

A Kobe-Inspired Disaster Training Center in Turkey

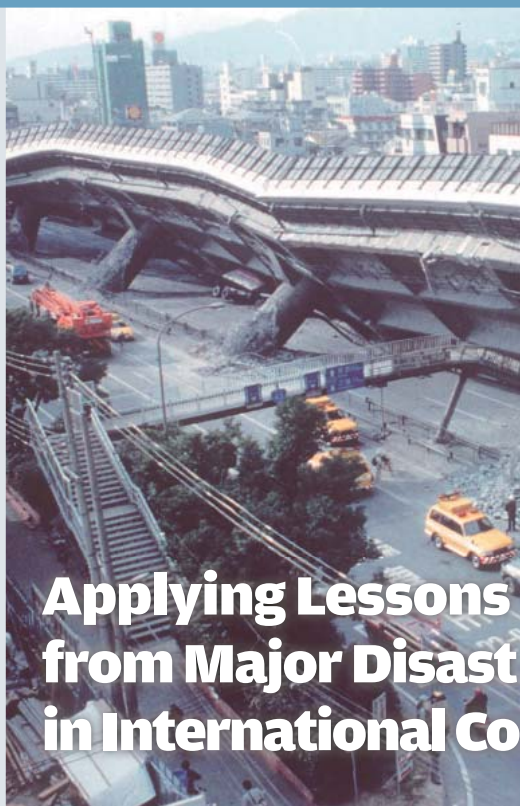
Increasing citizens' awareness of disaster reduction is an important issue in Turkey, which, like Japan, experiences frequent earthquakes. The Turkish people look to Japan as a leading nation in disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Turkey participated in Mitigation/Reconstruction from Earthquake Disaster, a country-focused training and dialogue program held by the JICA Kansai International Center from 2003 through 2008. Program participants learned the importance of education through visits to such facilities as the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) in Kobe. This memorial museum and exhibition gallery provides information and training courses based on experiences and operations related to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995.

The participants included a future governor of Bursa Province, which is home to Turkey's fourth largest city, Bursa. The province straddles the North Anatolian Fault, an active fault running through Turkey from east to west, which has caused numerous large earthquakes within the past three to four centuries. The last major movement on this active fault occurred in 1855, so it would not be surprising for a quake of magnitude 7 or greater to strike sometime soon. As the province houses a high concentration of automotive and other factories, the economic impact would affect the entire country.

In view of this situation, the government of Turkey opened the Disaster Training Center in July 2013, modeled on Kobe's DRI, in the city of Bursa as the country's first comprehensive facility for disaster-reduction education. Bursa Province covered the entire cost of the ¥750 million project. Masahiko Murata, director of the DRI Research Department, visited the newly opened facility in September 2013 to offer management advice and exchange opinions. He says: "With three floors above ground and one below, the building has ample space, and the content of the exhibition, which includes photographs and experiences of survivors of the 1999 Izmit and 2011 Van earthquakes that struck the country, is quite comprehensive." Following Bursa's lead, the government of Turkey plans to construct similar facilities in more than 10 cities throughout the country.

Overseas participants learning about disaster prevention at DRI (above). Interior of the Disaster Training Center in Bursa Province, Turkey (below).



Applying Lessons from Major Disasters in International Cooperation

Exchange with Foreign

The Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake (magnitude 6.8) struck on October 23, 2004. While the death toll was low compared to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, at just 68, the quake was devastating to the depopulated region nonetheless. The widespread landslides and other damage caused the equivalent of 20 years of population decline all at once, confronting the region's rural communities with the question of whether they could survive. Rather than posing a new problem, this disaster exposed and accelerated a latent, chronic problem. The question of how to deal with the issues facing these rural communities became the focus of recovery efforts.

JICA selected the Wakatochi district of Ojiya City in Niigata Prefecture as the model for recovering mountain areas. As part of this, JICA developed the Pre-Recovery Planning from Natural Disasters train-



ers operation

Trainees at Niigata Disaster Site

ing program, launching it in 2007. In 2012, 14 government officials and researchers from eight countries, including China, the Philippines, Mexico, and Turkey, stayed overnight in the city for training and interacted with local residents. These exchanges generate the energy to go forward with recovery efforts.



Program participants visit homes in Ojiya, Niigata, which were rebuilt as part of earthquake recovery efforts.

PHOTO: AP/ARL

City officials from Banda Aceh learn about waste disposal in Higashi Matsushima.



Sharing East Japan's Experiences with Aceh, Indonesia

Higashi Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture, a city devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, is participating in the Mutual Reconstruction Program together with Banda Aceh in Indonesia. The provincial capital was destroyed by the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman Earthquake in the Indian Ocean. In this JICA partnership program, two city officials from Aceh were dispatched to Higashi Matsushima to participate in Recovery OJT Training for one year from March 2013. While sharing Aceh's recovery and reconstruction experiences, the trainees learned about disaster debris disposal, general waste disposal, disaster prevention system construction, and the like. Upon returning home, the participants will implement recovery measures including sustainable town development, disaster risk reduction education, community and business assistance programs, and regional governance improvements.

After the two officials finished the training in February 2014, they released a report on the results. They praised Higashi Matsushima's debris disposal efforts, which have recycled more than 90% of debris. They aim to "progressively implement such measures in Aceh with the support of local residents." In the longer term, the officials plan to work on drafting effective and efficient legal systems, supporting private-sector garbage disposal-related industries, and introducing small-scale incineration plants on an experimental basis. Banda Aceh and Higashi Matsushima have concluded a cooperation agreement and will operate various exchange programs, including the dispatch of personnel, through March 2016.