

SCENE

Disaster Risk Reduction

2

Sharing Japan's experience with the world

Japan has experienced many earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. That experience and the knowledge acquired have been utilized in disaster risk reduction projects in developing countries. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) a UN document adopted in the 3rd UN DRR Conference held in Sendai City in 2015, represents JICA's strong desire to approach disaster risk reduction projects from the two perspectives of human security and quality growth.

Disaster risk reduction initiatives as fundamental pillars of a nation's economic development and growth

The poor people in developing countries often live in areas vulnerable to disaster. They are so easily affected when a disaster occurs and fall further into poverty. This negative spiral of disaster and poverty leads to reduced national and regional capabilities and deterioration of public peace. JICA's Distinguished Technical Advisor to the President Kimio Takeya explains:

"Disaster risk reduction leads to both human security and quality growth. The Sendai Framework for DRR adds a policy of simultaneously reducing poverty while addressing disaster risk by engaging in disaster risk reduction with a focus on economic devel-

opment."

Takeya, a member of the negotiating team from the Japanese government that spearheaded the development of the Sendai Framework for DRR, was also a key member during the negotiations at the preparatory discussions in Geneva, wherein he summarized the essence of disaster risk reduction.

"Based on the fact that investment in pre-disaster risk reduction is highly cost-effective and enables sustainable development, we explained that investment from a long-term perspective is more important than taking on the expensive cost of emergency response and recovery in the aftermath of a disaster."

As a simplified example, if flood control measures such as

[Four Priorities for Action]

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening of disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and implementing "Build Back Better" in the reconstruction and recovery process

What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?

In 2015, more than 6,500 people participated in the World Conference on DRR held in Sendai City, Miyagi, including representatives, international bodies, researchers, and NGOs from 187 countries. In the resulting Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, an agreement was reached on four priorities for action and seven targets.



Investing in development for risk reduction



Above: Then Prime Minister Yingluck of Thailand (left) and Kimio Takeya (right)
Right: Many plants incurred flood damage as a result of flooding in Thailand in 2011.

Aiming for Build Back Better



The case of the Nepal Earthquake

In April 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Nepal. It caused tremendous damage, with more than 30,000 fatalities and around 800,000 homes either partially or fully destroyed. Based on the "Build Back Better" concept, reconstruction efforts are underway not to simply restore the original condition, but also to incorporate advance investment to reduce the risk of disaster. JICA visited the disaster area right after the incident and proposed to Nepal's Prime Minister and Finance Minister a policy based on the "Build Back Better" concept. In addition to reconstructing general housing that meets earthquake resistance standards for victims through ODA loans, work has been done to restore and improve the housing environment. JICA is also cooperating in the maintenance of social infrastructure and institutions, including reconstruction of hospitals and water supply lines and bridge maintenance. JICA is providing seamless cooperation, from emergency relief directly following disasters to full-scale reconstruction support, and promoting the "Build Back Better" concept.

Photo on the left and the two photos above: Many buildings in Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, and other areas, collapsed as a result of the earthquake.