods. On the 1st of January, we handed these goods to the government of Sri Lanka. One characteristic of our emergency relief is the system for provision of equipment. We have 4 warehouses around the world and one of them is located in Singapore. We directly send those items from the warehouse in Singapore to Sri Lanka. So the time for procurement is not needed. That is why we were able to send those commodities to the affected countries on January 1st.

In addition, rapidness is very important in emergency response. That is why we try to dispatch our team as soon as possible. Our medical team was the first team from the international community to arrive in Sri Lanka. They started offering medical service soon after that. Our activity in Sri Lanka focuses on supporting the local medical system. There were damaged existing medical systems, so we assisted that system. Immediately after we arrived at our activity site in Sri Lanka, the affected people made a long queue. There was damaged local medical system, so we wanted to utilize that system. We had a discussion with their personnel and we conducted a sort of health education for small children. We taught them the importance of gargling and washing hands.

Our next destination was Indonesia. We dispatched our rapid assessment team on the 27th and were able to understand what happened in Banda Aceh. Immediately after that we dispatched 3 medical teams. We supported the local medical system here also. We were wondering about the spread of infectious diseases and the extent of need for psychological care. So we sent specialists on mental care and infectious diseases. We also offered advice to the Indonesian Government and UN system. The Japanese Government also dispatched 1 unit of Self-Defense Forces. The Self-Defense Forces

units were dispatched from January 6th. They started their activities from the middle of January and took over the work that was being performed by the civilian medical team. Self-Defense Forces also have a very unique capacity; the logistic capacity. They have helicopters and special machinery, so they helped the Indonesian Government in distributing relief goods for the affected people. Self-Defense Forces also have a special capacity for prevention of epidemics. They have a sprayer that they used for spraying a broad area of Banda Aceh to prevent infectious diseases. Japanese Government also made the decision to provide emergency relief items. They were handed over to the Indonesian Government on 30th of December.

JICA **2-2 Emergency Response**
to Each Country ***Indonesia***

Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:

- 1 Rapid Assessment Teams**
 - From 27th Dec. to 6th Jan.
- 3 Medical Teams**
 - From 30th Dec. to 31st Jan.
 - Supporting local medical system 2,844 patients
 - Advice on Infectious Diseases and Mental Care
- 1 Unit of Self Defense Force**
 - From 6th Jan. to 23th Mar.
 - Providing logistics capacities (Helicopters, etc.)
 - Supporting local medical system 5,885 patients
 - Spraying for Prevention of Epidemics/Vaccination

Provision of Emergency Relief Goods
30th Dec. Tents, Generators, Blankets, Water tanks, etc.

I want to explain about our medical team. When we send medical teams, we do not send just surgeons. We understand that among the affected people, there are small babies and pregnant women, so we have to extend broad-range medical assistance to the affected people. That is why we always send pediatricians and female doctors. We had a long queue in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. We always feel the limitation of our resources in these situations. We wanted to do lots of things but the number of our staff was limited and so were our supplies. To overcome this situation, we always try to cooperate with other organizations. For example, we asked Indonesian University to provide health education to the people in the queue in front of our clinic. A lecturer from University of Indonesia gave a lecture on primary health particularly to women.

Let us move on to Thailand. Maritime Self Defense Forces were near Thailand at that time. The Government of Japan therefore made the decision to send them there. They started their activities from 28th of December. They used their helicopters and offered logistic support particularly for the distribution of relief items. We dispatched 2 rescue teams from 29th of December to 20th of January. Naturally, their activities involved search and rescue. They also face a very difficult job such as finding bodies and remaining items. The rescue team also brought helicopters from Tokyo that provided logistic support. We also sent a medical team to Thailand. Many affected people were afraid to stay near the beach so they were staying at the foothills. Our team went to those areas to provide mobile clinic services to the affected people.

In Thailand, we also dispatched 2 expert teams. One team specialized in disaster victim identification. International victim identification team was being formed at the time so we cooperated with their activities. We also received a request from the Thai Government to transfer urban search and rescue skills. We also provided emergency relief goods to Thailand.



2-3 Emergency Response

to Each Country

Thailand (1)

Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:

1 Unit of Self Defense Force

- From 28th Dec. to 1st Jan.
- Providing logistics capacities (Helicopters)

2 Rescue Teams

- From 29th Dec. to 20th Jan.
- Activities of Search and Rescue
- Providing logistics capacities (Helicopters)

1 Medical Team

- From 30th Dec. to 12th Jan.
- Mobile Clinic and Promotion of Public Health
at Evacuation Centers 1,050patients

2-3 Emergency Response to Each Country *Thailand (2)*

Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:

2 Expert Teams

- (1) Disaster Victims Identification Team**
 - From 4th Jan. to 16th Jan.
 - Cooperation to International DVI Center
- (2) Technical Advice Team for Search / Rescue**
 - From 7th Jan. to 20th Jan.
 - Providing Technical Advice on urban Search & Rescue

Provision of Emergency Relief Goods

Tents, Generators, Blankets, Medicine, etc.

The situation in Thailand was very difficult for the rescue teams. So many people were suffering from serious depression. Our team always worked together with local NGOs so we assisted the local resources.

We set up this kind of mobile clinic in the rural area gave treatment to the affected people.

In Thailand, we also realized the importance of education for small children regarding prevention of infectious diseases. We prepared a small drama and showed it to these children. We were also teaching the importance of hand washing, gargling and boiling water for drinking.

The final one is Maldives. We dispatched one medical team from 29th of December. Actually, this team faced serious difficulties because Maldives is comprised of many islands and it was very difficult to find a proper transportation for the medical team. We tried to set up a mobile clinic on the remote islands. We also dispatched 1 expert team for needs assessment for rehabilitation and reconstruction. We also provided emergency relief goods to Maldives. We finally found a water taxi, and we used this to visit many islands to provide medical services. When we landed on small islands, many patients came to our clinic.

2-4 Emergency Response**to Each Country*****Maldives*****Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams:****1 Medical Teams**

- From 29th Dec. to 8th Jan. 229 patients
- Mobile Clinic in Remote Islands
- Contribution by JOCV Volunteers

1 Expert Team for Needs Assessment

- From 27th Jan. to 1st Feb.

Provision of Emergency Relief Goods

Tents, Generators, Water tanks, Blankets, etc.

JICA is carrying out the program of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. Many young Japanese volunteers are working with Maldivian people and some of these volunteers offered to help the affected people, so they voluntarily visited these schools to encourage the small children that were affected. They tried to contribute to the affected people.

I have been talking up to now about the activities we carried out in each country. At the end of my presentation, I would like to tell you about our challenge. The target of emergency relief is mitigating the pain of the affected people. But we always have to have a view towards the reconstruction and preparedness. Japan's disaster relief can only respond in the area of rescue and relief. But these days we understand how to continue to the next phase. From the rescue and emergency phase to the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase—the connection of these 2 phases is very important. That is why during this disaster we sent expert teams to Sri Lanka and Maldives to perform the needs assessment for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

3 Challenges on Emergency Relief

Emergency Relief with long term vision

- Idea of Disaster Management Cycle



- Coordination of All Resource of Relief

We are also trying to coordinate all resources for the relief. We are always feeling the limitation of resources. We sent a total 1,800 personnel to this disaster but this number is still not enough. We are always thinking about how to get maximum output from minimum input. The key lies in coordination among all resources. So we have to cooperate with international NGOs, Japanese NGOs, and local NGOs. Self Defense Forces and other military organizations. So this is our challenge. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Ota. They have been engaging in relief activities in local places. I hope this will be of reference. Next, we would like to ask Mr. Fuwa to give his presentation. Mr. Fuwa, please.

Japan's Emergency and Reconstruction Assistance for Asian Countries (2)

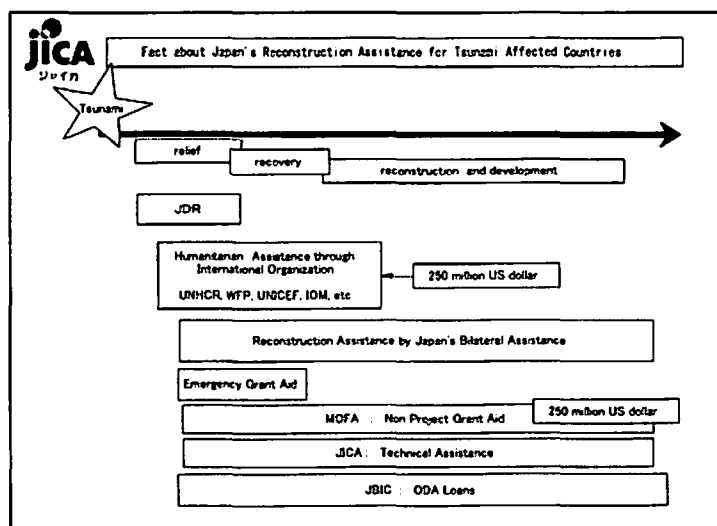
Resource Person:

**Mr. Masami Fuwa, Senior Assistant to the Director-General,
Social Development Department, JICA**

It is a great honor and I truly appreciate this opportunity given to me. My name is Masami Fuwa from JICA. Mr. Ota has just explained about our mission. I was the head of this mission that visited Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2005, January 16. Today, in the theme of "Japan's emergency and reconstruction assistance for Asian countries, reconstruction assistance for tsunami-affected countries and relief activities", out of which, in my presentation I would like to talk about reconstruction assistance provided for tsunami-affected countries.

My presentation will be spread into roughly 2 parts. Part 1 will be on facts about Japan's reconstruction assistance for tsunami-affected countries, the efforts of which are still continuing today. And in part 2, I would like to relay to you our experience in Sri Lanka. This is an example of taking full advantage of the strength of the community, and reconstruction efforts for sustainable development by fully mobilizing the utilizing the strength of the local community and individual capability.

This shows you the flow of activities and events. Starting from the left, that is the occurrence of tsunami. And the arrow there points to chronological development, the time passage, and first, we begin with relief activities. This will be followed by recovery efforts and further followed by reconstruction and development efforts.





Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR) arrived in Sri Lanka the day after the tsunami hit the area. It was followed by humanitarian assistance through international organization. The Japanese Government donated approximately 250 million US dollars to international organizations including UNHCR, World Food Program, UNICEF and International Organization for Migration and so forth, so that temporary housing and other humanitarian assistance will be given. This is done quickly right after the disaster.

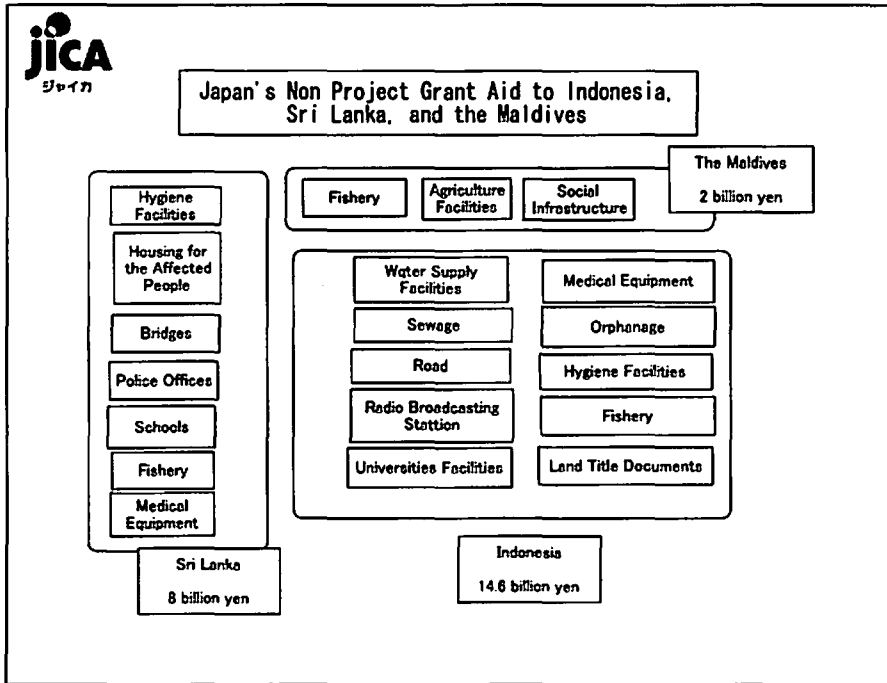
And the reconstruction assistance begins. Japanese Government first of all gave 250 million US dollars as a bilateral donation. Apart from this there were emergency aid, JICA technical assistance aid and ODA loans. All of these loans and grants were provided.

Chronologically, for reconstruction and recovery, how many years would usually take? In case of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, it was 3 years after the earthquake hit the area that the last person left the temporary housing. So as you can see, reconstruction efforts take a long time.

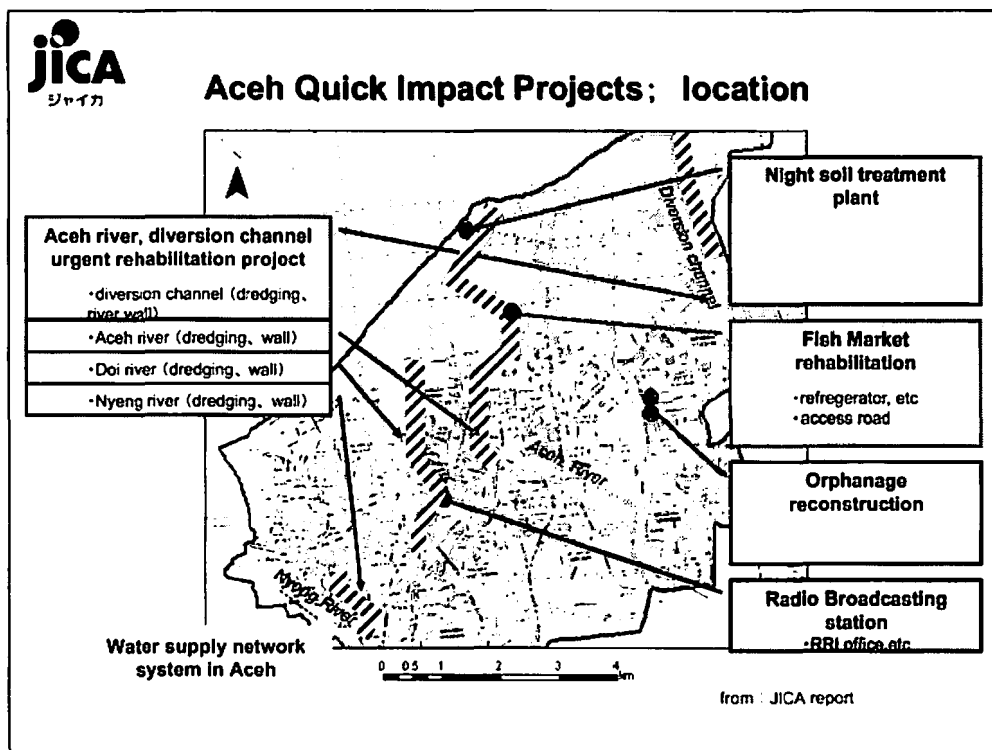
This chart shows the breakdown of usage of US\$ 250 million provided as non-project grant aid from the Japanese Government to Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives. This non-project grant aid was given to 3 countries; to Indonesia, approximately 14.6 billion yen; to Sri Lanka 8 billion yen; and Maldives 2 billion yen. In Indonesia, the aid was given to Banda Aceh, the west coast of Banda Aceh, and these areas required the relief funds for reconstruction. To give you a more precise breakdown, the funds were used for water supply facilities, sewage, reconstruction of roads, radio broadcasting stations, university facilities, medical equipment, reconstruction of orphanage, hygiene facilities, construction of fishery facilities, and land title documents.

In Maldives, industries in the affected areas were basically tourism and fisheries. Funds were used for reconstruction of fisheries and agricultural facilities as well as social infrastructure, including the

coastal area. In the case of Sri Lanka, the funds were used for reconstruction of hygiene facilities and housing for the affected people. The funds were used for reconstruction of bridges, police offices, schools, fisheries and medical equipment.

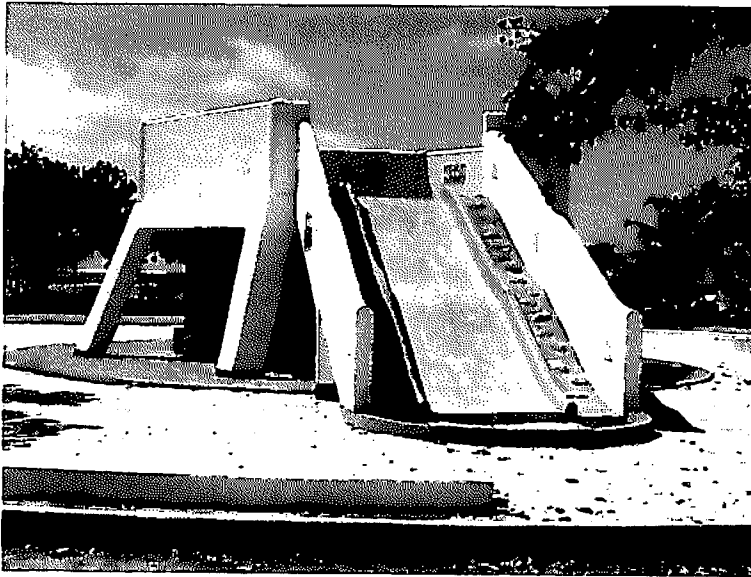


This gives you some ideas about geographical location. The blue section up there is the ocean and from there the tsunami hit the inland area. At the right hand side, you see a diversion channel. This is Aceh River and Doi River and then there is Nyeng River at the far left of the map. So along these rivers, the tsunami traveled inland. And there was a night soil treatment plant on the right hand side at the top and there was fish market rehabilitation that was located in Nambrok. There was an orphanage that we constructed. We also reconstructed the radio broadcasting station and the diversion tunnel and other facilities were covered in the urgent rehabilitation efforts. Water supply network system was also reconstructed.



On the west coast of Aceh, in the middle of the jungle, they had to build and open a new road. In the Maldives, fishing boats are in the process of reconstruction. Also, in the Maldives, the Laamu Atoll, about 500 kilometers from Male, was a heavily devastated area by the tsunami and the sewage system reconstruction was undertaken in this area.

In cooperation with the local community, we stepped up the efforts for self-protection against disasters. In order to do this, we decided to erect a monument with the cooperation of local residents. This was made from coral reef and cement.



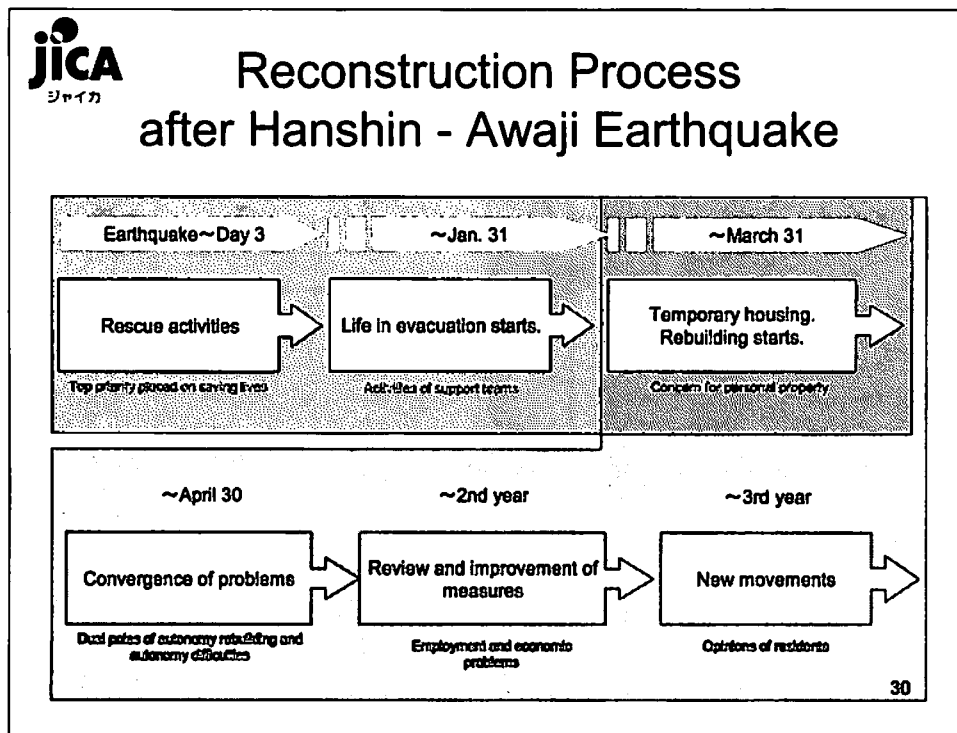
Inside of this monument, there are pictures drawn by elementary school children, depicting the memory of the tsunami. By keeping the memory of the tsunami, we have stepped up the efforts for disaster prevention.

In the southern part of Sri Lanka, Matara, we constructed several schools but the first was constructed in December of 2005. Also in Matara, the water pipeline was devastated by the tsunami and was later reconstructed. Police offices were also devastated by the tsunami. We reconstructed a total of 8 police offices which are crucial facilities for security purposes.

I visited Sri Lanka for a total of 5 times in January, March, May, July, and then again in February. And therefore my presentation largely focuses on Sri Lanka. Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in excess of 400,000. This is a significant number. In Colombo, this is located in the west coast of Sri Lanka. The coastal areas of Sri Lanka were devastated by the tsunami. Many of the victims are poor fishermen or people in the tourism sector in the southern part of Sri Lanka.

Jaffna is at the top and Trincomalee in the east and Ampara. And in the south Matara and Galle. These are the areas that were hit. The areas colored in red are the areas that were devastated.

In the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, many houses collapsed and 6,400 people perished. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has a disaster reconstruction manual and these are the lessons learned from the experience of Hanshin Awaji Earthquake.



As I mentioned earlier, it takes years before the reconstruction effort is effectively undertaken and completed. In the case of Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, it occurred on January 17th, 1995, and for the first 3 days, most of the rescue efforts and activities were undertaken by the local residents (80%), and only 20% by officers.

Two weeks after the earthquake, in the aftermath, evacuation centers were opened, and then 3 months after the disaster, until March 31st, temporary housing was prepared and rebuilding of the houses began. Half year after the earthquake, by April 30th of that year, many problems began to emerge. There was a convergence of problems. It says here, “autonomy”. Administrative guidance alone would not be sufficient for reconstruction efforts. In the second year after the earthquake, there was a process of reviewing the improvement; unemployment and economic issues became serious. And from the third year onward, a new movement started to take shape. By this time, the voices of the local residents had come to play a big role in the overall construction efforts. For the local residents, initiatives and strengths gradually started to manifest.

So what was the problem? I cannot go into details but when seen from the government's perspective, their rebuilding efforts were centered largely on public facilities and the government's support was rather one-track support as you can see from the previous chart. Seen from the residents' perspective, there is an issue to collapsed community. Once a local community collapses, the community's real strength is not brought about and there is a serious psychological damage to people. This is not just psychotherapeutic issue. I think that in a community there must be psychological care. We hear that the kind of care provided by local residents is crucial.

Now, what was the lesson learned from the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake? This is written in the reconstruction manual by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. It says that individual strengths of residents is crucial. So first of all, individual strength. And secondly, residents helping residents—mutual help. Spirit of mutual help is crucial. Without this, administrative help and assistance alone would not be able achieve the reconstruction efforts. We call this mutual help. And thirdly, efforts of NPOs and volunteers are crucial. So these are the intermediaries that connect the local residents and administrative bodies. And governmental efforts; they are all essential. The disaster reconstruction manual was prepared based on these findings.

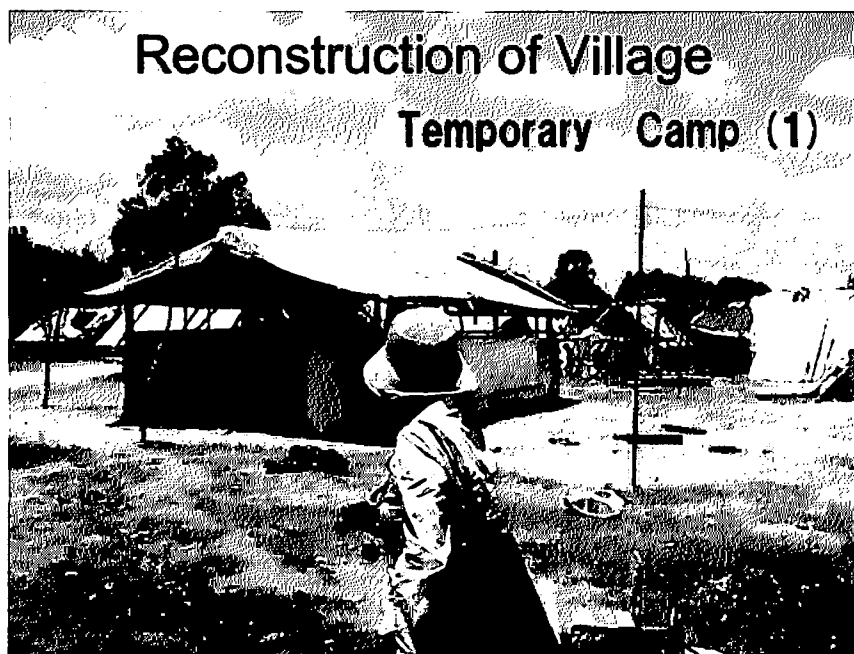
This is the exact wording found in the disaster reconstruction manual. What does reconstruction really mean? When there is a drastic change in the society, what does reconstruction effort really mean? It says that reconstruction can be defined to be “activities of the affected people to assist themselves to the change in living conditions in society that are forced to drastically change due to devastation of earthquake”. So it is not just a matter of reconstruction of facilities and buildings. I think we have to help people adapt themselves to the change in living conditions. In fact, I have been involved in this aspect ever since there was a great earthquake in Turkey.

What is the reconstruction described in the reconstruction process? For Japanese or Turkish people, it is likely that what was experienced by the Turkish and Japanese people are likely to happen to other people. So first of all, self-reliance is crucial, and secondly mutual help. We have to take full advantage of the local strength in the reconstruction process. And then reconstruction based on self-reliance, cooperation, mutual help and coordination.

Now, in Sri Lanka, Japan's reconstruction assistance was undertaken. First of all, JDR medical teams were dispatched. And there was grant aid and ODA loans provided and many NGOs offered contributions and grassroots support. From JICA's perspective, how can we effectively assist the reconstruction efforts. In fact, we sent 3 teams to build main roads and bridges and we did so in order to support the communities and help reconstruct their villages. These were the main focus of

our efforts. And also, as I mentioned earlier, we supported the school reconstruction efforts and JOCV volunteers, who spoke the local language, helped mental care activities and activities to take care of children and handicraft training in order to earn income were also provided.

Now we would like to move on to the reconstruction of the villages. This picture was taken in March 2005 in Trincomalee in the northern province, in the village that I visited. They had semi-permanent housing, temporary housing.



And in the north of Trincomalee, called Nilaveli, even after 3 months from the earthquake, the relief efforts have not been provided to the Tamil people. So it was decided that the Japanese reconstruction efforts were focused on this area.

This is about the effects of tsunami. The tsunami affected 500 meters from the coast and the majority of victims were small-scale fishery household dwellings. One thing that was quite serious was the contamination of water. Wells and farmland were contaminated by seawater. People lost not only their houses but production equipment such as fishing boat and gear and water pump—they are essential facilities for the rural people. In the case of women who lost their husbands felt extreme anxiety and uncertainties about their future. So the Sri Lankan Government sought to provide victims with temporary shelters as well as permanent houses.

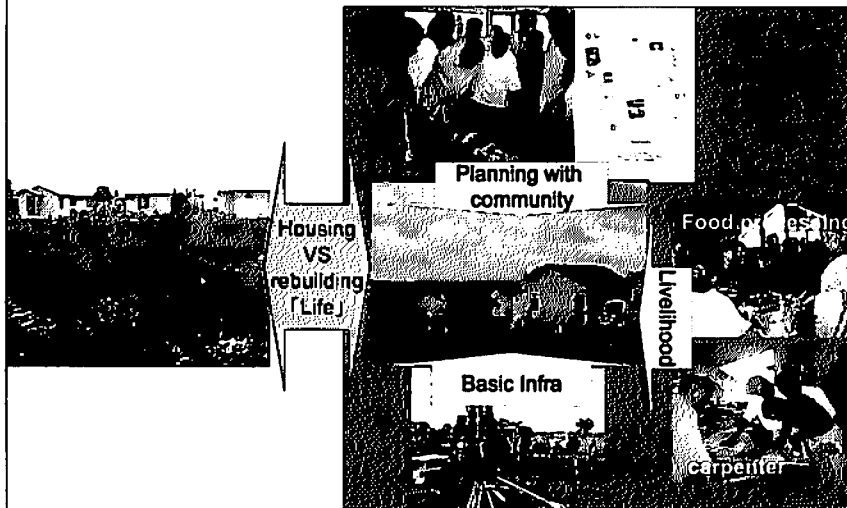
The buffer zone policy—I think this was the same but from the designated coastal area should be secured as the buffer zone, as public land, where construction of houses and other activities are prohibited. So we designated certain coastal areas. However, most of the victims lived by the coast. So many of the tsunami victims had to move out of the original area that they lived. That is why the international community started offering help these victims. JICA's policy on reconstruction is that not only housing but also community rebuilding, livelihood support and reconstruction of fisheries and agriculture is necessary in the reconstruction process. This was also the lesson learned from the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. So this is JICA's policy.

Rather than jumping to housing from the outset, we began with the reconstruction of fishery industry so that we could help with the livelihood of people. And acquisition of the land, agreement on displacement and organizing and empowering of the community were undertaken through dialogue with and in cooperation with the local village.

And at the same time, we tried to help the livelihood in order to support the self-reliance of the local residents and eventually we would be able to provide housing support with the government.

This picture shows you what we have roughly done. We begin by planning with the community. So we ask the local villagers to come up with the organization so that we could design the planning of the community in cooperation with the local villages. Not only rebuilding houses, rebuilding of livelihood has to be done. In order to do this, rebuilding of livelihood was essential. In this case, food processing industry and carpentry—these people with particular skills—we helped them reconstruct their livelihood. Importantly, houses are built on pieces of land that must have utility infrastructure including electricity so forth underneath. In order to reconstruct it, these facilities require technical support and we provide support.

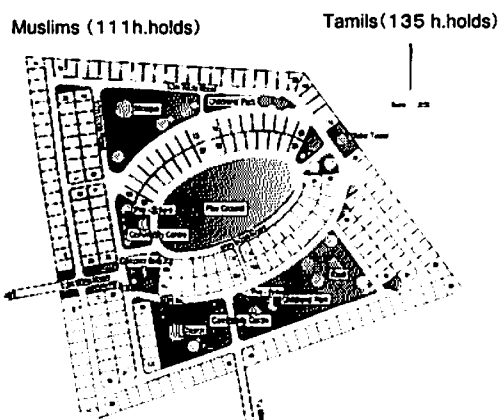
Housing only → Rebuilding the Life Integrated approach



In the reconstruction process, we had meetings with the village leaders. As part of effort for livelihood support, local villagers made cement blocks to provide building materials.

This is the layout plan for a village in Trincomalee. Muslims and Tamil people had to live in the same community and so the joint committee was set up by the Tamils and Muslims. Their idea was that there should be a playground in the center where the children of both Muslims and Tamils could play together. And around this playground, housing and other facilities would be built. This was a voluntary idea.

Layout plan of Iqbar Nagal new village



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In Maldives, in an island called Laamu Atoll, not just hardware support but software support is being provided, such as disaster prevention education, in cooperation with the Japanese elementary school teachers. By doing so, information will be shared with the parents and consequently with the villagers and people in the community. In the end, that would lead to community disaster prevention program. This attracted a great deal of attention. We conducted a tsunami simulation in this occasion. Laamu Atoll women's council members joined forces with us in undertaking these kinds of activities. This concludes my presentation. Thank you.

Discussion

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much. We hardly have any time for discussion because the presentations were long. Maybe we can spend the next 5 to ten minutes for questions and discussion. Please state your name and country, please.

DR. KATHIRIA, INDIA:

My name is Kathiria and I am from India. I would like to ask one question. Did you face any difficulty regarding the language problem, either in Indonesia or Maldives or somewhere else? How did you solve the problem of the language? Number two, if you can give details regarding the medical teams and rescue teams, their components, how many medical doctors were there? If you can give details of that, we can realize how many people were there and how many experts were there. Number three, did you give technological input as well as rescue equipment to the affected areas or not. Thank you.

MR. OTA:

Starting with the language problem, when we go there, when we have relief team and medical team, local people who have had JICA training would help us. When we were in Banda Aceh, Indonesian was not enough. We needed those who spoke the local language of Banda Aceh, so Indonesians who lived in Banda Aceh and had studied in Japan for JICA training sessions helped us communicate using local language and English, and even translated directly from local language to Japanese in some occasions. We have similar systems in other countries, too.

As for your second question on the size of the medical team, relief team, we decide their number before we dispatch them. Medical team has a maximum number of 23, of which 4 are medical doctors. Relief team 68, or 108, so that is the size that we will be dispatching.

Your last question on technical equipment. In Thailand, when we conducted rescue operations, we did provide a number of devices and equipment. For medical care, we provided medical equipment and medicines to medical facilities in the local communities so that they can continue to use.

MALDIVES:

I would like to know how you tackle the psychological problems of the situation. The presenter has mentioned about the psychological crisis he faced, so please tell me something about that. Thank you.

MR. FUWA:

Children are emotionally impacted by Tsunami and Earthquake, but they cannot understand what has happened to them. So there would be a flashback after months have passed; they still remember the great shock that they had months before. So we have to explain to them why tsunami occurs, and let them talk about it and paint the pictures of their experience. It takes time, but they begin to understand how tsunami occurred so flashback memories would be reduced. For the adults, the mental problem often has to do with their anxiety about how to rebuild your life. So we have them participate in the relief activities. By helping other people, they help themselves. That was the lessons learned from the Hanshin Earthquake in Japan.

DR. SUKAVEJWORAKIT, THAILAND:

I would like to ask Mr. Fuwa about your community plan. You have Tamils in one hand and Muslims on the other side, sharing a playground. That is quite interesting. I would like to know if you think that they can live together. After you had that plan, how is the situation at the moment? Because in Thailand, I think it is very difficult for Muslims and Buddhists to live together like that. If you can do that, I think it is the success of the world. Thank you.

MR. FUWA:

You are right. Last year, in August, there was a problem. And we anticipated that problem would arise. In Trincomalee, the District Secretary was also worried, and he thought that was too much of a problem. So we went to Kandy, a city in the south of Sri Lanka, spent 3 days and talked about this. In the 1970s, in the north, the Tamils and the Muslims lived together. So we began to talk about that and individuals started talking about the background, and they began to realize that in crisis, they must find ways to live together. And they decided that they would continue to talk about things. There are political problems between Tamils and Muslims, but they spontaneously and voluntarily decided that they would continue that conversation. The present situation is very difficult. I cannot

give you the details. On the southern side of Trincomalee, there was a very serious fighting, and so the construction program is now being delayed. So that is how things are at present.

MR. WELGAMA, SRI LANKA:

Tamils and Muslims speak the same language, and in the Eastern Province of the Tamils, the Sinhalese, the Buddhist people and Muslims live together. In Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka, Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims all live together. So there is no conflict, no problem, we live peacefully there. The only problem is up north. The fighting started 20 years ago. Other communities resisted but they were not allowed to live in that area. But in the Eastern Province, still, the Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims live together. And Muslims and Tamils have the same language so they can stay together.

CHAIRPERSON:

We thank you very much for your participation. If you receive questions during tea time, try to answer them please.

Session III

Development of Basic Education on Disaster Nursing in Collaboration with Community Disaster Prevention Groups

Session III

Chairperson:

Ms. Chieko Nohno, MP, JFPF Vice-Chairperson (Japan)

Resource Person:

Prof. Mariko Ohara, Japanese Red Cross Nursing College

CHAIRPERSON:

We will start Session 2. The resource person seated next to me is Prof. Mariko Ohara, and she teaches at the Japanese Red Cross Nursing College, and she's in charge of community disaster prevention. She has been involved in international activities. In 1981, she was sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to look after the medical needs of Cambodian refugees around the Thai border. She has continued that, and in July 1989, she helped the Cambodian refugees. In 1991, she was taking care of Kurdish refugees. In March 2005, she was in Banda Aceh to find out facts after the disaster. In 2006, she participated in the nursing workshop in Indonesia, and she conducted fact-finding study on the tsunami. She also took part in the volunteer activities in Japan and she has involved herself in the water disaster in Fukui Prefecture and snow disaster in Niigata Prefecture. She has been involved in relief activities as a professional nurse. Particularly after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, she has built a disaster education program for nurses. I am very pleased to have her here as a presenter. Please ask her many questions. Professor Ohara, please.

PROF. OHARA:

It is great honor to be here to present my work today. The title of my presentation is Development of Disaster Nursing Education Program, prepared in collaboration with the Group of Community Disaster Prevention. At the end, I would like to introduce disaster nursing activity conducted by the Japanese Nursing Association.

As you know, Japan is one of well-known disaster-prone countries. In 1995, Hanshin Awaji, a great earthquake occurred. Along with frequent occurrence of disaster, prevention and countermeasures were improved and developed. I would like to explain about the medical system for large-scale disaster that has been created by the Japanese Government.



One is Area Disaster Prevention Program. A second is Essential Hospital on Disaster, for which 548 hospitals have been designated countrywide. Third, Information System of Emergency Medicine on Large-Scale Disaster, and fourth, DMAT, which stands for Disaster Medicine Assistance Team, which currently has 106 teams.

I would like to show you a large man-made disaster. This is a traffic accident that occurred at Amagasaki Station. This occurred in April of last year. A hundred and 7 people died and 555 persons were injured. Main injuries were crash syndrome, trauma and open fracture. The first response came from a neighbor who worked at the company nearby the accident site. They took water, towels and first aid kit and helped the passengers. After that the victims were taken to the hospital.

Disaster preparation phase. It is very important to educate and train the community people to check the equipment and create a network.

Now I would like to introduce one of the developed disaster prevention and countermeasures in the field of basic nursing education in Japan. Disaster nursing education has evolved at the Japanese Red Cross Musashino Junior College of Nursing since 1998. Training is conducted by providing a scenario of disaster situation and assessment in which students consider and decide their activity.

The reasons for introducing disaster relief theory are as follows:

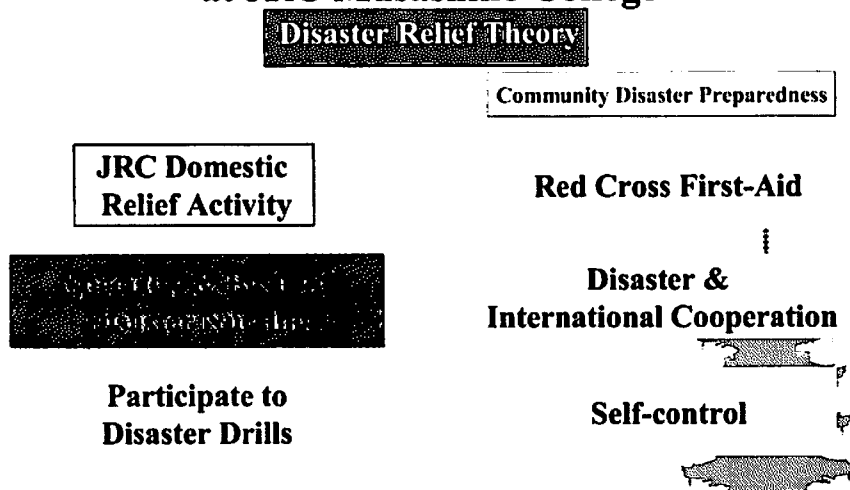
1. Disaster Relief Activity is the Red Cross principle concept of humanism;

2. Needs of the society to overview Disaster Medicine and Disaster Nursing after the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake; and
3. Personnel development to be globalized.

The curriculum of disaster nursing education at our nursing college is as follows. First year students go to Fire and Disaster Management Agency for experience study. In second year, they take 60 hours of classes.

This is construction of disaster relief theory at our college. It is comprised of 7 elements: Japanese Red Cross domestic relief activity, Specialty & Basics of Disaster Nursing, Red Cross First Aid, Disaster & International Cooperation, mental care, Community Disaster Preparedness, and Participation in Disaster Drills.

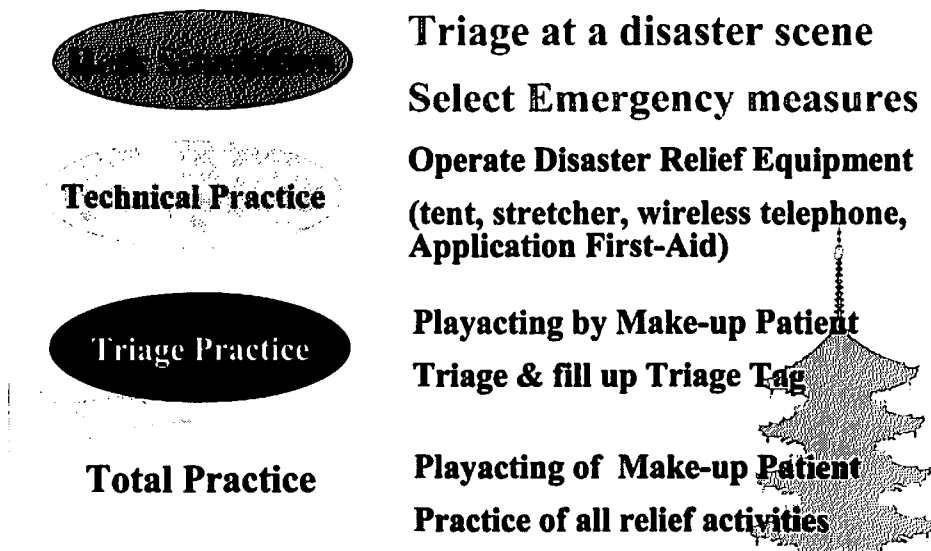
Construction of Disaster Relief Theory at JRC Musashino College



This is a photo of participation in disaster drills. They are students. They are engaged in role-playing with simulated patients. They can do the role of volunteers.

Nursing practice in the third year takes 40 hours. The purpose of learning is to acquire the decision-making skills, basic relief technique and prepare oneself in terms of mental attitude and capacity for achievement among the situation of acute period of disaster through simulation exercises and practical training. We use 40 hours which is divided into 4 steps.

Method & Contents of Practice in 3rd year



This first step is the simulated exercise where students learn a broader view and discuss what they can do in a disaster scene. Then, they learn specific techniques. This include wireless telephone, tent assembly, how to use stretcher and so on. Then they move on to studying the concept of triage by playing the role of patients. This is more of a basic medical study. This final step includes the 4 techniques that they learned during the year. Based on the disaster scenario, they act as a relief team.

These are simulation tools made from magnetic symbols. Students play the role of simulated patient with make-up and triage commander and assistant. Physical assessment is very important when performing triage.

To evaluate student study, self-appraisal and questionnaire were conducted and their evaluation was collected. The evaluation was conducted based on 2 major tutorials with 22 appraisal items. From the result of self-appraisal, which was conducted twice, before and after the practical training, there is clear increase in confidence about their skills and achievement. We also conducted a satisfaction survey. A total of 93% were showing satisfaction.

Students are also engaged in extracurricular activities. For instance, at the college festival, they perform CPR using a model. They also held a symposium on atomic bomb, showed a display on Afghan conflict and showed a transport method using pole and clothes.

They also participate in community activities, such as disaster drills and first aid practices. Nurses and students from overseas are also learning disaster nursing at our college.

An earthquake occurred in the Chuetsu region of Niigata on the 24th of October. Teachers and students visited the disaster site, and students learned about the mental condition of the victims and the living conditions in temporary houses through exchange with victims.

I have talked about the school curriculum at my college. What I would like to do now is to show you how the college is working with regional community and supporting their relief activities.

Close to College of Nursing, we have a group dedicated to disaster prevention, and we got to know that group. Some of our students and professors are voluntarily participating in their meetings. They now have organizational members, so the Nursing College became a member, and we joined forces as they carried out different activities. So the nursing college was part of disaster prevention activities of the local communities and of course the students got interested, and they were learning services as they participated in volunteer activities in the local community. So we realized that that was a wonderful way for students to learn disaster prevention.

We applied to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology to support this collaboration with the local community, and the ministry has agreed to do so. So that was another development.

Under this framework we constructed, the Junior College of Nursing, the local community round table, and Red Cross hospital in Musashino work together. We have 3 different organizations and we have different roles. The hospital will cope with the disaster. The local community round table will also cope with the disaster. Our college has disaster nursing programmes. By 3 of us joining together, we can strengthen our disaster prevention. So that is the framework that we now have.

So what are some the programs that are conducted? We have been teaching children. College students would go and teach at primary schools and secondary schools about disaster prevention. Our main training program is the disaster volunteer training program. We are developing programs to train volunteers to help local inhabitants to be aware of disasters so that they can participate in disaster prevention. We want them to understand what impact disaster would have. We need to draw out from local residents their fear about the disaster. There is an exercise helping them to think out how they can protect their own homes from disaster. We are also teaching how we physically care people who have been affected by disaster. So we will create a manual. We use paper to make cups

and even toilets. When toilets are destroyed, we will have temporary paper toilets for the older people to take care of needs. So these are practical things that we are doing.

And this is the last leg of my discussion, which has to do with international collaboration from Japan when disaster strikes. Japanese Nursing Association is the largest professional organization in Japan for nurses. The Japanese Nursing Association has set up a committee, and I have been involved from the very beginning of that inception of the committee. We have been involved in major disasters that took place outside of Japan.

The first one was in 1999. We went to Turkey after the earthquake struck that country. We collected donations and presented that money. We conducted workshops with the victims and the nurses, and invited some of them to come to Japan to study disaster nursing and relief activities that are done in Japan. We were involved in Sumatra Earthquake and Indonesian tsunami as well. We dispatched people to the 3 affected countries, collected support money and provided donations.

The Nursing Association would like to support local nurses. Many of them had been victimized by disaster and they had lost members of their family. But they continued to work. They had to be motivated enough to continue relief activities even if they were victimized. What is important is that very often they do not have place to rest and they do not have financial resources, and it is a very difficult situation for them to work. So the Japanese Nursing Association provides each person a little bit of money, and apart from that, we provide nursing curriculum or nursing textbooks and again donation of funds for them to develop their own nursing curriculum.

We have a workshop of caring for psychological and emotional needs of the traumatized people. They were saying that it was very difficult for them to organize workshop like that on their own, so I think that this kind of international collaboration would be good for that particular situation.

I was in Banda Aceh 3 months after the disaster. Nurses were living in tents and carrying out relief activities. At a provincial hospital, the largest in Aceh, we found that some nurses had died and some nurses had to members of families and relatives. Some had their houses destroyed. And they were still living in camps and they were not even given temporary housing. And they had psychological problems that had to be cared for.

We asked nurses what they needed. They felt that there were unmet needs to sustain their daily life, and they were looking for psychological care. Hospitals felt that they needed enhance the nursing system and nursing education in order to cope with the disaster. All of these had high needs. Many

nurses had only one uniform so we decided to provide extra uniforms. Aceh's Nursing Association had been destroyed so we wanted to help them rebuild it. So we guaranteed the running cost of the Nursing Association in Banda Aceh for 5 years.

We never know when disaster will strike. Even in that situation, if we have the knowledge and if we have the skills, you can help yourself, you can protect your family and you can protect your own community. In that sense, it is important for us professionals to enhance the capability. I think we have to help residents help themselves, and that means to help them acquire skills so that they can mutually provide assistance. And perhaps our nursing education organizations can help local citizens increase their knowledge about disaster and help them prevent. Thank you.

Discussion

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much. We had Professor Ohara cover a plenty of different areas, from the viewpoint of nursing education. She gave presentation on a very valuable agenda. Those disasters will hit us when we have forgotten about it. So we always have to be prepared for it. For example, if we do not have enough resources, how can we compensate for that? I think those points have been covered in her presentation. And she has done some sampling of the nurses in the response to the disaster. And through her experience, she was emphasizing the importance of mental care. I think that angle of presentation by Professor Ohara was a little different from other presenters, but perhaps it is necessary for us to be well-prepared for future disaster prevention. So the presentation was mainly centered on disaster response in Japan but Professor Ohara has overseas experience, so she should be able to answer your questions regarding her overseas experience as well.

Before we take your question, I myself have questions for Professor Ohara. In Mr. Ota's presentation, prevention of infectious disease and education about washing hands were most critical. You need running water, and you should have tap water to wash your hands, as that would make it more hygienic and cleaner. But in the case of actual disaster, it is difficult to have running tap water. And when we do not have that running water, then how can you make your hands cleaner and more hygienic? If your hands are dirty, you may be prone to infection to some bacteria. If you are injured, that would cause some infectious diseases as well. So this is my first question to Professor Ohara, and after she answers this question, we would like to receive yours.

PROF. OHARA:

When I took part in the response activities for the Chuetsu Earthquake in Niigata, at that time, there was no water service at the shelter, so people were storing water in water bottles. So the most precious item was water. It was more precious than food. And how were people washing hands under those circumstances? In Japan, we have many types of hygiene spray agents, and they were placed everywhere to clean people's hands. And from the viewpoint of injury, I worked as a volunteer in some response team activities when the houses had collapsed and everything was covered in debris and sludge. People were trying to help other people under the debris and your hands really get injured. And the most important aspect is to take sanitary care of your hands, and to have ointment and cream and all of those things on your hand. You will also have to have bandage on any injury you have. And you have to do it with extra care. You might think that you have little blisters or little injury on your hand, but in the case of disaster, bacteria will come in from those little wounds and it will lead to infection so it is extremely important to have extra care for the hygiene.

CHAIRPERSON:

I see. I suppose, actually on the field, when things are more severe and you do not have enough medicine or hygiene spray agents.

DR. VATHESATOGKIT, THAILAND:

I congratulate you for your very interesting presentation. We are particularly interested in the curriculum for nursing. How long has this been going on? How many years? And how many nursing schools have this same kind of curriculum throughout Japan?

PROF. OHARA:

This kind of curriculum has been in place for almost 9 years. I do not have detailed data right now, but not so many nursing schools offer this kind of curriculum. However, of late, there was a revision in the curriculum by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare because of increased number of disasters, and disaster nursing has become such a necessity nowadays that, when revision of the curriculum was introduced, there is discussion on the government level to make disaster nursing a compulsory curriculum.

In our junior college, we offer the largest variety in terms of disaster nursing. In other nursing schools, I think it is usually elective. So they only take maybe 15 to 30 hours at the most in their curriculum. There are several universities or colleges that offer such curriculum, but there are not many at the moment.

DR. KATHIRIA, INDIA:

My first question is why do you say “area disaster prevention program”? It sounds like you are only specializing in man-made disaster and not doing anything about natural disaster. That is the impression I get. My second question is, I would like you to elaborate a little bit on disaster nursing. Is it special field of nursing? According to the answer that you just gave, I gather that it is a special field of nursing. Is it only in this country that you have this type of nursing? You said you take about 40 hours of training. Is this training a part of the normal curriculum at your college? Or are you talking about the school creating training for the students? If not so, I would like to know whether you teach school children about how to tackle disaster management.

PROF. OHARA:

First of all, regarding this disaster nursing education, we have established a curriculum at our junior college. It is a set curriculum. And at the beginning, disaster nursing had accommodated 60 hours of disaster nursing, and it was already tight then. And secondly, your question was that whether it is limited to man-made disaster—that was the impression you got from my presentation. This area disaster prevention program is not focused only on man-made disasters; we deal with all kinds of natural disasters. Naturally, near the train stations, when there was a major derailment accident, we dispatch our disaster nursing team. It is possible to do that for man-made disaster. But our efforts are not only directed towards man-made disasters. Our disaster nursing program will naturally enable our staff to deal with natural disasters. In fact, I think our program is more catered toward natural disasters.

I think there was one last question, about the school children and their education. The Ministry of Education has stipulated a set of evacuation drills and fire drills and so forth. So disaster prevention education is offered from the primary school age. In this neighborhood, there is an area designated for disaster prevention and there is a team that works closely with schools in the region. So they have been working in close communication with elementary schools for area disaster prevention education.

About 40 hours of training, if I may repeat what I said in my presentation, a junior college curriculum consists of 3 years. In their first year, students have maybe 5 hours of exercises outside of the campus. This is exercise by experience; they experience artificial earthquake, smoke house drills and fire detection drills. And then in the second year, they spend 60 class hours for disaster nursing education. In the final third year, they have 40 hours of exercises and simulation training. This 40-hour program centers on exercises and training. It was originally an extracurricular activity.

In fact, it took away 40 hours from the regular nursing classes and incorporated the 40 hours of exercises in disaster nursing drills.

CHAIRPERSON:

In Japan, even companies in the private sector are prepared for fire and other disasters. They frequently conduct fire drills and evacuation drills. So this education and training is given not only to school children but also to adults in order to increase the interest level of the people in disaster prevention and preparedness.

DATO' KAU, MALAYSIA:

I am very impressed by the efforts that have been made by the Japanese Red Cross. I am wondering if you are training all the Red Cross personnel all over the world that have Red Cross. If not, let's say a country like Malaysia is interested in sending the personnel to come to Japan and learn about this disaster nursing. How much does it cost and how do we go about it? I think it is very important that we have more people informed about this disaster nursing, as we can see that more disasters are happening in the world these days, both natural and man-made. So I think that it is a good thing if you can spread even more. So can you provide me with some information?

PROF. OHARA:

What I have touched upon is that basic nursing education, which is provided by nursing college. It is nursing education by the nursing college. Under the Japanese Red Cross, the program by Red Cross College differs from one college to another. They have different hours for different curriculum. In addition to the basic nursing program, we have the continuing advanced nursing program. For example, under each hospital, they have their own education, especially for disaster nursing. Especially the hospitals that are designated as disaster response hospital are very interested in providing such continuing nursing education to the nurses. Japanese Red Cross has the so-called disaster rescue team in each hospital. In total, we have more than 500 nursing rescue teams all over Japan. And we make sure that they are always prepared to respond to disasters. So it is one of our missions to always, continually carry out these trainings to the rescue teams located in the hospitals all over Japan.

On whether nurses from Malaysia or other countries can participate in these kinds of programs, I cannot say for sure whether we have program that can accept those trainees from overseas. But Red Cross is an international organization, and we want to share information and training with other countries, so that we can enhance our ability. In Malaysia, you have Red Crescent Society, so perhaps through Red Crescent Society in Malaysia, you can contact Japanese Red Cross and please

ask whether nurses or staff from Malaysia can take part in our nursing program. I think it is acceptable and currently, it is not just Red Cross but the National Tokyo Disaster Medical Hospital—it is an independent institute—those hospitals have placed a lot of importance on medicine for prevention and response to disaster. And perhaps JICA has some other programs, too. So I think there are some paths for your participation in our training program. We also are very much willing to learn what kind of programs you have in overseas countries.

DR. KATHIRIA, INDIA:

I really congratulate Prof. Ohara for her beautiful presentation on nursing education. I think if nurses are trained in a better way for disaster management, our doctors will be able to work in a better way and that is why it is very necessary to train nurses for disaster management. I would like to add that, in India, we have started now training nurses, especially for disaster management. We keep one team at each district level so that they can tackle disaster wherever it occurs. Now, for nursing also, we required one special subject of disaster management, because nowadays there is no one disaster only; from biological and nuclear disaster to chemical bombs and even terrorist attacks and accidents—all of these are considered disasters. So one thing, my suggestion is to have a special subject on the disasters for nursing; and number two, if you want to specialize nursing for disaster management only, we can have a diploma course and post-diploma course on disaster management. After they have completed their graduation from nursing, we can offer post diploma only for disaster management. I think this is the best solution for disasters that occur whenever and wherever in the world. I think we should all keep going in this direction.

MR. BHAKTA, INDIA:

I just want to add one sentence to what my colleague has said. Are there still some facilities available for nuclear-affected persons?

PROF. OHARA:

Well, we are not yet doing the so-called NDC (nuclear radiation contamination) disaster, biological or chemical contamination. Japanese Red Cross is not doing it either. There are some hospitals in Japan that have specialized training for those nuclear or biological disasters.

Secondly, there is just one in Japan; the Nursing Department of Hyogo Prefectural University offers a Master program for that course. And in my Japanese Red Cross Nursing College, we would like to offer a Master's course for disaster nursing program. As an ongoing educational program, we have a program called Program for Certified Nurses. And there is proposal to have certified nurses for disaster management. It is still an idea and has not been realized yet.

DR. VATHESATOGKIT, THAILAND:

I do not know whether you have ever entertained the idea of organizing disaster nursing seminar, and inviting nursing colleges—Thailand also has one—to join this meeting from around this region, and discuss this issue. Not to my knowledge, in Thailand, we have this kind of curriculum built into our nursing. If you can initiate and get some support from your government, it will be very helpful.

PROF. OHARA:

Right now, Disaster Nursing Society has one section for international cooperation. And there is also Hyogo Prefectural Nursing College which is promoting some kind of exchange program. And the International Nursing Society is about to be set up. So I believe that there will be increased exchange among the people in nursing, and I believe that we have to promote such exchange programs in the future. We would like to ask for your cooperation when that actually does happen.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you so much for your opinions. We would like to wrap up this session if there are no more questions. Thank you.



Session IV

Japan's Disaster Management System and Its Contributions to Multilateral Cooperation for Disaster Management in the Asian Region

Session IV

Chairperson:

**Ms. Kayoko Shimizu,
MP, APDA Vice-Chairperson/JFPF Secretary-General (Japan)**

Resource Person:

Mr. Tadahiro Yokoyama, Senior Specialist for Mutual Aid Management, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

CHAIRPERSON:

This is the last session of the day. We will be discussing Japan's disaster management system and its contributions to multilateral cooperation for disaster management in the Asian region. We have Mr. Yokoyama, who is from Fire and Disaster Management Agency. It is a government agency that copes with different problems such as fire and disaster. He comes from Hyogo, where the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred, and he went to work for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and he has worked in different prefectures. He is now Senior Specialist for Mutual Aid Management at the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. I think he will spell out the details in providing the services. He may also talk about the policies of the Japanese Government with regard to fire and disaster management. Mr. Yokoyama, please.

MR. YOKOYAMA:

My name is Yokoyama and I thank you for the introduction. I would like to talk today about fire fighting and disaster management that take place in Japan, and I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I regard this as a great honor.

I shall be focusing on the fire services in Japan, what kind of activities are being done. So let me start out by saying that when a fire takes place, we have to put the fire down and that must be timely service. But in addition to fire fighting activities, we provide rescue and emergency activities. So Japanese fire services include not only putting out fire, but also relief and emergency relief operations. As you know, Japan has many natural disasters. So when natural disasters strike, of course the Self-Defense Forces and police units will also be coping with the disasters. They are part of our team in fighting natural disasters and disaster management and disaster prevention.

It is the municipal government that is responsible for fire fighting. We have 150,000 fire fighters throughout the country and these are the professional fire fighters who come under the municipal government authorities. In addition to the fire fighting professionals, we have volunteers who work in other professions but will come to the rescue once the fire occurs. We have 900,000 volunteer fire fighters. So we have professional fire fighters and volunteers who usually are engaged in other professions but will come to the rescue once fire strikes, in order to provide services in local communities to give them safety and protection. Let me go into some details.

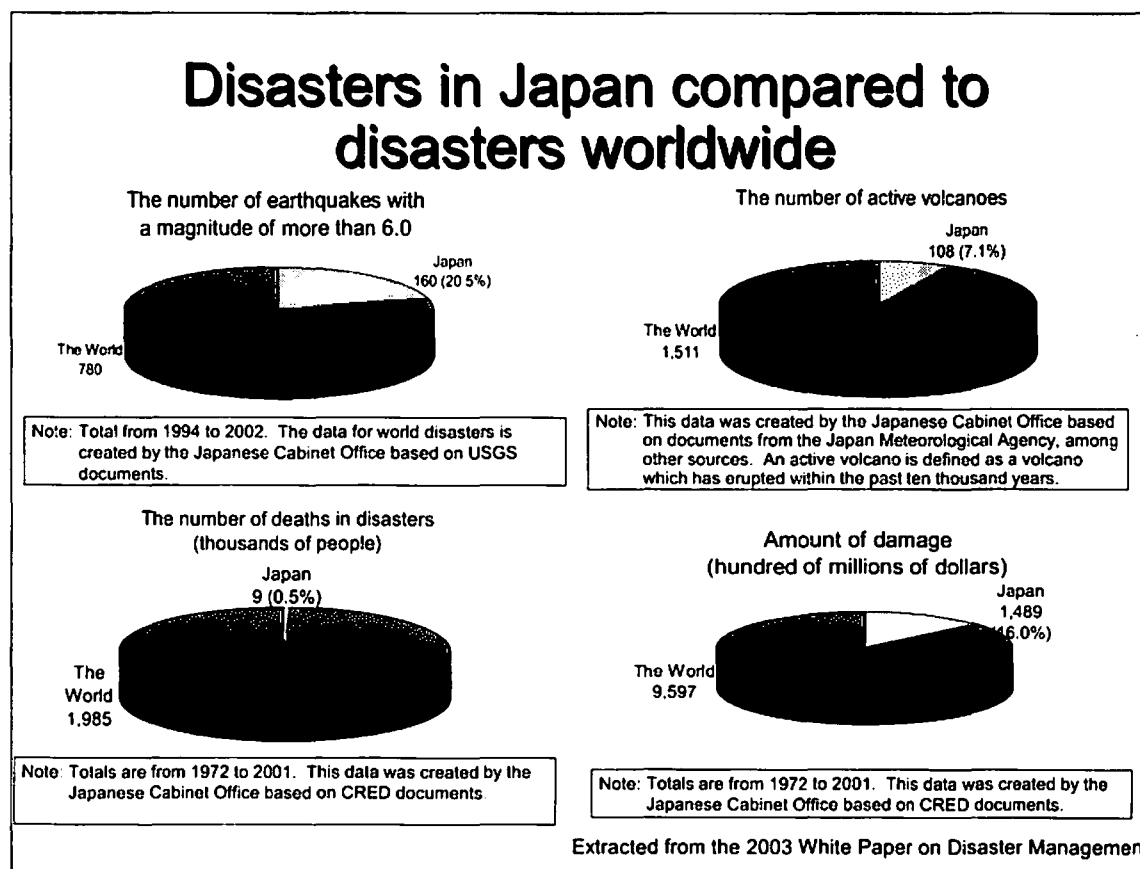
Let me start out by talking about the organization and the system. We have the Fire Defense Organization Law which regulates fire fighting activities in Japan. The Japanese administration services are provided at national and local levels, so those are the 2 tiers of administrative services. We also have prefectural and municipal level in the local government. So we have 3 tiers; the national, prefectural and municipal. Fire defense services are provided by municipal governments that come under the prefectural; so that is the Fire Defense Organization Law says. The municipal government provides educational services and welfare services, and fire defense service is also considered a very important service that the municipal government provides. It is one of the priority services that the municipal government provides.

This institution was created after the Second World War. Many of the Japanese systems were changed and reformed then, and local administrative services were also reviewed and, instead of having the national government providing fire fighting services, it was felt that responsibility should be taken by the municipal government. Fire defense is very close to the residents, so for the last 50-plus years, municipal governments have been the primarily responsible for the fire defense services.

I would like to explain about 3 main characteristics of the fire defense system in Japan. I have already mentioned that fire fighting is a municipal responsibility and that is clearly defined and regulated in the law. Fire fighting used to be the joint effort of police, but after the World War II, the police services are provided by the prefectural government and the fire fighting services by municipal governments. So again, it is the municipal governments, mayors of towns and cities are responsible for fire services. They are responsible for organizing services, and managing the services. However, having said that, sometimes a disaster or a man-made accident can be a major one and not manageable by just one municipal government's services. Then we would have to ask the help of the national government and prefectural government to come to support. So we might call on prefectural services or national services when the disaster or fire is too large for the municipal fire fighters to cope.

We have designed a scheme for how these 3 levels of administrative services to work. I am repeating myself but fire services are provided by municipal government. The prefectural governments and national governments would never order the fire fighters or give instructions to the fire fighters. But again, when there are major fires, and if it is too large to be coped by a single municipal government, the national and prefectural governments provide advice and guidance, assistance and again the law stipulates that they should provide such assistance and services. This is how it works on 3 governmental levels. About 150,000 professional fire fighters and 900,000 volunteers; that is the fire fighting resources that we have in Japan.

Japan is an archipelago and that is why Japan is very prone to natural disasters. Earthquakes to start with, the pie at the upper left shows that, from 1994 to 2002, in 9 years, there were 780 earthquakes larger than magnitude 6.0, and 20.5% of those took place in Japan. Active volcanoes on upper right. There are about 1,500 active volcanoes throughout the world, and we have about 7% of them in this small archipelago of Japan, i.e. 108 active volcanoes. That we have very many active volcanoes is one of many reasons we have very many earthquakes. The number of deaths is shown at the left bottom. That is the number of people that died in disasters. This covers a span of about 30 people. Nine thousand or so people have died in Japan due to natural disaster. Amount of damage at the right bottom. Japan's damage cost accounted for about 16% of the damage worldwide.



In addition to earthquakes and volcanoes, we also have rain and wind disasters. Yesterday and day before yesterday, the typhoon struck Japan and left a large disaster. In 2004, there were very many typhoons that landed in Japan—10 altogether in one single year landed in Japan. There were far more if you include those that did not land. From early summer to autumn, they ravaged the country and left huge damage in their wake.

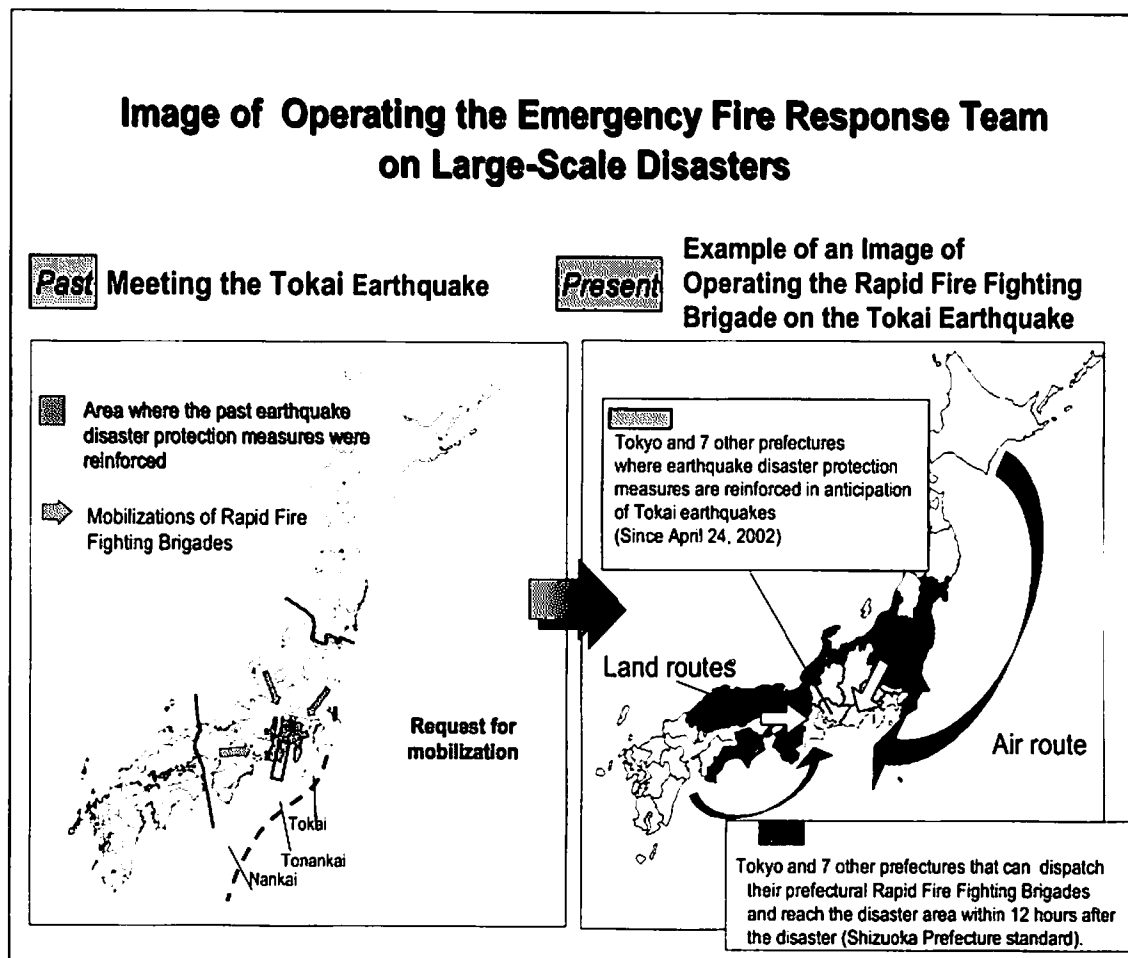
So I repeat myself, I know, but this is a very small archipelago that is visited by very many disasters year after year. One of the important services of the government at the administration is to provide protection from disasters. Not just putting down fire but fire fighters must be there when natural disaster strikes to help save lives and carry out rescue operations. We have very sophisticated professional equipment to save people's lives once there is a natural disaster. Again the fire fighters provide the essential services that we cannot do without.

Having said that, once there is a large-scale disaster, we often dispatch rescue teams to neighboring prefectures and we are developing a system for doing that. It is called emergency fire response team. Again when a large-scale disaster takes place, local fire services are limited in resources, manpower and others. So they must call for assistance from other areas. So the government has put in place a system that would ensure that the needed assistance would be there when it is needed. And that is called "emergency fire response team system". This was set up in 1995, so we have 11 years so far of history behind us. In 1995, a major earthquake struck the Hanshin Awaji area, and more than 6,000 people lost their lives. In the wake of this major earthquake, this emergency fire response team system was set up, so that fire fighters can rush to the scene of disaster, and we have a system for doing that. The coordination of assistance is the responsibility of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

"Emergency fire response team" does not mean that we have a professional or specialized team. This emergency fire response team is comprised of municipal fire fighters, who are registered at the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Once there is a large scale disaster, the Agency's director general will instruct certain emergency fire response teams to be dispatched to certain areas. We have about 3,400 units and 39,000 people that are registered in emergency fire response team to be dispatched to sites of large disaster. The objective is to increase the number to up to 4,000 units by the year 2008.

This is how the emergency fire response team will be dispatched. Before the system was made—you see this on the left side of the Slide—when there was a huge earthquake in the Tokai region, assistance teams came from different regions in an uncoordinated manner. But after the system was put in place—you can see this on the right side, the fire and disaster management agency would call

on certain emergency fire response teams to be dispatched. So it will be well-coordinated and much more efficient and effective. Sometimes there would be additional services offered by the Self-Defense Forces. Air Force might transport emergency fire response teams to localities. That is quite a comprehensive system.



I have heard that you all are going to visit Niigata. Two years ago, there was a major earthquake. Before the earthquake, there was flooding. They had a torrential rain and water ran over river banks and rice paddies, and all the flatlands were flooded. So the rescue people were sent from other regions and brought over boats to operate relief activities. There were not enough boats to carry the victims, so many boats were brought over to rescue the survivors. The rescue activities are conducted by the professional fire fighters. And of course, it is important that the local professional and volunteer fire fighters would help us. They give us information, such as which district has older people or where to go. So we get local information from local fire fighters.

In 2004, on the 23rd of October, in Niigata, there was the Chuetsu Earthquake. The scale was magnitude 6.8 and the epicenter was 13 kilometers directly below populated area. It was the same scale as Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. You will be seeing this when you go to Niigata. The roads were being cut off. And the village was isolated. Because of the earthquake, even the fire engines were damaged and were not able to function properly. A bullet train connecting Joetsu region and Tokyo derailed because of the earthquake, but fortunately there were no casualties from this derailment. But in the worst case scenario, there might have been casualties.

The emergency fire response teams from various regions were sent to Niigata Prefecture. Two thousand and one hundred fire fighters were sent during the 2-week period and they rescued more than 450 people trapped by the earthquake. Many landslides occurred during the Chuetsu Earthquake at various locations. At the time of one of the largest landslide, there was a car with 3 members of a family, and they were trapped by this landslide and were buried alive. Fire fighters and emergency fire response team responded to this landslide. One of the main characteristics of this Chuetsu Earthquake was that the first earthquake was very big, and there were many big aftershocks that continued for several days. Because of those big aftershocks, we had to be careful of secondary damage afterwards and had to care for the safety of firefighters trying to rescue the victims. At this site, the car had a mother and her 2 children in it. It was already 3 days after the landslide that the car was found there. The vehicle was completely buried and was not seen from outside. But as the rescue operation advanced, the car appeared from the debris. And 4 days after the earthquake, a 2-year old boy was rescued alive. Unfortunately, the mother and his older sister were already dead. But the 2-year old boy was rescued alive 4 days after the earthquake. That was a very impressive operation for us.

The fire fighters in Japan are also sent to overseas for rescue operations. International Rescue Team has been set up by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. So far the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) has sent this International Rescue Team 15 times in the past.

In 2004 Sumatra Earthquake disaster, Japan received request for rescue operation, and a rescue team consisting of 46 fire fighters was sent from Thailand. There also some other agencies that had sent other rescue teams, but in the case of FDMA, we sent 2 helicopters to Thailand and those 2 helicopters were used to transport various rescue supplies to the people in Thailand.

Dispatch of International Rescue Team (IRT)


(IRT: International Rescue Team)

The Sumatra offshore earthquake
(Indian Ocean tsunami)



Over Khaolak (airlifting relief goods from Phuket Island to Phi Phi Island, Koh Phra Tong, and so on.)

Phuket International Airport (Helicopters of the Tokyo Fire Department and the Osaka City Fire Department, airlifted by a large transport plane, Antonov.)



The International Rescue Team is chosen from the Japan Disaster Relief Team and mobilized to disaster-stricken countries, as a specialized team for rescue operations



This tsunami occurred in Phuket for the first time in several years. And Japan has the experience of tsunami because of the frequent earthquake. So the international response team gave a seminar or workshop to educate people about the tsunami and its aftermath. In Thailand, Disaster Prevention Academy, our response team, conducted a training session for technical guidance. Then there was request from the Thai Government to Japan to provide training on a continual basis. Based on this request, FDMA and the Japanese Government have been sending experts on fire prevention and disaster prevention, in cooperation with JICA, to the Disaster Prevention Academy in Thailand. We are providing technical advice and technical training, so that they can set up these kinds of response teams and can dispatch them throughout Thailand.

In October 2005, when an earthquake occurred in Pakistan, International Rescue Team consisting of 13 fire fighters was sent to the northern part of Pakistan and we conducted rescue operations. Whenever there is a major disaster, FDMA not only sends the rescue team to the affected area but also, as in the case of Thailand, we set up the rescue program or provide rescue operation training. So FDMA, in cooperation with JICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responds to such request for training and technical advice.

Finally, I would like to talk about the volunteer fire fighters. This volunteer fire fighter corps is very unique to Japan. These volunteer fire fighters have their own jobs for their livelihood, but once there is a disaster in their district, they are requested to respond to the disaster. So this is a special fire corps made up of volunteer fire fighters, and there are 920,000 volunteer fire fighters throughout Japan. Those volunteer fire fighters are really based on local area and the residents of respective regions play a major role in disaster and fire prevention. Unfortunately, the number of those volunteers is decreasing. This is because of the decline in population in local areas and higher percentage of elderly in population. Another reason is occupational limitation behind such decline in the number of volunteer fire fighters. We are now making efforts to reverse that trend.

Activities of the volunteer fire corps, of course respond to the fire occurrence but, they receive training, although not every day. At the same time, volunteer fire fighters visit the residents door to door in order to give assurance to people that their safety is secured by the volunteer fire corps.

As the actual activities, we have fires in residential areas, but we also have forest fires, as Japan is very mountainous. And volunteer fire fighters respond to the forest fire right away and try to extinguish the fire. Their job is not just fire prevention. Whenever there is a typhoon, and when there is a high possibility of a landslide, we need to be cautious. So the volunteer fire fighters go to the residents in the dangerous areas, especially areas with elderly and small children and urge evacuation. And in cases of landslides, volunteer fire fighters go to the disaster site and try to rescue the people. In the case of a river, water level goes up, they pile up sand bags so that river will not overflow and also strengthen their patrol activities. So they contribute very much to securing safety in the local community. This is a very unique characteristics of community disaster management in Japan This is the end of my presentation on Japan's fire prevention system. Thank you very much.

Discussion

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Yokoyama. I think he had a very clear picture of what is being done by fire fighting corps. And for the fire fighting services, which are the responsibility of municipal governments, there are 150,000 professional fire fighters who would provide mutual assistance across municipal boundaries, and across prefectural boundaries. They would also cross the Japanese national boundaries to provide international rescue assistance. In addition to the professional fire fighters, there 900,000 volunteer fire fighters, but their number, he says is diminishing. This is too bad, but they are committed to protecting their own communities. This might be an interesting area for services in your own country. Tomorrow you will be visiting the fire agency I understand. Now the floor is open if you have any question to ask.

MR. KOSUGI, JAPAN:

I was Minister of Education, Science, Technology, Sports and Culture. And I used to be a member of volunteer fire corps in Japan. It is a very useful form of disaster management. This fire fighting corps are made up of local residents. So the benefit is that they are very close to the residents when disaster takes place. They know the conditions in the local areas and they know the local map. So before the professionals come, these local volunteer fire fighters will be on the scene. I think this is a wonderful system because they can give guidance to the professionals when they arrive at the scene.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

In Thailand, we also have a similar department, but it is under the bureaucracy, so it is not working well. So I would like to know that your agency is also under bureaucratic system or is it under some kind of autonomy that you can operate so efficiently?

MR. YOKOYAMA:

We are bureaucrats ourselves, but we will try not to be bureaucratic. We try to be flexible and functional.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

They are the last agency to call. That is our problem. We also have the Minister of Interior, also one under the Prime Minister's Office. But it does not work. Are parliamentarians involved in it?

MR. SAKURAI, JAPAN:

Yes. We are of course involved. Since we are representing the people, if the bureaucrats do not provide services, I will push them to provide services. We have good bureaucrats in Japan. We do not have lazy ones.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

In one of your slides, you showed the number of deaths from the disaster; Japan is 0.5%. Does this number include death from traffic accidents?

MR. YOKOYAMA:

No. Just the disaster.

MR. SAKURAI, JAPAN:

I have gone to your countries after the tsunami disaster. I said to myself, "This is a great opportunity to invite you to come to Japan", so that you can learn how the fire fighting services and nursing system work in Japan. This is a traditional system that existed even before modernization of Japan, even before the Meiji Restoration, and we are proud of it. In Yamakoshi, as Mr. Yokoyama said, we all thought it was miracle when a 2-year boy was saved. And it is thanks to the system we have. I think it might be useful to your countries as well.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

Two weeks ago, I visited the Uttaradit Province where they had a massive landslide 3 months ago. About 50 people died. The situation there was in chaos. And the system of emergency relief was totally nonexistent. So there is no system. And it happened there and it will happen again in other provinces. My question is, you have a very organized system, but when you have an earthquake, who do what? Who commands the disaster relief?

MR. YOKOYAMA:

When disaster strikes, it is the mayor of the city or the governor of the prefecture, who is finally responsible for providing those services. So they will command the fire fighters to assist, or asks the Self Defense Forces for assistance. That's how it starts. And when the scale of the disaster is too huge for municipality or prefecture to cope with, then the request will go to the national government. So that's how the system works.

MR. SAKURAI, JAPAN:

Our friend from Thailand, I do not think you can find answers to all of your problems because the culture is different. But I think there was a question from our friend from Malaysia, whether it is the nurses or the fire fighters, if you would like, we can invite your nurses or fire fighters for training session or workshop. And then you will find some wisdom. So if you think that this kind of program or workshop is important, request Japan to invite your nurses and fire fighters for workshop.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

I would like to really discuss this possibility but we have to go back and study the needs and specifically who should be sent. If you send wrong people, it will be a waste of money because they might just come for holiday and we do not want that. So we will follow up on this issue.

DATO' KAU, MALAYSIA:

I think it is a great idea and we would appreciate Japan taking the lead because of your vast experience and knowledge on this field. So we would appreciate if you could host such a seminar which I think will be very useful to various countries concerned. And I think we will make sure that we will send the right people, not the people for holidays. We will send the people who really learn and go back and contribute to our respective countries. I really appreciate and I second the suggestion by Mr. Sakurai. Thank you.

MR. KOSUGI, JAPAN:

Japan has experienced many earthquakes, typhoons and tsunami, so our awareness of disaster is comparatively high. Everyone from children to elderly is concerned about disaster management. I think there are 3 important points. First point is prevention. Second point is disaster management. Third point is recovery. And I visited Earth Simulator in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. This simulates the condition of the earth in the 21st Century, and it is really the cutting-edge device. If you have time, please go and visit it. Japan's technology and experience should be fully utilized by our neighboring countries in Asia. And I would like to make efforts to that end.

MS. IKEGAMI:

We heard from our friends in Malaysia and Thailand about the training courses for emergency nursing. When you go home, please contact the Japanese Embassy. That is the first step. The Japanese Government still deals with ODA on a request basis. So if you voice your request to the Japanese Embassy, then the Japanese Embassies in respective countries will communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. And this will be the base for the second step.

DR. SUKAVEJWORAKIT, THAILAND:

I think that this is a good opportunity for us to have some commitment. First of all, many parliamentarians are here. So we cannot just mention about nursing schedule. We have to look at the whole picture of what to be done and what to prepare. And get some effective person, respected person, and efficient person from our country and let them set up everything in mind and then prepare the whole picture, the master plan of what to be done as the first step. Just like what Mr. Kosugi said, there are 3 points, prevention, management and rehabilitation. And then go into detail for each sector. And that should cover everything. Not just only one segment. This is good I think.

MR. SAKURAI, JAPAN:

So there was a comment from Japan. Even if you go directly to Japanese Embassy in the respective country, not all staff at the embassy is knowledgeable. And this conference is organized by APDA, so first, you can talk to APDA. If we have certain plans, then I will talk to each Embassy and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There are some very specific areas that only experts can understand. So we would like to make a judgment and upon that judgment, I would like to contact the Embassies and the Ministry. So please contact APDA.

DATO' KAU, MALAYSIA:

This is a follow-up to what I had mentioned. I think this is a very specific topic. So we cannot just have anybody participating. So if you want to go into more result-oriented and more effective means, I would suggest that Japan take the lead, be the host, invite the head of the fire department of various countries and also head nurse of various countries. I totally agree we have to be top-down. So once the leaders of various departments understand the importance of this management of disaster, they would know how to plan accordingly, so a wider range of people will have a chance to treat. That means that as you go down the line, then they can plan the proper policy, whereby they can say that more people need training, and maybe invite the Japanese experts there to visit the country to do training and a wider range of people can benefit from it. But I would suggest that we get the top level people of the various areas like the head of fire fighters and the head of nurses of the various countries with Japan doing a specific invitation for specific person. I think it will be more effective that way. That is my suggestion.

MR. SAKURAI, JAPAN:

We cannot intervene in your home countries, so I think you must make a request. Otherwise, we cannot move. So you have got to make a request.

DR. VATHESATOGKT, THAILAND:

AFPPD could take this issue at the higher level. As I say, if you invite specific department, some of them would come and they go back and nothing happens. So I think we have to be stimulated as a long-term project. Japan is not just helping us technically but is also helping us with our disaster management system in the country and in this area. So AFPPD could take this issue and follow on. It is not just one. It could be some kind of working group and follow up on this and then further consultation and further activities will follows. I think we should explore this if possible.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you for that. We have very many suggestions and very many requests. When you have a major disaster, the politicians and the ordinary people are beginning to feel that, that it is our problem. We hear about the global warming. We were told that this is a very special situation, but special situation happens every time, so we are now beginning to realize that it is going to be an everyday thing. So it is not special occurrence. We have got to be prepared. Today we had presentations from fire fighters, nurses and JICA, but there are many other service providers. And we have to educate the people, organize at the local communities, and begin where we can begin. So politicians will have to be involved. We just started seeing where the problems are. And we are just beginning to discuss that. So we should follow up discussing this. I would like to conclude this session, and thank you very much.

**Parliamentarians' Study Visit on
Disaster Management & Reconstruction
Toward Sustainable Development Through Improvement of
Reproductive Health & Community Capacity Building**

20-23 September 2006

Itinerary

Time	Description and Place	
Wednesday, 20 September (Tokyo)		
09:30	Departure from Hotel	Travel time
10:00 - 10:45	Briefing & discussion by MOFA	MOFA
11:30 - 12:30	Briefing & discussion by JOICFP	JOICFP
12:45 -	Lunch	
14:30 - 16:00	Briefing, discussion & tour by TFD	Fire Rescue Task Forces in 2nd Fire District, Tokyo Fire Department (TFD)
		Overnight stay in Tokyo
Thursday, 21 September (Tokyo → Niigata)		
07:30 -	Departure from Hotel	Travel time
12:00 -	Lunch	Niigata City
13:30 - 14:00	Courtesy call on Deputy Governor of Niigata Prefecture	Room 201, 2F, Niigata Prefectural Government Office
14:00 -	Briefing & discussion by Niigata Prefectural Government	Room 201, 2F, Niigata Prefectural Government Office
16:30 - 17:00	Briefing, discussion & tour by Hokuriku Technical and Engineering Office	Niigata Disaster Prevention Center, Hokuriku Technical and Engineering Office, Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
18:00 -	Dinner	Nagaoka City
		Overnight stay Nagaoka City
Friday, 22 September (Niigata)		
09:00	Departure from Hotel	Travel time
09:30 - 12:00	Briefing & discussion by Nagaoka City Government (activities of volunteer fire fighters and Maternal & Child Health)	Nagaoka City Office
12:00 - 12:15	Courtesy call on Nagaoka City Mayor	Nagaoka City Office

12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	Nagaoka City
14:30 -	Visit sites of earthquake and rehabilitation	Myoken Landslide site & Kajigane settlement in the former Yamakoshi Village
15:00 -	Visit sites of earthquake and rehabilitation	Higashi-Takezawa in the former Yamakoshi Village
15:25 -	Visit Nakayama Tunnel	The former Yamakoshi Village
16:10 -	Visit Yamakoshi Office	Yubu Settlement in the former Yamakoshi Village
19:00 -	Dinner hosted by Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP	
		Overnight stay in Echigoyuzawa
Saturday, 23 September (Niigata → Narita, Chiba)		
09:00	Departure from Hotel	Travel time
10:00	Visit Fuko Temple & Vaisrava Shrine	Fuko Temple
	Visit Echigo Winery	Echigo Winery
12:00	Lunch	
	Departure for Narita	Travel time
		Overnight stay in Narita, Chiba
Sunday, 24 September (Narita, Chiba)		
		Flight back from Japan

JOICFP: Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

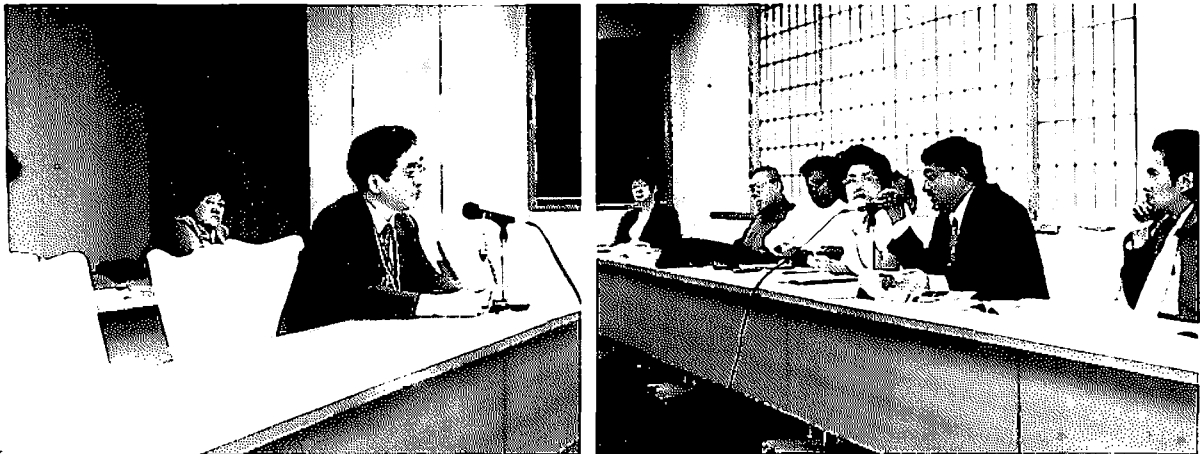
TFD: Tokyo Fire Department

Day 1 **Wednesday, September 20, 2006**

Visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nobuki Sugita, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation Bureau, briefed the inspection party about Japan's policy on ODA and reconstruction assistance. Mr. Sugita explained Japan's basic framework for ODA by stating that emergency assistance is offered by combining grant aid and technical assistance, while reconstruction assistance is basically offered in the form of loan such as yen loan.

Participants asked questions about the reasons for offering reconstruction assistance in yen loan. Mr. Sugita responded by saying that the funds cannot be offered within the framework of grant aid because of the extremely large amount of funds required for reconstruction assistance. His explanation is that this ODA policy is adequate because reconstruction assistance also has a facet of development program that is implemented in the reconstruction process.



Visit to JOICFP

The inspection party then visited Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) for briefing from Chairperson Mr. Yasuo Kon on Japan's experience in maternal health, family planning and reproductive health activities that were implemented through the New Life Movement in postwar Japan. Summary of briefing by Mr. Kon is as follows.

The period immediately after the war between 1945 and 1950 is characterized by severe poverty among the people and increase in fertility which simultaneously gave rise to increase in high-risk illegal abortion. Spread of diseases such as tuberculosis also made life even more difficult in a country which was going through the process of reconstruction. Under these difficult conditions, the Health Center Group carried out family planning and what is now called reproductive health activities to improve the lives of people. Artificial abortion was legalized in 1948 through enactment of the Eugenic Protection Law and the government adopted the national family planning program in 1952. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the world's largest non-governmental organization engaging in reproductive health and rights-related activities, was established in India in the same year. Ms. Margaret Sanger, the president of IPPF at the time, also visited Japan this year and further promoted family planning in the country through Ms. Shizue Kato with whom she was associated for quite some time, resulting in founding of Japan Family Planning Association at the 5th International Conference of IPPF in 1954.



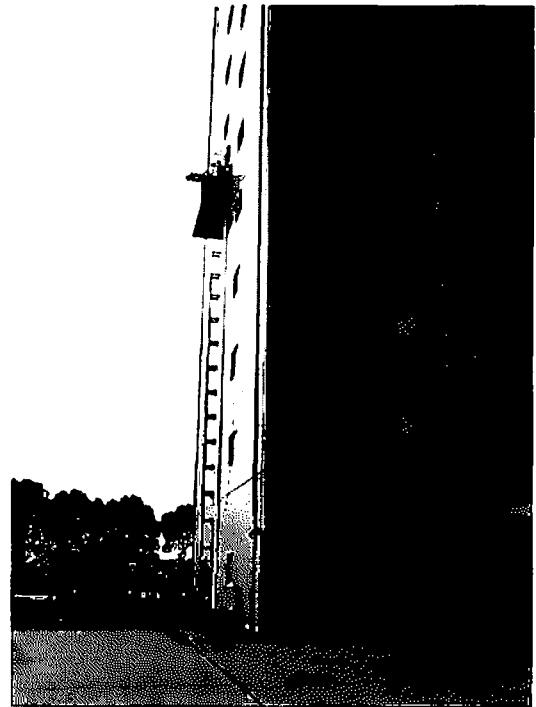
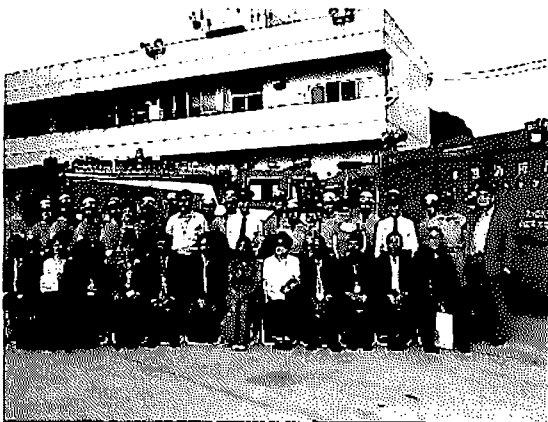
Maternal mortality rate (MMR), infant mortality rate (IMR) and total fertility rate (TFR) saw dramatic decline as a result of these activities. Maternal mortality rate dropped from 167.5 (out of every 100,000 births) in 1947 to 130.6 in 1960, 20.5 in 1980 and 6.1 in 2003. In addition, infant mortality rate declined from 76.7‰ in 1947 to 30.7‰ in 1960, 7.5‰ in 1980 and 3.0‰ in 2003, while total fertility rate dropped from 4.54 to 1.29 during the same period as the country attained demographic transition from high birth and infant mortality rates to low birth and infant mortality rates.

A participant asked about reasons behind the success of family planning in Japan. The response given was that there are 7 points behind the success of family planning activities in Japan. The first point is the human-centered approach. When implementing family planning, it is necessary to recognize the fact that the government cannot unilaterally force the program upon people and that it is the fundamental human right of individuals and couples to decide whether or not to have children. The second point concerns building trust between the person offering service and the person receiving service. Since family planning touches on the deepest aspects of people's privacy, it is necessary to build mutual trust through midwives and health nurses that are engaged in activities that are deeply entrenched in the community. The third point is using the existing human network in the community. The fourth point is to have government, experts and NGOs working together in implementing activities. The fifth point involves offering intensive courses on family planning and leadership training. The sixth point requires effective information exchange, education and communication. The seventh point is to continue these activities.

Visit to Tokyo Fire Department

After lunch, the inspection party visited the Hyper Rescue Team of the Second Fire District Headquarters at Tokyo Fire Department in Ota Ward to learn about their activities at home and abroad and observe their hyper rescue training. The Second Disaster Response Headquarters consists of 60 members who are working 24/7 in triple shift system.

Hyper Rescue Team was formed in response to a lesson learned from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake that occurred on January 17, 1995 and has been active for the past 10 years. It is a unit comprised of specialists that have been trained to deal with situations that are beyond the capabilities of ordinary fire-fighting efforts and are equipped with heavy machinery and skills needed for performing such rescue. The members are required to have high level of skills and physical abilities that enable them to continue to work for at least 72 hours without sleep. Tokyo has 3 of these disaster response headquarters that are currently deployed in Second, Third and Eighth districts, respectively.



Day 2

Thursday, September 21, 2006

En route to Niigata

A simple briefing about the background of inspection was given by showing DVD in the bus en route from Tokyo to Niigata. The titles shown included “Horumaika”, a film about Nakayama Tunnel, and “Agricultural Development and Population in Japan”, a film produced by APDA about the New Life Movement which is a program that combined life improvement family planning, agricultural improvement and micro-credit in an integrated manner.

Visit to Niigata Prefectural Government Office

Courtesy Visit to Vice-Governor

Vice-Governor Mr. Hiroshi Oguma welcomed the inspection party and expressed sympathy for tsunami and earthquake damage caused by the Sumatra Earthquake. He then gave the following overview of Niigata Prefecture.



OVERVIEW OF NIIGATA (Summary)

Niigata Prefecture suffered serious damage from the Chuetsu Earthquake that occurred in October 2004 and has been carrying out disaster reconstruction with support from countries around the world. More than seven thousand people still live in temporary housing today and Niigata Prefectural Government is making efforts to bring people back to their home as early as possible. While we cannot prevent natural disasters, the attitude of the national government, municipalities and people towards day-to-day prevention will be important in minimizing various damages. For this reason, the prefectural government is working with the residents and formulating future measures with focus on disaster prevention and management based on the experience of earthquake.

The advice we can offer to the parliamentarians who will be drafting their disaster management manual in the future is to use the lore that has been passed down in your country or region. For instance, you may look for stories describing the signs that were observed before earthquake and tsunami, and for stories about certain areas remained free from damage even when they did occur. In Japan, we create our disaster prevention system by incorporating local lore into science and technology.



Mr. Oguma was followed by Mr. Ahmed Zahir, Speaker of the People's Majlis, Maldives, who expressed gratitude on behalf of the parliamentary inspection party for receiving the inspection. Mr. Zahir said that this program is very effective and practical because it first offers sufficient information by holding a conference and then continues by taking you to see the site. He added by saying that, while some countries had experienced numerous disasters prior to the Sumatra Earthquake, Maldives and Sri Lanka had never suffered damage of such enormous magnitude in the past. He said that that is why they want to take this opportunity to learn and properly utilize what we have learned in our policies after returning home.

Mr. Shin Sakurai, who is the Chairman of Organizing Committee for this program (Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Disaster Management and Reconstruction Towards Sustainable Development Through Improvement of Reproductive Health and Community Capacity Building) and has also been elected as parliamentarian from Niigata Prefecture, thanked the prefecture for accepting the inspection party and welcomed the inspection party to his home prefecture. He went on to say that there is not a year that goes by without Niigata experiencing one kind of natural disaster or another and that damages are amounting to tens of trillions of yen every year. He said that as long as it is not possible to eliminate natural disasters, people in Niigata have been fighting disasters and have been engaging in post-war reconstruction through coexistence. He asked the members of the inspection party to learn about prevention of disaster and minimization of damages through the conference and inspection and utilize their experience after returning to their respective countries.

Presentation Ceremony for Donation from People of Niigata for the Victims of Indonesia

Following the courtesy visit to the Vice-Governor, the presentation ceremony for message and catalog of donation collected from people of Niigata Prefecture for the victims of Indonesia earthquake and tsunami was held at the Vice-Governor's office.



Overview of the Chuetsu Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Measures by Niigata Prefecture

(Summary)

Mr. Kazushi Hosogai, Deputy Director, Disaster Prevention and Emergency Management Division, Niigata Prefecture

OVERVIEW OF THE EARTHQUAKE

The Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake occurred at 17:56 on Saturday, October 23, 2004. Its epicenter was located 13km below the town of Kawaguchi and registered a magnitude of 6.8. Maximum seismic intensity of 7 was recorded in Kawaguchi Town with strong tremor spreading to the entire Chuetsu Region which accounts for almost one-third of the mainland portion of Niigata Prefecture. Seismic intensity is divided into ten levels, i.e. 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 lower, 5 upper, 6 lower, 6 upper and 7. Intensity level 7 corresponds to a condition in which people cannot act on their own will because of the tremor. Most furniture in the house will move a large distance with some flying in the air, and even the quake-resistant houses will incur significant damage including tilting of the entire structure. Landscape sometimes changes due to ground fissure and landslide.

As a result of this earthquake, 65 people were killed, 4,795 were injured, 120,723 houses were damaged and 40,343 houses suffered non-residential damages. It is said that building damage was relatively small for earthquake of this intensity. This is attributed to the fact that the affected region is a heavy snowfall area and the houses are designed to withstand the weight of snow.

The Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake is characterized by the violent tremor caused by shallow epicenter and strong aftershocks that occurred continuously over a long period of time. The region affected by disaster was a hilly and mountainous area where landslide was occurring on a daily basis. It was also rural mountain village community with one of the heaviest snowfalls in the country and experiencing depopulation and aging. Concentration of high-speed transportation network in this region led to many instances of ground damages and landslide disasters which are typical of damages suffered by mountainous areas. Consequently, this earthquake disaster left a very important lesson in implementation of disaster prevention programs in hilly and mountainous areas which account for 70% of Japan's national land, serving as a case model for future disaster prevention efforts along with the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake which was an urban earthquake.

RESPONSE OF PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROBLEMS

When an earthquake registering 6 lower in seismic intensity occurred in Niigata Prefecture, the disaster countermeasure center was automatically installed with the governor appointed as the chief commander and called in all prefectural government employees on an emergency basis to collect information about damages and implement emergency disaster countermeasures. Request for support was made after this earthquake to the Self-Defense Forces, the Emergency Fire Rescue Team and the Japan Coast Guard, which worked with prefectural fire department and police to carry out rescue activities. Food aid and personnel arrived from municipalities throughout the country based on the mutual support agreement in addition to advisors from Hyogo Prefecture (which experienced the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake) who stayed on an ongoing basis. In addition, a total of 88,000 volunteers came from all over Japan to run evacuation centers, deliver supplies and perform other activities for supporting the livelihood of disaster victims.

Municipal governments that suffered damage carried out the front line activities at the outset of disaster. Due to the magnitude of the disaster, however, the prefectural government dispatched its employees to respective regions on behalf of municipal governments in this case to engage in support activities including collection of information, procurement of relief supply and coordination of large amount of relief money and supplies that are sent from all over Japan.

Evacuation centers were run by municipal governments while the prefectural government studied the condition of evacuation centers and their needs and offered health-related services including psychological care for those staying in evacuation center for extended period of time. Meanwhile, information regarding the livelihood recovery support system for disaster victims including the condition of lifeline recovery and traffic was offered through the prefectural government's website.

As a result of implementing these emergency disaster measures, points that require improvement were identified in areas that can broadly be divided into the following:

- 1) Organization and structure of prefectural disaster countermeasure headquarters;
- 2) Collection of information;
- 3) Cooperation among municipal governments;
- 4) Procurement and distribution of relief supplies; and
- 5) Evacuation center measures.

The first point on reviewing the organization and structure of prefectural disaster countermeasure headquarters originated from the fact that countermeasure headquarters was not able to respond fully to increase in needs and operations because of the simplicity of its organization and that it took too much time in launching its initial measures after it was set up. The second point was the result of delay in collection of information about the status of damage due to communication blackout that caused confusion in measures that were taken thereafter. The third point refers to the fact that offers for assistance that came from municipal governments throughout the country were not fully utilized because the needs of disaster-stricken areas were not fully grasped. The fourth point originated from the fact that initial food supply was delayed due to shortage of relief supply reserve and large quantities of relief supplies that arrived from various parts of the country were retained because distribution system had not been fully built. The fifth point involves an issue over how to respond to the needs of evacuees (including supply of goods and food, privacy measures and health measures) that change from day to day during their extended stay at evacuation centers.

These lessons from the disaster were summarized into 5 points and a full-fledged revision of Niigata Prefecture Regional Disaster Prevention Plan was carried out by defining the duties and operations of government agencies, municipal governments and public agencies in the prefecture with regard to disaster prevention as follows:

- 1) Clarification of role-sharing and responsibility among residents, community and disaster-prevention agencies;

- 2) Strengthening of cooperation system to compensate for lack of responding capacity;
- 3) Strengthening of self-reliant disaster prevention capacity of villages that are expected to become isolated;
- 4) Strengthening of evacuation and guiding system and improvement of living conditions during evacuation; and
- 5) Strengthening of supply system for food and goods.

Measures for strengthening the disaster prevention system of the prefectural government included the following:

- 1) Strengthening the staff functions for assisting the chief commander and forming organizations based on disaster response operations as part of an effort to review the functions and organization of disaster countermeasure headquarters;
- 2) Adopting a 24/7 watch system to step up monitoring and initial response and establish main delivery system to conduct emergency call-in of employees;
- 3) Create a system for dispatching employees in charge of information gathering to municipalities and set-up satellite cell phone for communication; and
- 4) Advance development of permanent risk management disaster prevention center and disaster prevention information system to enhance the facilities.

Mutual assistance agreements are signed among municipal governments to strengthen the structure for cooperation through personal exchanges and joint drills on a routine basis. In addition, reinforcement of collaboration is being sought by offering information including weather observation data to municipalities in the prefecture and calling on municipal government employees to participate in prefectural disaster countermeasure headquarter training. Moreover, seminars and leadership trainings are being offered to advance the fostering of voluntary disaster prevention organizations and supporting activity expenses for training and purchasing equipment with the aim of reinforcing regional disaster prevention capacity and enabling people to engage in initial fire fighting, evacuation guiding and rescue activities in an effort to increase awareness of local people about disaster prevention. Support for purchasing communication equipment is offered to villages that may become isolated when roads are severed by disaster in addition to offering assistance in drawing hazard maps for each municipality and carrying out enlightenment and dissemination of disaster prevention awareness through lectures and seminars.

As for measures to secure and supply food and relief materials, a policy has been formulated for the prefectural government, municipal governments and residents of the prefecture to bear their respective share of responsibility in storing enough food and daily necessities to 100,000 for 3

days in the event a disaster similar to the scale of the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake occurs. In addition, an agreement has been signed with transportation and logistics companies to work together so that procurement of food and relief materials and their delivery to disaster-affected areas will be carried out smoothly.

In addition to these measures, Niigata Prefecture Risk Management Strategy has been formulated to sort out high priority areas the prefecture needs to approach in a strategic manner to enhance its risk management response capacity and seek integrated and comprehensive promotion of pertinent measures. Furthermore, efforts are being made to build a sustainable social system without disrupting people's livelihood and the function of community and industry so that the people of Niigata Prefecture can live safely without fear.

Empowerment Measures for Rural Women by Niigata Prefecture (Summary)

Ms. Hiroko Suzuki, Director, Agricultural Management Promotion Division, Niigata Prefecture

Movement for rural women in Niigata Prefecture has mainly been under the guidance of dissemination centers that are located in each region. Life improvement movement offered education and training that allowed farmers to think how to improve their lives. There was much room for improvement in rural life 60 years ago. Life improvement movement started by improving the kitchen furnace so that people can get an actual sense of satisfaction as a result of this activity and feel motivated to move on to the next stage. Extension workers came up with their own themes that are closely linked to daily life such as improvement of work clothes and public health, acted on these themes and promoted their improvement. Workshops on production skills with the aim of improving the level of agricultural production because of the important role women play in agriculture. Dissemination of life improvement was expanded beyond technical guidance and created opportunities for presenting the activities that had been carried out so that their results could be recognized not only by the women engaged in such activities but also by the public in an effort to have the ability of women appreciated by the entire community.

Activities for improving quality of life gained momentum during the mid-60s to mid-70s. Group activities were brought into play after dissemination centers instructed people to approach the issues related to life improvement movement by looking at them as group issue instead of personal issue. In addition, a vehicle named "Sachikaze-Go" circulated the villages to improve the quality of people's diet and study the status of fatigue among farmers. The vehicle also offered

guidance for improvement of diet. These activities were carried out by taking into consideration the social climate of the times.

The emphasis is currently placed on properly evaluating the important role played by women and activities are being implemented to advance their economic independence and social participation. As farms in Japan are mainly managed by families, couples are urged to participate in farm management seminars so that families can discuss about their own salaries and working hours to promote farm management that is rewarding for them while advancing conclusion of family management agreement and certification of business partnership to encourage economic independence of women in old age. The number of women that start their own business is increasing in the recent year with the number of individuals and groups launching their business increasing fivefold from 69 in 1996 to 332 in 2005.

Rural women are also contributing to farm guest houses and rural restaurants that reutilize old structures as accommodation facilities and allow the guests to experience rural life and culture through agriculture, fisheries and forestry, in addition to being involved in welfare activities through horticulture and environmental education. Fruit and vegetable stands are also mainly run by women who sell their own crops. There are currently 518 such stands in the prefecture and are contributing significantly to the local economy by generating 3.3 billion yen a year in sales.

Niigata Prefecture is supporting participation of women in policy decision-making situations, capacity-building for social participation, fostering and organization of female leaders and networking among women's organizations based on the understanding that self-reliance and improvement of their skills would contribute to social development in Niigata Prefecture. In addition, efforts are being made to increase the percentage of women in agricultural cooperative full membership from the present 15.1% to more than 25% while increasing the percentage of female board members from 2.5% to 10%, the percentage of committees with 2 or more women from 48% to 100%, and the percentage of female council members from 29% to 35%.

Niigata Disaster Prevention Center (Hokuriku Technical and Engineering Office)

Mr. Itsuo Hirata, Director of Hokuriku Technical and Engineering Office, Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, explained that prompt and accurate initial response is crucial in the event a natural disaster such as earthquake, flood and snow disaster occurs. He went on to explain that this center serves as the base for lifesaving and disaster prevention activities at rivers and roads, engaging in efficient and prompt disaster prevention activities by working with municipal governments. Photos from flood damage over extensive areas that occurred after the levees broke at reservoirs along the Shinano River after the Chuetsu Earthquake. Work was performed using equipment brought over to disaster sites from all over Japan. The manager concluded by saying that self-reliance, mutual assistance and public assistance are indispensable in disaster prevention and that it is important to strengthen each aspect and effectively coordinate these aspects.



Then the inspection party visited the disaster prevention equipment and disaster prevention communication network equipment that are equipped at the center. The equipment that was explained to the party was as follows:

- Headquarters vehicle: Vehicle sent out to the site in the event of disaster to assume command, gather information and examine measures as on-site mobile countermeasure headquarters.
- Drainage pump vehicle: Performs drainage in the event of flood to minimize damage.
- Lighting vehicle: Vehicle used for lighting when performing work in dark at disaster sites and rehabilitation sites. Also used at evacuation centers.

- Bridge inspection vehicle: Checks the safety of structures such as bridges after the occurrence of disasters.
- Remote control shovel: Operates on remote control and performs rehabilitation work by preventing secondary disasters. Played an active role at landslide sites during the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake.



Day 3

Friday, September 22, 2006

Visit to Nagaoka City Office

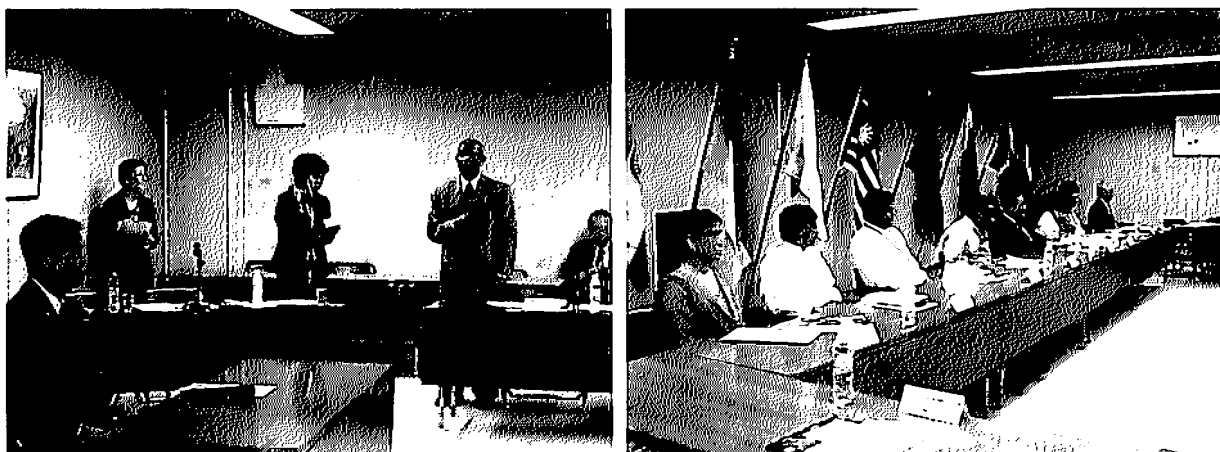
Courtesy Visit to Mayor Mr. Tamio Mori

Mayor Mr. Tamio Mori welcomed the inspection party and explained briefly about Nagaoka City as follows.

OVERVIEW OF NAGAOKA CITY (Summary)

Nagaoka City recently went through consolidation of municipalities and the population has now reached 280,000. Two years ago, we experienced 3 disasters in a row; heavy rain, the Great Chuetsu Earthquake and heavy snow. Many people were forced to live in evacuation centers as a result of this earthquake and more than 3,500 people are still living in temporary housing today. In Nagaoka City, people and government are working together to build a disaster-resistant city. Efforts are also being made in human resource development which is indispensable for the development of the city.

In response, Mr. Ahmed Zahir, Speaker of the People's Majlis, Maldives expressed gratitude on behalf of the parliamentary inspection party to Mayor Mori, Mr. Sakurai and other employees for receiving the inspection and said that he would by all means like to take home all the information and knowledge he had obtained so far and utilize them in creating the disaster prevention system in his country. Then Mr. Sakurai, who is the Chairperson of Organizing Committee, thanked the Nagaoka City for receiving the inspection party and delivered a speech of welcome for the inspection party. Mr. Sakurai added by explaining to the parliamentarians that had participated from the countries that suffered damage from the Great Sumatra Earthquake and the Great Pakistan Earthquake that the reason he decided to have them come to Japan this time is because he had felt when he visited these disaster-affected countries that learning from the experience of Japan, a country deemed as department store of natural disasters, and from its community that greatly contributed to recovery from disaster would be useful in rehabilitation and in development of disaster countermeasures in their respective countries.



Activities by Private Sector Fire Corps in Nagaoka City (Summary)

Mr. Mamoru Sakurai, Director of Nagaoka City Private Sector Fire Corps;

Mr. Isao Sato, Vice Manager of Education Division, Nagaoka City Private Sector Fire Corps;

Mr. Shoji Honda, Chief of Nagaoka City Fire Headquarters; and

Mr. Yasuo Kimura, Vice Director of Vigilante Division, Nagaoka City Fire Headquarters

Volunteer fire fighters in Nagaoka City currently consist of 4,000 members (2 of whom are women) and 10 subgroups. The fire company has a long history which is said to have started when a town fire fighter group was organized under the order of the Eighth Edo Shogun Yoshimune Tokugawa. The group changed its format thereafter to fire brigade and accident prevention brigade before becoming a fire company with the enactment of the Fire Fighting Organization Act in 1948.

The duty of these fire companies is to protect the community from disasters such as fire. Their members are usually working on their respective jobs but assemble in the event of disaster to engage in fire fighting activities as well as in rescue activities after wind and flood damage and large earthquakes. In times other than disaster, they work in broad range of areas including fire prevention and public education, thereby playing an important role of demonstrating leadership in regional fire fighting and disaster prevention.

These activities of fire companies are based on the spirit of “protecting one’s own community”. They are the most community-based fire service supported by its residents. For instance, they can find out people’s safety and convey information amidst the confusion of disaster. Disaster prevention requires strengthening of social links based on realization that people must first protect themselves and then their family and neighbors in the community.

In response to a question from the parliamentarians about fund raising, it was explained that public budget is available but shortfalls are covered by their members. The answer to a question about remuneration was that 20,000 to 30,000 yen are paid every year and an allowance of 2,500 yen is provided for each fire dispatch. The response to a question about when the training is conducted was that these trainings are mainly conducted on Sundays and holidays and on weekday mornings and evenings.

Activities for Mother and Child Health Care in Nagaoka City (Summary)

Ms. Yoshiko Kuchiki, Nagaoka City Mother and Child Health Care Advisor; and

Ms. Naoko Aoki, Chief of Mother and Child Health Care Section (Health Care Division)

Nagaoka City Maternal and Child Health Promotion Council was established on July 28, 1969. The Council is engaged in community-based activities including visits and training activities requested by municipal government as well as holding workshops and liaison meetings on themes that are tailored to characteristics of the region. The Council currently has 265 members who are volunteers recommended and elected by each region and 13 board members including the chairperson who serve 2-year terms.

Basic activities of the Council consist of support according to respective needs and include prenatal and postnatal consultation and care for pregnant women and house visits, as well as implementation of programs tailored to regional characteristics and baby's age. The Council is also attempting to allow participating mothers to take part in subsequent voluntary activities by joining circle activities instead of offering unilateral support from the Council staff. Preparations under the new environment will become an important factor during women's prenatal period as they go through changes in lives and family structure compared to when they were single. Pregnant women getting together and visits by Council staff during this period of unfamiliarity enables them to acquire various information and knowledge and get a picture about their future after having their baby so that they can raise their babies without anxiety. Moreover, maternity passbook is being promoted to grasp the health condition of mothers and babies and to promote self health management. Maternity passbooks can be obtained at the health section of city hall and at health and welfare sections of respective branch offices by submitting notification of pregnancy.

A parliamentarian from Thailand asked when the use of maternity book started, whether anyone can obtain the passbook, whether the passbook is used for medical examination of children, whether expectant mother visits are made based on the passbook and whether the health of Japanese people

was improved as a result of using the passbook. The response given was that maternity passbook was started in 1965 and can be obtained by all expectant mothers. All health nurse visits are performed based on maternity passbook but the visit itself is not performed in special situations including that in which expectant mother's marriage is not registered. Medical examination of babies is performed by using past vaccination record, health status and process of growth described in maternity passbook. Maternity passbook is believed to have contributed to improvement of health status in Japan because families can also use this record to manage their own health and infant mortality has declined.

A parliamentarian from Malaysia asked whether notification of pregnancy is a requirement in obtaining maternity passbook and the reason for fathers not being in the photos from workshops for expectant mothers in the literature. The response was that presentation of notification of pregnancy is a nonbinding requirement. Doctors are asked to recommend expectant mothers to obtain maternity passbook as it enables them to receive free maternal checkup and helps them to monitor their health. Fathers rarely attend maternity workshops and parenting circles. These sessions are usually held during the day on weekdays, so fathers are at work and therefore cannot attend them.

A parliamentarian from India asked about the percentage of Caesarian section operations (as one of painless childbirth methods) and the percentage of breastfeeding mothers. The response to the first question was that not many Caesarian section operations are performed and most childbirth is performed in an ordinary manner. As for breastfeeding, maternal health staff visits 70 to 80% of mothers after child delivery and recommend breastfeeding.

Parliamentarians from Indonesia and Sri Lanka asked whether Maternal Health Promotion Council exists throughout Japan and about the length of maternal leave. The response was that groups engaged in similar activities exist throughout the country. Six-week prenatal and 8 week postnatal maternity leaves are taken in addition to childcare leave which can be taken after maternity leave until the child is a year old. When the mother returns to her previous job, she can also leave her job for 1 hour out of her working hours to care for her child until the child is a year old.

At the end, Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, Director of UNFPA Tokyo Office reported that maternity passbook is being used in Malaysia under the name of family health handbook.

Visit to Sites of Earthquake and Rehabilitation at the Former Yamakoshi Village

Myoken Landslide Site

The site where a vehicle with a mother and her 2 children that had been missing was found 3 days after the earthquake on October 26th and a boy was rescued the following day on October 27th, was observed from a distance. Enormous amount of rock and debris that had collapsed on the prefectural road took the road bed and fell into Shinano River that flowed by the road. Recovery work was carried out by using unmanned machinery such as remote control shovel (which the party saw at Niigata Disaster Prevention Center) to secure access for finding the submerged vehicle and rescuing its passengers. The rescue was performed through cooperation among the Hyper Rescue Team of Tokyo Fire Department, local fire companies and experts (from police and Self Defense Force). The debris has been removed and the slope that had collapsed is now covered by concrete and concrete blocks all the way from the mountain top as a result of rehabilitation work.



Site of Higashi Takezawa River Channel Blockage

The area around the former Takezawa Elementary School used to be a typical hilly and mountainous area with mountains, terrace paddies and a river (Imo River) but the land had been leveled by the massive mudslide and landslide, creating the largest flatland in the Yamakoshi Region as a result. Because of its hilly and mountainous topography, many roads and rivers were blocked by the large number of landslide damages that occurred. River blockage occurred at 5 locations in the Imo River basin and caused extensive damage by turning the entire area into a lake and flooding roads and houses. The damage was particularly serious in Terano District and Higashi Takezawa District. The road blockage site of Higashi Takezawa District that the inspection party visited had suffered from a large scale mudslide and landslide that was described as “more like mountain moving than a landslide”.

Visit to Nakayama Tunnel

Nakayama Tunnel in Komutsumura Settlement of the former Yamakoshi Village is a hand-cut tunnel that was built over a period of 16 years starting in 1933. The tunnel is 2 meters wide, 2.5 meters high and 1 kilometer long, and was built by only using pickax. Before this tunnel was built, people of Yamakoshi Village had to go over the 400 meters high Nakayama Pass to go to the next village (Hirogami Village) to procure their daily supplies. The village was completely isolated in the winter as the region had one of the heaviest snowfalls in the country. When someone became ill, that person had to be carried on another person's back in deep snow for more than half a day to get over the pass in order to go to the hospital in Hirogami Village. Many people arrived too late and lost their lives as a result. A plan was made to dig a tunnel under Nakayama Pass as the villagers were experiencing distress and accidents and losing their lives every year. People of the village dug the tunnel with their own hands.



Day 4

Saturday, September 23, 2006

Visit to Fuko-ji Temple

The last day of the inspection tour was spent visiting the Zenkoji Temple in Muikamachi and Echigo Winery. At Zenkoji, the party visited the cultural property of a shrine encased inside a temple. Many of the participants asked questions about the form of religion in Japan and the fact that Japan had incorporated culture from various parts of Asia was introduced.

Visit to Echigo Winery

At the next destination, Echigo Winery, the party saw the system that utilized the heavy snowfall, which was a great burden, to store wine in cool temperature. The area around Muikamachi has one of the heaviest snowfalls in the country and people were suffering from damages caused by snow. Echigo Winery takes advantage of this by refrigerating its wine throughout the year without using any electricity. The snow that accumulates on the roof naturally drops into the snow and ice chamber in the basement and stored there for the rest of the year. Two hundred and fifty kilograms of snow stored in this chamber keeps the temperature of adjacent wine cellar at 5°C year round. The winery succeeded in earning stable profit by making use of heavy snow that had been a major problem for the region. This system that runs completely free of electricity also offers a clean energy case model with consideration for the global environment.

This example of turning heavy snow, the greatest burden for the region, into advantage was a new discovery for the parliamentarians that took part in the tour. It set a good example for the parliamentarians to launch various projects utilizing the characteristics of their land and climate.

Comments from Participants

The participants were able to understand that these voluntary efforts have been supporting the development of Japan and that such efforts were not repeated often in their own countries. Japan's development did not start from nothing; rather it was born out of such unceasing efforts of the people. They were able to understand the amount of effort the Japanese people made to build the success they have today.

Also, the local and national governments are organically and efficiently supporting the efforts being made in this region. Although things probably will not change overnight, they say that would like to go home and talk about this to their colleagues and approach their government to learn from Japan's experience.

Participants' List

Members of Parliament

Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit	Senator/AFPPD Secretary-General, Thailand
Dr. Prakit Vathesatogkit	Senator, Thailand
Mr. Ahmed Zahir	People's of Majlis Speaker, Maldives
Mr. Ahmed Nazim	Member of Parliament, Maldives
Mr. Hassan Afeef	Member of Parliament, Maldives
Ms. Gul-e-Farkhanda Siddiqui	Member of Parliament/Chairperson of Standing Committee on Population Welfare, Pakistan
Mr. Anwar Shaleh	Member of Parliament, Indonesia
Mr. Rendy Afandy Lamadjido	Member of Parliament, Indonesia
Dato' Lim Bee Kau	Member of Parliament, Malaysia
Mr. Kumara Ananda Welgama	Industrial Development Minister, Sri Lanka
Mr. Hitihamillage Jayaratne Herath	Healthcare and Nutrition Deputy Minister, Sri Lanka
Mr. Ambetenna Premadasa	Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka
Dr. Vallabhbbhai Kathiria	Member of Parliament, India
Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta	Member of Parliament, India
Mr. Shin Sakurai	Member of Parliament/JFPF Vice-Chairperson, Japan
Mr. Yasuo Fukuda	Member of Parliament/AFPPD Chairperson/JFPF Vice-Chairperson, Japan
Ms. Kayoko Shimizu	Member of Parliament/JFPF Secretary-General/APDA Vice-Chairperson, Japan
Ms. Chieko Nohno	Member of Parliament/JFPF Vice-Chairperson, Japan
Mr. Matsushige Ono	Member of Parliament/The then Chairperson of the Special Committee on Disasters in the House of Representatives , Japan
Mr. Takashi Kosugi	Member of Parliament, Japan
Ms. Hiroko Wada	Member of Parliament/Vice-Chairperson of JFPF Committee on Domestic Measures, Japan
Mr. Tadayoshi Nagashima	Member of Parliament, Japan

Resource Persons

Mr. Koji Ota	Team Director, Training Team, Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR), JICA
Mr. Masami Fuwa	Senior Assistant to the Director-General, Social Development Department, JICA
Prof. Mariko Ohara	Professor, Japanese Red Cross Musashino Junior College of Nursing and Japanese Red Cross Nursing College
Mr. Tadahiro Yokoyama	Senior Specialist for Mutual Aid Management, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Mr. Nobuki Sugita	Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau
Mr. Masanori Nakano	Deputy Director, Humanitarian Assistance Division, International Cooperation Bureau

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami	Director, UNFPA Tokyo Office, Japan
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Meeting Participants

Mr. Yoshio Karita	Councillor, APDA
Mr. Ramlan bin Kimin	Embassy of Malaysia in Japan
Mr. Nobuhiro Teruta	Deputy Director, Niigata Prefecture Tokyo Office
Ms Sawako Hirose	Manager, Department of Professional Services Support and Human Resource Information Center, Japanese Nursing Association
Ms. Chin Hooi Choo	Assistant to Malaysian MP
Mr. Atman Vallabhbhai Kathiria	Assistant to Indian MP

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Dr. Osamu Kusumoto	Secretary-General
Ms. Ryoko Kimura	Manager, External Affairs
Mr. Masanori Takemoto	Programme Manager
Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa	Manager, International Affairs

Interpreters

Ms. Fujiko Hara

Ms. Akiko Ninagawa

Ms. Tomoe Katogi

Ms. Hideko Morita

