National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan

Miho OHARA
International Centre for Water Hazards and Risk Management (ICHARM)
Public Works Research Institute (PWRI), Japan
Under the auspices of UNESCO
International Centre for Water Hazards and Risk Management (ICHARM) was officially established as a UNESCO category II center and a part of the Public Works Research Institute of Japan on March 6, 2006.
# National Disaster Management System in Japan

The Central Disaster Management Council deals with crucial policies of the Cabinet, and is established in the Cabinet Office based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act (1961).

## Central Disaster Management Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Prime Minister, All members of the Cabinet Including Minister of State for Disaster Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>4 Heads of Designated Public Corporation, 5 Experts (Scientists and Engineers, Representative of Prefectural Governor, Practitioners)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Objectives

- To develop the Basic Disaster Management Plan and Policies
- To promote disaster risk reduction countermeasures

## Disaster Management Implementation Committee

(4 from the Cabinet and 11 Experts)

## Working Groups for Technical Investigation

- WG
- WG
- WG
- WG
Example of Working Groups (WG) for Technical Investigation

WG for Wide-area Evacuation at Large-scale Flood and Storm Surge

High Risk at Zero Meter Area

Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

DEM

- 4000m
- 2000m
- 1000m
- 300m
- 100m
- 0m

-1 to 0m
Lower than -1m
Water

We are here!
Two Target Levels of Flood

-From the lessons of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, Japanese government now adopts the concept of two target levels of disasters. 
-Level 2 disaster occur on a large scale at intervals of several hundred-thousand years. Integrated measures combining structural/non-structural measures are necessary.

**Level 1 Flood**
(Return Period: 200 years)

**Level 2 Flood**
(Largest-scale Flood, since 2016.5)

Source: MLIT

- Population in Inundation Area in 5 wards in Tokyo: 2.5 Million.
- Inundation continues more than 2 weeks.
Inland Evacuation or Wide-area Evacuation?

Evacuation inside Inundation Area

Wide-area Evacuation

Inundation Area

Outside Inundation Area

Several Wards in A Prefecture

Other Wards

Other Prefecture

Secondary Risk of Casualty and health problem

Difficulty of Evacuation

Short-term measures

Long-term measures

Source: Cabinet Office, Translated by ICHARM
WG for Wide-area Evacuation at Large-scale Flood and Storm Surge (since 2016.9)

18 WG members from various fields

**<8 Experts>**
- River engineering
- Disaster management
- Social science
- Transportation engineering
- Urban planning, Law etc.

**<2 Practitioner>**
- Mass Media (NHK)
- Tokyo Metro Subway

**<2 Local Governments>**
- Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- Edogawa ward

**<6 National Governments>**
- Cabinet Secretariat
- Fire and Disaster Management Agency
- National Police Agency
- Japan Meteorological Agency
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (2)

17 men and 1 woman

Role of Scientist and Engineers

- Support assuming realistic disaster scenario to avoid “Unexpected”.
- Point out the important issues to be clarified or considered.
- Find best policy between trade-off of several objectives.
- Think both short-term and long-term countermeasures.
Necessity of Implementation at Local Level

Disaster Management System

National Level
- Prime Minister
- Central Disaster Management Council
- Designated Governmental Organization
- Designated Public Corporations

Prefectural Level
- Prefectural Governors
- Prefectural Disaster Management Council

Municipal Level
- Mayors of Cities, Towns and Villages
- Municipal Disaster Management Council

Residents Level
- Residents and Enterprises

Discussion and Proposal at WG for Technical Investigation
- Basic Disaster Management Plan
- Disaster Management Operation Plan
- Prefectural Disaster Management Plan
- Municipal Disaster Management Plan
- Community Disaster Management Plan
National Platform for Capacity Building of Government Officials

Cabinet Office

National Training Program For DRR Specialists

10 trainings (2-days)
- Basic of DRR
- Preparedness
- Warning and Evacuation
- Emergency Response
- Support for Victims
- Recovery and Reconstruction
- Command
- Planning
- Capacity Building
- Integrated Management

OJT Training

Manuals

WG For Training Program (14 members)

Source: Cabinet Office, Translated by ICHARM
Conclusions

• National Platform based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act.

• Importance of scientists and engineers, practitioners in national platform to support assuming realistic disaster scenario to avoid “Unexpected” disaster situation.

• Importance of representatives from local governments in national platform for implementation of proposed policies at local level.

• National Platform for capacity building supervised by experts.