

Chapter 8 Collaboration and Posterity

Section 3 Preservation of Memories and Lessons Learned

1. General overview

(1) Positioning in the Reconstruction Design Council

During the Reconstruction Design Council meetings held from April 2011, the importance of memorialization and tribute as the starting points for reconstruction was emphasized by members from the first session. Proposals such as the “Memorial Forest” and the “Tohoku Disaster Archive Center” were presented¹. Reflecting on these discussions and opinions, the “Seven Principles for the Reconstruction Framework,” proposed and decided by the chairperson on May 10, 2011, highlighted the preservation of records and the passing down of lessons as the first principle.

Seven Principles for the Reconstruction Framework

Principle 1: For us, the surviving, there is no other starting point for the path to recovery than to remember and honor the many lives that have been lost. Accordingly, we shall record the disaster for eternity, including through the creation of memorial forests and monuments, and we shall have the disaster scientifically analyzed by a broad range of scholars to draw lessons that will be shared with the world and passed down to posterity.

Source: Reconstruction Agency, “Towards Reconstruction—Hope beyond the Disaster” (June 25, 2011, Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council), back cover

In the “Towards Reconstruction” by the Reconstruction Design Council dated June 25, 2011, the following points regarding disaster records and legacy were presented:

Chapter 4: Open Reconstruction

(5) Building a Disaster Resilient Nation

④ Recording the disaster and passing on lessons learned

Japan has faced disaster many times in the past, and each time, it has learned from the experience to enhance its disaster countermeasures. On the other hand, there is a tendency in our history for disasters that are very rare to be forgotten with the passage of time. In order to prevent damage of a similar nature in the future, we must share the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake with all regions and generations.

Many overseas media outlets highly praised the conduct of the Japanese people following the Great East Japan Earthquake. As Japan received assistance from overseas sources, it is necessary to share the lessons of this disaster internationally as a shared global knowledge asset. It is Japan's responsibility to proactively contribute to the international community in the fields of disaster prevention and “disaster reduction.” Japan should, by making use of the lessons learned through its recovery and reconstruction

¹ In the Reconstruction Design Council, the presentation materials submitted by Governor Tasso of Iwate Prefecture during the first session prioritized “1. Memorialization and Tribute as the Starting Points for Reconstruction.” During the second session, Acting Chair Tadao Ando proposed the concept of a “Memorial Forest,” to which Governor Murai of Miyagi Prefecture expressed agreement, noting that his own proposal for green spaces dedicated to coastal disaster prevention aligned with a similar perspective. In the third session, committee member Norio Akasaka proposed the establishment of a “Tohoku Disaster Archive Center.”

efforts, actively promote international cooperation that places value on *kizuna* between people, through such activities as capacity building in developing countries in Asia and other regions. From this standpoint, we must also consider holding domestic and international conferences in the disaster areas.

Japan should record and preserve the lessons of what it has learned from the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters by first creating a core facility and then establishing solid links between that facility and entities such as local governments and universities. Furthermore, a structure for preservation and disclosure of records should be developed, utilizing public-private consortiums. Moreover, Japan must promptly gather information materials and tsunami heritage information and develop a system to allow anyone, whether they be in Japan or abroad, to access, store, and use this information in an integrated manner. In doing so, Japan must also work at digitizing related materials, videos, and other data to promote the establishment of a field museum that uses new information technology.

Furthermore, to ensure that the Great East Japan Earthquake is not forgotten, it is hoped that tree species native to the disaster-affected regions will be selected to create a “Memorial Forest” through the participation of many people and on the initiative of local communities.

Source: Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council, “Towards Reconstruction—Hope beyond the Disaster” (June 25, 2011) P. 47

(2) Positioning in the Basic Guidelines

In the government's Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (approved by the Reconstruction Headquarters on July 29, 2011), the importance of collecting, preserving, and sharing records and lessons learned from the disaster, as well as the significance of memorialization, was incorporated in a manner that largely followed the contents of the above-mentioned “Towards Reconstruction.”

- 5 Policies and Measures for Reconstruction
 - (4) Nation-building which incorporate lessons learnt from the Great Earthquake
 - ③ Reconstruction open to the world
 - (iii) Actively promote international cooperation in order to share internationally the knowledge and lessons obtained from the disaster and in the process of reconstruction as a shared global knowledge asset. (...)
 - ⑥ Academic research and study on the disaster, recording the disaster and handing lessons learnt on to the next generation
 - (i) Conduct in-depth research and study on the Great Earthquake including international joint study (...). Give adequate consideration to the forming of a comprehensive study by promoting an organic collaboration of relevant institutes in time of conducting survey and research.
 - (ii) ...develop a system of collection, storage and disclosure of records and lessons taken from the earthquake, tsunami disaster and nuclear accident. (...) Establish an integrated mechanism of storage and application that enables anyone from in and out of Japan to have access to the records and other relevant information, and broadly communicate the accumulated information domestically and internationally.
 - (iii) Consider the development of forest, hill or facility that would become a symbol of the requiem and the reconstruction, upon local communities' proposal by making use of the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake as a reference.

These initiatives for preserving the memory of and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake were further detailed in subsequent basic guidelines, incorporating specific actions such as the establishment of the “National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive (HINAGIKU),” the development of state-run memorial/prayer facilities, and disaster prevention education. New initiatives, such as the “Recovery Olympics” to showcase the reconstruction both domestically and internationally, were also introduced. Furthermore, in the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake from the “Second Reconstruction/Revitalization Period” (Cabinet decision of March 9, 2021), the following points were highlighted:

- State-run memorial and prayer facilities shall continue to be constructed in Fukushima Prefecture. Including similar facilities in Iwate and Miyagi prefectures that are scheduled to be completed during the first reconstruction/revitalization period, these facilities will be built to remember and pray for the repose of the souls of victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, pass on the memories and lessons learned from the disaster to future generations, and send a message to Japan and the world about the strong will of the people to reconstruct their lives. In addition, linking these facilities, memorial facilities in each of the affected areas, remains of the earthquake disaster, and legacy facilities, and disseminating information shall enhance understanding of the lessons learned from this disaster and improve disaster prevention capabilities.
- It is important that the various lessons and memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake are passed down to the next generation without losing substance and utilized for disaster prevention and mitigation measures and reconstruction in the future.

(3) Positioning in the context of extending the implementation deadline of the Reconstruction Agency's measures

Following deliberations on the organizational structure after the original implementation deadline of the Reconstruction Agency's measures (set to end in March 2021), the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake after the 'Reconstruction and Revitalization Period'” (Cabinet decision of December 20, 2019) extended the deadline by 10 years. This extension was aimed at completing reconstruction efforts and included provisions to add functions to share and utilize the knowledge accumulated during the reconstruction process with relevant government agencies to enhance disaster preparedness for recent large-scale disasters. The policy emphasized promoting an organic linkage between disaster prevention and reconstruction. Similarly, the “Eighth Proposal from the Headquarters for Accelerating Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake of the Ruling Parties: A New Path for Reconstruction” (issued by the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito Party on August 5, 2019) also advocated measures to enhance disaster preparedness for the increasingly frequent large-scale disasters in recent years. It emphasized the importance of sharing lessons learned and accumulated knowledge from the reconstruction efforts of the Great East Japan Earthquake with government disaster response departments and local governments to promote an organic linkage between disaster prevention and reconstruction.

This intent was reflected in Article 3 of the supplementary provisions of the Act Partially Amending the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency and Other Laws (Act No. 46 of 2020), which stipulates: “In further promoting reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake (...), the government shall take into account the varying progress of reconstruction in different affected areas. It shall share information about initiatives in areas where reconstruction is advanced with regions still undergoing reconstruction and utilize the internal and external administrative knowledge gained from the implementation of reconstruction measures.” Furthermore, the supplementary resolution of the Special Committee on Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake (under the House of Councillors), which deliberated the act, also emphasized the need to: “Share accumulated reconstruction knowledge with relevant government agencies, while also collecting, organizing, and preserving records of the reconstruction process to utilize them for future large-scale disasters. They also included the need to “Expand disaster prevention education, including through online platforms.” Based on these considerations, from April 2021, the Reconstruction Agency established a dedicated Reconstruction Knowledge Team to specialize in sharing reconstruction knowledge. A joint appointment was also made for a supervising official serving both the Reconstruction Agency and the Cabinet Office (disaster management)².

² Reconstruction Minister Hirasawa press conference (March 30, 2021): “In order to contribute to improvement to disaster prevention capabilities for large-scale disasters that have frequently occurred in recent years, a new supervising official has been established and will concurrently serve as the Director-General for Disaster Management of the Cabinet Office in order to promote the utilization of accumulated knowledge on reconstruction. In conjunction with this, there are plans to quickly establish a team responsible for promoting the use of knowledge accumulated within the Reconstruction Agency, and the team will be called the Reconstruction Knowledge Team.”

2. Preventing the erosion of memory and disseminating lessons

(1) Establishing archives and lessons

1) Building a Digital Archive

a. National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive “HINAGIKU”

ア) Background

In response to recommendations by the Reconstruction Design Council and the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction, which emphasized the importance of creating a system to “collect, preserve, and utilize records in a centralized manner accessible domestically and internationally,” the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications launched the “Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Project” in December 2011. Before the earthquake, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications had been hosting the Study Group on Digital Archives of Knowledge to expand knowledge infrastructure. Following the disaster, discussions in this group, involving the National Diet Library, led to recommendations in March 2012 that included building the Great East Japan Earthquake Archive³.

Development proceeded with collaboration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the National Diet Library. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications worked on portal features (advanced search capabilities) and developed a digital archive operational model in disaster-affected areas, which led to the creation and publication of “Guidelines for Constructing and Operating Digital Archives for Disaster-Related Materials.” The National Diet Library developed core portal functions and archive features, collected content, and ensured integrated search capabilities, in addition to other technical tasks. They also coordinated with libraries and other institutions for content collection.

The first roundtable for the “Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Project” was held on October 23, 2012, aiming to clarify issues surrounding the project's construction and operation, as well as its dissemination. A total of three meetings were held by March 2013.

The National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive (nicknamed “HINAGIKU”) was completed and launched on March 7, 2013, with the functions developed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications subsequently transferred to the National Diet Library for operation.

As described below, HINAGIKU integrates search and browsing functions with archives from local governments and private organizations. It also plays a critical role in inheriting the content of multiple archives that have since closed more than a decade after the disaster, ensuring that their materials remain accessible within HINAGIKU.

イ) Overview of HINAGIKU

According to the “Basic Policy for Building the National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Project” (May 1, 2012), the core principles of HINAGIKU, which are based on the concept of “passing all records and lessons of the earthquake to the next generation,” are as follows:

³ “Digital Archive of Knowledge: Expanding Social Knowledge Infrastructure,” Study Group on Digital Archives of Knowledge, March 30, 2012. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000156248.pdf (Accessed July 14, 2023).

- ① Collecting, preserving, and providing records on the Great East Japan Earthquake scattered domestically and internationally as a unified national archive.
- ② Facilitating collaboration and task assignments among related public and private institutions, leveraging their strengths to function as a national earthquake archive.
- ③ Disseminating records of the Great East Japan Earthquake both domestically and internationally while preserving them for future generations, thereby contributing to reconstruction efforts in disaster-affected areas, future disaster prevention and mitigation, academic research, and education.

The archive collects a wide range of content about the Great East Japan Earthquake, including audio/video, records and documents, photographs, research data and factual information, publications, and web-based information, regardless of format (paper or digital). It also encompasses records of post-disaster reconstruction, new disaster prevention measures, and commemorative events. Among these, the following materials are prioritized in collaboration with related organizations:

- Records and foundational data (e.g., observation and survey data, individual questionnaire results) held or created by public institutions
- Records related to the activities of NPOs and volunteer organizations, as well as the situation in disaster-affected areas (especially videos and images not collected by other organizations)
- Research and foundational data conducted by academic institutions and organizations
- Records of corporate activities
- Records concerning damage to and accidents involving nuclear power plants caused by the earthquake
- Videos, images, and other information containing academically or historically valuable data regarding the disaster's impact

Moreover, HINAGIKU enables comprehensive searches across approximately 4.7 million records of the Great East Japan Earthquake from 57 databases, as of October 2022, not only including records held by the National Diet Library but also data from various partner organizations. Such digital archives play a critical role in preventing the loss of materials and ensuring the transmission of memories and lessons learned, making the establishment of HINAGIKU highly significant⁴. Particularly, disaster-affected municipalities, overwhelmed with disaster response duties and constrained by limited manpower, benefit from national and prefectural-level collection and archiving of materials related to large-scale disasters to alleviate their human and financial burdens. HINAGIKU has been recognized by affected municipalities for fulfilling this role. However, some municipalities have highlighted challenges regarding its awareness and utilization and emphasized the importance of continued efforts to promote its use for future disasters, as well as the efforts of municipalities and communities, and the involvement of residents. Additionally, while numerous legacy and archive facilities have been established in disaster-affected areas, concerns have been raised about the potential redundancy of similar facilities.

Looking forward, greater utilization of HINAGIKU is anticipated to support disaster recovery in affected areas, improve disaster prevention and mitigation measures, facilitate academic research, and promote disaster education. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Reconstruction Agency enhance

⁴ Deputy Chair Masuda, etc. at the first Expert Meeting on Reflection on the Past Decade of Reconstruction Policy for the Great East Japan Earthquake (hereafter “the Expert Meeting”) (October 24, 2022)

its reference functions to maintain and update the overarching content of the memories of and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake in a timely manner, including tangible archives like earthquake ruins⁵.

Moreover, historical and cultural elements, folk traditions, lifestyle customs, and intangible cultural heritage such as traditional performing arts that existed in the affected areas before the disaster may be directly lost due to the disaster or indirectly due to evacuation or weakened communities. It is therefore essential to archive not only records related to the disaster and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction but also valuable pre-disaster information⁶. In HINAGIKU and other local disaster archives, there are examples of the recording of cultural and lifestyle aspects from before the disaster.

Figure 8-3-1 Website of the National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive “HINAGIKU”



Source: Website of the National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive “HINAGIKU”
<https://kn.ndl.go.jp/#/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

⁵ Deputy Chair Masuda at the second Expert Meeting (December 5, 2022)

⁶ Committee member Imamura, the mayor of Miyako, and the mayor of Minamisanriku at the third Expert Meeting (February 27, 2023).

b. Archives in disaster-affected prefectures

In response to the proposals from the Reconstruction Design Council and the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conducted the “Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Foundation Construction Project: Demonstration Survey on Digital Archive Construction and Operation” in FY 2012 to support the establishment of local digital archives. As a result, five digital archives of the Great East Japan Earthquake were launched in Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi (in collaboration with Tohoku University and Kahoku Shimpō), and Fukushima Prefectures.

Among the three hardest-hit prefectures, Miyagi Prefecture initially created the Great East Japan Earthquake Library in 2012 as part of a special collection at the Miyagi Prefectural Library. This library included books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials. Utilizing this data, Miyagi Prefecture, in collaboration with its 35 municipalities and with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Disaster Area Record Digitization Promotion Project, launched the Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Miyagi in June 2015.

In Iwate Prefecture, starting in 2015, an expert committee discussed concrete strategies for collecting, preserving, and organizing the prefecture's earthquake and tsunami-related materials. Subsequently, in 2016, the Expert Committee on Building Iwate Prefecture's Earthquake and Tsunami Archive System began deliberations on constructing a digital archive. This led to the launch of the “Iwate Earthquake and Tsunami Archive – Kibou (Hope)” in March 2017.

In Fukushima Prefecture, various disaster-related information has been disseminated via the Fukushima Revitalization Information Portal Site. Additionally, to preserve and pass on the records and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear disaster, the prefecture convened the Expert Committee on Archive Hub Facilities for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster in FY 2015 to discuss the ideal setup for such facilities. The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum opened in September 2020 (refer to Section 3 of this chapter). The museum employs curators and houses approximately 270,000 data items and materials.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications supported the development of municipal archives through initiatives like the Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Project and the Disaster Area Record Digitization Promotion Project.

Figure 8-3-2 Efforts by the three disaster-affected prefectures to create disaster archives, etc.

	Archive name	Launch date	Overview and features	Data volume
Iwate Prefecture	Iwate Earthquake and Tsunami Archive – Kibou (Hope)	March 30, 2017	Iwate Prefecture established the Expert Committee on Building Iwate Prefecture's Earthquake and Tsunami Archive System and a working group comprising experts in disaster prevention, education, and community interaction. Based on their advice, the archive system was constructed and made public. http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp/ (browsed July 14, 2023)	Approximately 240,000 items (as of the end of December 2019)
Miyagi Prefecture	Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Miyagi	June 15, 2015	Constructed and managed by Miyagi Prefecture using the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Disaster Area Record Digitization Promotion Project, in collaboration with all municipalities. Includes photos, videos, and administrative documents related to the disaster provided by municipalities. https://kioku.library.pref.miyagi.jp/ (browsed July 14, 2023)	Approximately 220,000 items (as of April 1, 2020)
Fukushima Prefecture	Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum	September 20, 2020	Established in Futaba by Fukushima Prefecture. Focuses on four main activities: collecting/preserving materials, exhibiting/presenting, conducting training, and engaging in research. All collected data and materials are registered in a database. Public access to the database is under consideration.	Stores approximately 270,000 items, with around 200 currently on display (as of April 1, 2022).
	Fukushima Revitalization Information Portal Site (website)	January 2015	Operated by Fukushima Prefecture. Disseminates disaster and reconstruction-related information on topics such as nuclear power plant and decontamination status, evacuee support, and food safety initiatives. Features photos, videos, and illustrated articles. Website is available in nine languages: English, Chinese, Korean, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Thai. http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal/ (browsed July 14, 2023)	-

Source: Compiled by the Reconstruction Agency based on the aforementioned websites and the report “Directions for the Collection, Preservation, and Utilization of Information on Large-Scale Natural Disasters” by the Study Group on Strategies for Collecting, Preserving, and Utilizing Information on Large-Scale Disasters (February 2018).

c. Archives by Tohoku University and other higher education institutions

In the disaster-affected areas, higher education institutions have collaborated with industry and governmental bodies to collect, organize, and partially make publicly available a wide array of academic records, memories, case studies, and insights related to the disaster, in various formats such as videos, images, audio, and text.

The International Research Institute of Disaster Science at Tohoku University, established in April 2012, has published several archives tailored to specific uses. These include “Michinoku Shinrokuden (Michinoku Earthquake Record Archive),” which contains around 120,000 items, mostly comprising

photographs, documenting the disaster, and the “3.11 Lessons Learned Web Database System,” which compiles lessons learned from the disaster.

Figure 8-3-3 Key earthquake record databases maintained by the International Research Institute of Disaster Science at Tohoku University

データベース名	内容
みちのく震録伝	平成 23 年東日本大震災の震災直後から復旧・復興までの震災記録を収集し、蓄積、公開している。写真が主であり、約 12 万点の記録を公開している。また、平成 28 年度までに非公開のデータ約 30 万点を蓄積している。 (総務省「東日本大震災アーカイブ基盤構築プロジェクト事業」を活用) http://www.shinrokuden.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/ (令和 5 年 7 月 14 日閲覧)
3.11 からの学びデータベース	平成 23 年東日本大震災の経験を踏まえて得られた「教訓」をまとめたデータベース。現在、約 100 件の「教訓」が掲載されており、キーワードで検索可能。 http://311manabi.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/TopPage?1 (令和 5 年 7 月 14 日閲覧)
震災教訓文献データベース	東日本大震災、阪神・淡路大震災、新潟県中越地震・中越沖地震などの震災に関する調査・研究に基づいて得られた「教訓」を紹介している。約 4,000 件の「教訓」が掲載され、テーマ、フェーズ、空間、立場などのタグを付与して検索できる。 http://edbunken.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/TopPage?1 (令和 5 年 7 月 14 日閲覧)
動画でふりかえる 3.11	東日本大震災に関連する「動画」を地図上で検索することができるデータベース。約 1,700 件の東日本大震災に関する動画がリンクされており、動画をさらに地図上で探せるのが特徴。もともと動画には位置情報(場所)はないため、目視で「場所」を同定・付与。 http://311movie.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/SearchPage?1 (令和 5 年 7 月 14 日閲覧)
津波痕跡データベース	「津波痕跡データ(津波の到達した痕跡地点のデータ)」を原子力発電所等の安全性評価に活用するために、津波専門家との協働で整備したデータベース。 https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/publication/database/tsunami-db.html (令和 5 年 7 月 14 日閲覧)

Source: International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University website <https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

d. Other records and reports by municipalities

In addition to the aforementioned archive developments, various municipalities have independently prepared reports documenting their responses to the disaster, as well as records on recovery efforts. As of November 2022, over 200 such reports (according to a Reconstruction Agency survey) have been published in the three disaster-affected prefectures and their respective municipalities, as identified in archives such as HINAGIKU. In some cases, the preparation of these reports was supported through reconstruction grants.

e. Academic surveys by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Principle 1 of the Seven Principles for the Reconstruction Framework developed by the Reconstruction Design Council states: “we shall record the disaster for eternity, (...) and we shall have the disaster scientifically analyzed by a broad range of scholars to draw lessons that will be shared with the world and passed down to posterity.” The Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction also highlighted this necessity. From the outset, technical and engineering investigations into the disaster were conducted.

However, the disaster response and recovery also entailed broader social processes, such as the initial responses by the government and local authorities during the disaster, the acceptance of domestic and international aid, and risk communication with the public. To develop a social framework to minimize future damages, it was deemed essential to examine these processes from humanities and social science perspectives. In response, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, in collaboration with the Science Council of Japan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other relevant organizations, conducted comprehensive academic research focusing on the perspectives of record preservation, humanities, and social sciences. The results of this research were published in April 2015 for both domestic and international audiences.

f. Government efforts in document management

Administrative documents related to the Great East Japan Earthquake⁷ are deemed historically significant policy matters to be shared nationally and socially. They are to be transferred to the National Archives of Japan after their retention periods expire, ensuring lessons can inform future policies.

At the time of the disaster in 2011, concerns arose in the Diet and public discourse regarding incomplete meeting records for some government task forces and committees for the Great East Japan Earthquake⁸. For example, on January 22, 2012, it was reported that no minutes had been created for the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters⁹. Following this revelation, on January 24, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yukio Edano instructed the secretary general of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters to expedite the preparation of documents that capture decision-making processes and outcomes, and to publish them as soon as possible¹⁰. That same day, Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada further stressed the need to review whether similar issues existed for other meetings related to the Great East Japan Earthquake¹¹. On January 25, the Records and Archives Management Division of Minister's Secretariat of the Cabinet Office requested all ministries and agencies to conduct a survey on record creation for 15 government task forces and meetings related to the Great East Japan Earthquake. The results were published on January 27. The findings revealed that records or summaries for some or all meetings of the following entities were not created: the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, the Electricity Supply and Demand Meeting, the Government-TEPCO Integrated Response Office, the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters, and the Disaster Victims Livelihood Support Team. In response, Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada demanded immediate corrective measures and called

⁷ Administrative documents (or administrative files, etc.) related to the Great East Japan Earthquake are defined as administrative documents (or administrative files containing such documents) created or acquired by administrative agencies during activities responding to the disaster (limited to activities led by said administrative agencies).

⁸ During the Committee on Cabinet session on April 21, 2011, House of Councillors member Takashi Uto stated, “At the March 30 press conference, a reporter asked whether the minutes of the integrated headquarters would be made public, to which Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano replied that the integrated headquarters engages in information exchanges among stakeholders as necessary and therefore does not prepare minutes. (...) Even if they cannot be made public immediately, it will still be necessary to record what was discussed, the debates, and the instructions given by the government in order to evaluate whether they were appropriate. Recording these proceedings, whether through audio or video, is essential. (...)”

⁹ “No minutes created for the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters” NHK, January 22, 2012.

NHK reported that, in November of the previous year, it had submitted a request for the disclosure of information concerning the 21 meetings held up to that point, including minutes and materials summarizing the contents. However, it was revealed that only a one-page agenda for one meeting was disclosed, and no minutes documenting the substance of the discussions were prepared.

¹⁰ Press conference by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yukio Edano after the Cabinet meeting (January 22, 2012)

¹¹ Press conference by Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada (January 24, 2012)

for strict adherence to public records management principles¹².

Of the 15 meetings, those related to reconstruction efforts—the Reconstruction Headquarters and the Reconstruction Design Council for the Great East Japan Earthquake—were found to have differing practices: the former prepared only meeting minutes, while the latter prepared both minutes and meeting summaries. However, in the case of the Reconstruction Headquarters, only unpublished draft minutes had been prepared. Anticipating the abolition of the headquarters with the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, which would nullify the decision from the first headquarters meeting to keep its proceedings unpublished, the headquarters secretariat decided on January 26, 2012, to create a finalized version of the minutes that could be made public after confirming the content with all members of the headquarters¹³.

Following this policy, on February 1, 2012, the secretariat issued a directive requesting confirmation of statements from each member of the headquarters, with a deadline of February 7, to compile the finalized minutes for publication¹⁴. It was decided that the publication of the finalized minutes would align with the overall government policy. Consequently, on March 9, 2012, summaries or minutes for the Reconstruction Headquarters and the other 14 meetings were published.

On April 10, 2012, a directive regarding the handling of administrative documents related to the Great East Japan Earthquake was issued by the Records and Archives Management Division of the Cabinet Office¹⁵.

In response to the investigation findings, on February 3, 2012, Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada requested the Records and Archives Management Division to ① conduct an analysis of the reasons why some or all of the minutes and summaries for the five meetings had not been created over an extended period. Additionally, he sought ② expert opinions on measures to prevent the recurrence of situations where records of meeting content were not prepared. Following this request, the commission conducted hearings with relevant administrative bodies and compiled a report on the causes and corrective measures on April 25, 2012¹⁶.

¹² Press conference by Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada (January 27, 2012)

¹³ On January 31, 2012, Minister of Reconstruction and Minister of State for Disaster Management Tatsuo Hirano issued a statement regarding the minutes of the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters and other entities. “For example, including the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake (...) we have never published the summary of the proceedings, the minutes of the proceedings, or on websites, and we have never kept any records. I think the background is that we have always judged that it is sufficient to report at press conferences each time after we hold meetings, and to publish the completed materials. (...) There has been a lot of controversy in the Diet, but I think it would be fair for all of you to understand that there was such a series of customs throughout the government.”

¹⁴ “Request regarding the minutes of meetings of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters” Official notice, February 1, 2012

¹⁵ “Handling of administrative documents related to the Great East Japan Earthquake” Notice No. 86, issued by the Director of the Records and Archives Management Division of the Minister's Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, April 10, 2012

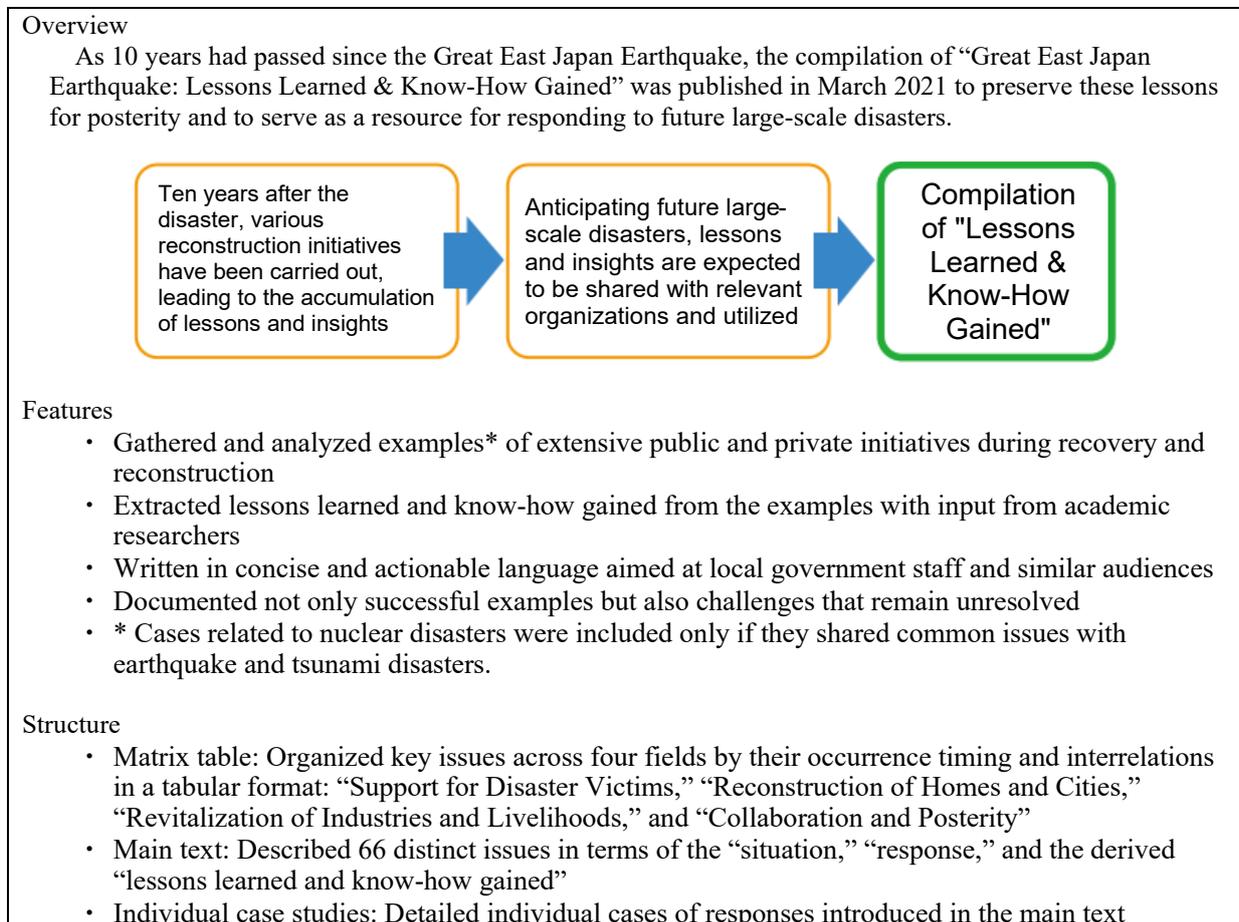
¹⁶ “Cause analysis and improvement measures for the issue of unprepared records of meeting content at meetings established in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake” Records and Archives Management Division, April 25, 2012

2) Compilation of lessons learned and know-how gained

a. “Great East Japan Earthquake: Lessons Learned & Know-How Gained”

The Reconstruction Agency, aiming to provide practical reference materials for local government employees, private organizations, and others¹⁷, commissioned the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute to compile extensive examples of public and private efforts during the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The outcomes were published in March 2021 as the “Great East Japan Earthquake: Lessons Learned & Know-How Gained” and a companion “Case Studies” document. These materials were distributed as booklets to relevant government ministries, all prefectures nationwide, and other entities, while also being made available in disaster-related memorial facilities in affected regions. Additionally, a summary version was created and published in October 2021.

Figure 8-3-4 Overview of the “Great East Japan Earthquake: Lessons Learned & Know-How Gained” (March 2021)



Source: Reconstruction Agency's “Lessons Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake: Passing on to the Future” website: <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/311kyoukun/index.html#gsc.tab=0> (browsed: July 14, 2023)

¹⁷ Remarks by Minister of Reconstruction Katsuei Hirasawa during a press conference on March 23, 2021: “Given the magnitude of this disaster, countless individuals had experiences that are important for us to understand. It would be extremely unfortunate and wasteful to leave these solely as personal memories or experiences. These lessons must be leveraged for the future. The compiled lessons learned and know-how gained span about 400 pages (...), and while I'd encourage all citizens to review them since disasters can strike at any time. However, I do understand that it's a lot to read, so I particularly hope that individuals responsible for disaster response—such as municipal officers, neighborhood association leaders, and security personnel—will go through these resources, as the knowledge will be useful for when disasters occur.”

b. “Learning from Case Studies of Livelihood Reconstruction”

With the progression of reconstruction efforts, the situations and needs of disaster victims became increasingly diverse, necessitating more detailed responses. However, there was a recognized issue on the ground that lessons learned from past disaster recovery and reconstruction projects were not being fully utilized in practice. To address this, the Reconstruction Agency commissioned the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute to organize and publish insights and case studies related to the rebuilding of livelihoods of disaster victims. These materials were tailored for practical use by local governments and NPOs in their on-the-ground efforts in support of reconstruction. The publication, titled “Learning from Case Studies of Livelihood Reconstruction,” was based on discussions and case investigations conducted during “Regional Livelihood Reconstruction Conferences” held across the three disaster-affected prefectures in the Tohoku region. It was released in March 2018.

Figure 8-3-5 Learning from Case Studies of Livelihood Reconstruction

<p>Structure</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Prologue</p> <p>Part I Life, Health, Welfare, and Education</p> <p> Chapter 1 Health and Medical Care</p> <p> Chapter 2 Welfare and Childcare</p> <p> Chapter 3 Children, Learning, and Community Disaster Preparedness</p> <p>Part II Housing, Urban Development, and Community</p> <p> Chapter 4 Housing and Community</p> <p> Chapter 5 Urban Development and Shopping Streets</p> <p> Chapter 6 Work and Employment</p> <p> Chapter 7 Wide-Area Evacuations and the Regional Revitalization of Fukushima Prefecture</p> <p> Chapter 8 Collaboration Between Government and Support Organizations</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>1. Status of Industrial and Employment Recovery and Support Measures (Related to Chapter 6)</p> <p>2. Summaries of Statements from Expert Meetings</p> <p>3. Progress of the Project for Livelihood Reconstruction of Great East Japan Earthquake Victims and List of Committee Members</p> <p>Information and knowledge collection methods</p> <p>Organization of case studies via expert meetings and workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops in disaster-affected areas (Regional Livelihood Reconstruction Conferences) Held primarily with key local figures* in disaster-affected regions across the three prefectures (23 sessions in total). Shared case studies and insights from various disaster-affected areas. * Local neighborhood associations such as Nebama District Association, Minpuku (NPO), Ishinomaki Jichiren, Shinchi-machi Council of Social Welfare, Odaka Chamber of Commerce, etc. • Livelihood Reconstruction Committee and others <p>Organization of examples and findings from workshops</p>	
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Source: Reconstruction Agency, “Learning from Case Studies of Livelihood Reconstruction: Report on the Project for Livelihood Reconstruction of Great East Japan Earthquake Victims”
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/m18/04/20180410_seikatsufukko.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

(2) Dissemination domestically and internationally

1) Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is a UN-organized conference for developing international disaster prevention strategies. The first conference was held in 1994 in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, and the second in 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture.

At the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva starting May 10, 2011, shortly after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan's State Minister for Disaster Management expressed Japan's intention to host the next conference in an area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake¹⁸. Following this, on May 17, Sendai announced its intent to host the conference in Sendai (in the Tohoku region) in 2015¹⁹. The UN General Assembly subsequently decided on December 22, 2012 to hold the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan²⁰. A call for host cities was conducted between February and May 2013. Sendai formally applied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 2013²¹, and the hosting period and city were finalized by the Cabinet on May 14, 2013²².

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai in March 2015. It attracted over 6,500 participants, including 25 heads of state and more than 100 ministers from 185 UN member countries, representatives of UN agencies, NGOs, and other organizations. Including related events in nearby venues, over 150,000 people attended, making it one of the largest UN-related international conferences ever held in Japan²³.

The conference resulted in the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (hereafter referred to as the “Sendai Framework”) as a new international disaster preparedness framework, and the “Sendai Declaration,” which affirmed the commitment to implementing the framework. The Sendai Framework emphasized “Build Back Better”—a key principle for Japan in its recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake²⁴—and established seven global targets. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction, committing 4 billion USD in assistance and training for 40,000 people over the next four years.

In addition, as a related project of the conference, the Great East Japan Earthquake Forum was held under the theme of “Sharing Our Experiences and Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake with the World,” and more than 350 symposiums and seminars, more than 200 exhibitions, and more than 100 poster exhibitions were held in Sendai and neighboring prefectures. Additionally, during the conference, 42 study tours covering 25 courses were conducted, allowing participants to visit tsunami-affected areas,

¹⁸ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Overview of the third session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/kankyo/kikan/gpdrr1105.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

¹⁹ Mayor of Sendai press conference <https://www.city.sendai.jp/sesakukoho/shise/gaiyo/shichoshitsu/kaiken/2011/05/yuchi/index.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

²⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/24/12/1225_01.html (browsed July 14, 2023)

²¹ Asahi Shimbun Digital <http://www.asahi.com/area/miyagi/articles/MTW1303140400001.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

²² Sendai press conference <https://www.city.sendai.jp/sesakukoho/shise/gaiyo/shichoshitsu/kaiken/2013/05/sente/shiryo.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

²³ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/gic/page3_001151.html (browsed July 14, 2023)

²⁴ Prime Minister Abe's statement at the high level segment of the conference: “Japan is working on the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake based on the idea of 'Build Back Better,' which aims not simply to recover the same situation that existed prior to the disaster, but rather build a society that is more resilient to disasters than before.”

temporary housing, and other sites. Post-conference excursions were also organized to various areas in the Tohoku region. These initiatives provided an invaluable opportunity to share lessons and technologies learned from numerous disasters with the world, express gratitude for international support during the Great East Japan Earthquake, and communicate the progress and efforts in the reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas. This significantly contributed to revitalizing the disaster-affected areas.

Figure 8-3-6 Overview of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030



Source: "Summary of Outcomes from the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction," policy coordination officer (disaster management), Cabinet Office
https://www.gender.go.jp/kaigi/renkei/ikenkoukan/66/pdf/shiryuu_4.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

Figure 8-3-7 Sendai Declaration

2015年3月18日

仙台宣言（仮訳）

1. 我々、第3回国連防災世界会議に参加した首脳、閣僚及び代表団は、2015年3月14日から18日の間、2011年3月の東日本大震災から力強い復興を遂げた日本の宮城県仙台市に集った。世界の多くの地域において増大する災害の影響とその複雑な問題を認識し、世界中で災害により失われる生命及び財産を減らすべく、我々は防災のための努力を強化する決意をここに宣言する。
2. 我々は兵庫行動枠組2005-2015：災害に強い国・コミュニティの構築が過去10年間に果たした重要な役割を高く評価する。その実施を通じて得られた経験の評価とレビュー及び検討を踏まえ、ここに仙台防災枠組2015-2030を採択する。我々は、今後の我々の努力を強化するための指針として、新枠組の実施に強くコミットする。
3. 新枠組の実現は我々及び将来の世代のために数十年後の世界を災害のリスクからより安全なものにしようとする我々の不断の努力にかかっていることを心に留め、我々は全てのステークホルダーに対し行動を起こすことを求める。
4. 我々は、第3回国連防災世界会議の開催について日本の人々、政府並びに仙台市に謝意を表明すると共に、グローバルな開発アジェンダの中で防災を推し進める日本のコミットメントに対し感謝する。

Source: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/gic/page3_001151.html (browsed July 18, 2023)

Figure 8-3-8 Outline of the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction

仙台防災協カイニシアティブ

1 基本的考え方

- ◆ 災害は、貧困撲滅と持続可能な開発に対する障害であり、人間の安全保障に対する脅威。
- ◆ あらゆる開発政策・計画に防災の観点を導入する「**防災の主流化**」が重要。ポスト2015年開発アジェンダにも防災が明確に位置づけられることが資源動員の観点から重要。
- ◆ 本年中の合意が求められている気候変動交渉においても、「適応」への取組に大きな関心。防災分野での確固たる取組は、気候変動交渉にも貢献する。
- ◆ 日本は、防災先進国としての知見と技術を世界に共有しながら、国際社会と共に、災害に負けない強靱な社会を構築していく。

2 基本方針

- ◆ 防災政策については、兵庫行動枠組の時代（過去10年）の経験も踏まえ、以下の3点を重視。
 - ①**長期的視点に立った防災投資**
災害後の緊急対応・復旧よりも、事前の防災投資の方が費用対効果が高く、持続可能な開発に資する。
 - ②**「より良い復興 (Build Back Better)」**
災害後は、災害に強い国・地域づくりのための抜本的な措置を実施する契機。
 - ③**中央政府と多様な主体の連携**
中央政府を中心として、地方自治体、民間企業、NGO/CSO、国際機関・地域機関等、ネットワークによる対応。
- ◆ 協力の実施に当たっては、以下の視点を念頭に置く。
 - ①**人間の安全保障のアプローチと女性の参画推進（女性、子ども、高齢者、障害者への配慮・参画）**
 - ②**気候変動の影響への適応**の観点も踏まえた協力（防災協力は気候変動への適応に資する）
 - ③**日本の知見・技術**を、現地の実情に合わせて活用（官民連携、自治体連携等）

➡ 具体的措置として、①ソフト支援、②ハード支援、③グローバルな協力と広域協力の推進を効果的に組み合わせる。

Source: Excerpt from “Summary of Outcomes from the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,” policy coordination officer (disaster management), Cabinet Office
https://www.gender.go.jp/kaigi/renkei/ikenkoukan/66/pdf/shiryuu_4.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)



Tohoku Reconstruction & DRR Pavilion



Participants listen to a storyteller's firsthand experience during a study tour in Yuriage in the city of Natori.

Source: 2015 White Paper on Disaster Management

After the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, leveraging the insights from the Great East Japan Earthquake and generating concrete disaster risk reduction solutions, the “World Bosai Forum” has been held biennially in Sendai since 2017. The forum aims to promote the implementation of the Sendai Framework and bring global attention to the concept of “*bosai*” (disaster preparedness) from Sendai²⁵. The forum is an international civic platform that brings together disaster risk reduction stakeholders from industry, government, academia, and civil society domestically and internationally. While the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland mainly targets European and American experts, the World Bosai Forum focuses on Asia and welcomes wide public participation.

World Bosai Forum event timeline

- First World Bosai Forum: November 25–28, 2017, Sendai
- Second World Bosai Forum: November 9–12, 2019, Sendai

2) Recovery Olympics

a. Background leading to the event

In September 2013, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided through a vote to award Tokyo the hosting rights for the 2020 Summer Olympics. The “Basic Policy for Promoting Measures related to Preparations for and Management of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020” (Cabinet decision of November 27, 2015) emphasized using this opportunity, with the world's attention focused on Japan, to its fullest potential. It aimed to promote initiatives in collaboration with disaster-affected areas under the concept of the “Recovery Olympics,” to support reconstruction efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake and showcase to the world how the affected regions were advancing toward reconstruction.

To promote the “Recovery Olympics,” the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games established the Disaster Area Recovery Assistance Liaison Council, holding discussions with the three disaster-affected prefectures and related organizations. Additionally, in September 2018, the Recovery Olympics Liaison and Coordination Council (chaired by the State Minister for Reconstruction) was set up to share information with the three disaster-affected prefectures.

As part of the initiatives, key events were held: in December 2017, the fifth IOC Coordination Commission official dinner; in September 2018, the first World Press Briefing Reception; in November 2018, a reception during the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC); and in October 2019, the second World Press Briefing Reception. These events were used to

²⁵ World Bosai Forum Official website: <https://worldbosaiforum.com/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

highlight the reconstruction progress in the three disaster-affected prefectures and promote local products such as food and sake. Ahead of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, tours of the three affected prefectures were organized for embassy representatives stationed in Tokyo. The Minister for Reconstruction and other officials also visited embassies to exchange views with representatives. These activities contributed to the overseas promotion project for the Recovery Olympics, sharing updates on reconstruction efforts internationally.

In addition, in September 2020, the Reconstruction Agency revamped its official website, including a “Recovery Olympics Portal Site” to disseminate information about recovery progress, events, and pre-event camps in disaster-affected areas related to the Games.

Initially scheduled for summer 2020, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were held in the summer of 2021.

Figure 8-3-9 Activities Related to the Disaster-Affected Areas in Connection with the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

Date	Initiative	Organizer	Details
July 2011	Tokyo declared candidacy as host city for the Olympics and Paralympics	Tokyo Metropolitan Government	Then-Governor Shintaro Ishihara announced efforts to bring the Olympics and Paralympics to Japan to accelerate reconstruction from the disaster.
November 2015	Cabinet decision on the basic policy on the Olympics and Paralympics	National government	Designated the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics as the “Recovery Olympics”
March 2017	Approval of Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium as a venue	IOC Executive Board	Officially approved Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium (Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture) as a venue for baseball and softball events
December 2017	Official dinner of the fifth IOC Coordination Commission	Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games	Promoted the reconstruction status of the three disaster-affected prefectures and their local food products
April 2018	Decision to start the torch relay from disaster-affected areas	Torch Relay Review Committee	By July 2018, it was decided that the torch relay would start in Fukushima Prefecture
May 2018	Approval of Miyagi Stadium as a venue	Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games	Officially approved Miyagi Stadium (Rifu, Miyagi District, Miyagi Prefecture) as one of the venues for soccer matches
From May 2018	First World Press Briefing Reception	IOC Executive Board	Promoted the reconstruction status of the three disaster-affected prefectures and their local food products
September 2018	Recovery Olympics Liaison and Coordination Council	Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games	Chaired by the State Minister for Reconstruction, shared information with the three disaster-affected prefectures
November 2018	ANOC General Assembly Reception	Reconstruction Agency and the three disaster-affected prefectures	Promoted the reconstruction status of the three disaster-affected prefectures and their local food products

Date	Initiative	Organizer	Details
November 2018	Project to promote awareness of the Olympics and Paralympics	Japanese Olympic Committee	In addition to introducing Fukushima's environmental revitalization projects, information about the prefecture's efforts toward environmental revitalization was shared through four events held at Shinjuku Gyoen. Efforts to disseminate progress in environmental restoration initiatives will continue, along with sharing the experiences and lessons learned from these projects to dispel negative reputations overseas.
February 2019	International "Recovery Olympics" promotion project	Reconstruction Agency	The Minister for Reconstruction and others visited embassies in Tokyo, engaged in discussions with relevant parties, and launched a project aimed at disseminating information about reconstruction efforts overseas.
October 2019	Second World Press Briefing Reception	IOC Executive Board	Promoted the reconstruction status of the three disaster-affected prefectures and their local food products
September 2020	Recovery Olympics portal site	Reconstruction Agency	Through the renewed Reconstruction Agency website, information on reconstruction efforts, events related to the Games, and pre-camps in the disaster-affected areas were disseminated.
February 2021	Media guidebook publication and distribution	Reconstruction Agency	Published and distributed in collaboration with the Tokyo Organising Committee and Tokyo Metropolitan Government, featuring reconstruction efforts related to the Tokyo 2020 Games, such as the torch relay, competitions held in disaster-affected areas, and the use of food ingredients, timber, and flowers from these areas.
March 2021	Torch relay launch	Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government	Started with a departure ceremony at J-Village. The relay ran through the three disaster-affected prefectures: Fukushima (March 25–27), Iwate (June 16–18), and Miyagi (June 19–21).
July 2021	Children's Recovery Olympics held	Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games	The Children's Recovery Olympics was held to give hope to children from the three disaster-affected prefectures, promote understanding of reconstruction efforts, and showcase the appeal of the local regions. This was achieved through interactions with professional athletes, educational activities related to reconstruction, and food experiences using ingredients from the affected areas.

Date	Initiative	Organizer	Details
July 2021	Overseas information dissemination during the Olympics	Reconstruction Agency	In collaboration with the Tokyo Organising Committee and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, a “Reconstruction Booth” was set up in a section of the Main Press Center. At the booth, slides and videos were displayed to disseminate information about the reconstruction progress in the disaster-affected areas, as well as details about food products and flowers produced in the three affected prefectures used during the Games. Additionally, during the Games, videos expressing gratitude for the support received, showcasing the affected areas' reconstruction and charm, and addressing reputational damage were broadcast through CNN Japan in hotels accommodating visiting officials and athletes.

b. Specific initiatives related to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

① Development and renovation of venues

Following the decision to host competitions, Miyagi Stadium replaced its pitch with new “Reconstruction Turf” grown on farmland in Yamamoto, Miyagi Prefecture, which had been devastated by the disaster. Other improvements that were carried out include Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium, where natural turf was replaced with better-draining artificial turf²⁶.

② Hosting competitions and Japanese team achievements

Soccer matches were held with spectators at Miyagi Stadium, while softball and baseball games at Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium were held without spectators. Despite significant restrictions on audience attendance due to COVID-19 countermeasures, hosting events in disaster-affected areas and the achievements of the Japanese teams left a strong impression on many people, especially those in the affected regions. According to a Reconstruction Agency survey, more than 40% of respondents were aware of these initiatives and the Japanese team's achievements. Interviews with local governments in the disaster-affected areas highlighted that hosting spectator events and the achievements of athletes with connections to the region provided significant value to local residents and attendees, inspiring courage and hope through sports.

③ Volunteer participation

Urban volunteers recruited by each prefecture contributed to operations at Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium, Miyagi Stadium, and surrounding areas, as well as the torch relay. Although the scale of volunteer participation was significantly reduced due to COVID-19 countermeasures, their efforts supported the success of the Games and were highly praised by international athletes and media representatives.

④ Implementation of the torch relay in disaster-affected areas

In April 2018, the Torch Relay Review Committee, organized by the Tokyo Organising Committee

²⁶ Prime Minister's Office, “Chapter 3: Initiatives of Government Agencies Toward Creating a New Japan Through the Tokyo 2020 Games,” P. 174-175. Survey results on other aspects of the Games are also included in this section. http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/pdf/kikantorikumi.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

with government participation, decided that the relay would spend three days in the three disaster-affected prefectures. Before the official Olympic Torch Relay, the torch was exhibited sequentially in the three prefectures as the “Flame of Recovery.” By July 2018, Fukushima Prefecture was designated as the relay's starting point.

Following the postponement decision, the torch relay began in March 2021 with a departure ceremony at J-Village, a facility that had served as a base for accident response and decommissioning work at the nuclear power plant after the disaster and had since fully reopened. The torch relay passed through Fukushima Prefecture from March 25 to 27, Iwate from June 16 to 18, and Miyagi from June 19 to 21.

Scenic and charming views along the route were streamed on the NHK website, and a media invitation tour covering the three affected prefectures was conducted alongside the departure ceremony at J-Village.

The torch used aluminum construction materials recycled from temporary housing, and hydrogen fuel produced at the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field in Namie, Fukushima Prefecture, to power the torch cauldron and some relay torches.

⑤ Engagement programs with local residents in disaster-affected areas

The Tokyo Organising Committee developed and implemented programs and cultural initiatives aimed at supporting reconstruction efforts in disaster-affected areas. These programs were designed in collaboration with local residents and relevant organizations.

For instance, the Tokyo 2020 Recovery Monument, featuring messages from affected communities, was placed near the National Stadium in front of the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery during the Games.

⑥ Use of and promotion of local products from disaster-affected areas

Flowers from the three disaster-affected prefectures were incorporated into the victory bouquets presented to medalists. These included gentians from Iwate Prefecture, sunflowers and roses from Miyagi Prefecture, and lisianthus from Fukushima Prefecture.

During the Games, produce from the three disaster-affected prefectures was served daily in the athlete village's dining halls. In the casual dining area, monitors displayed the prefectures of origin for the produce used, and posters (in English, French, and Japanese) were created and displayed in the main dining hall and casual dining area to promote the safety, reliability, and deliciousness of produce from the affected areas, including Fukushima Prefecture. After the Games, the origins of ingredients used in the main dining hall and other venues were also disclosed.

Through information shared by athletes and others on social media, the deliciousness and high reputation of Japanese produce, including those from disaster-affected areas, were communicated widely, both domestically and internationally, serving as effective promotion. During the Games, the head coaches of the U.S. and Australian softball teams described peaches from Fukushima Prefecture as “delicious,” which garnered significant attention. Following this, the JA Group Fukushima gifted peaches and pears from Fukushima Prefecture to the committee president Seiko Hashimoto for Paralympic Games participants, allowing them to enjoy fresh, delicious, and safe agricultural products from the region. Furthermore, agricultural production in the disaster-affected areas was advanced in alignment with the Tokyo 2020 Games' procurement standards. This involved ensuring sustainable production practices, including food safety, environmental preservation, and labor safety. Consequently, the number of agricultural businesses in the affected areas obtaining GAP (Good

Agricultural Practices) certification, verified by third-party entities, increased.

Figure 8-3-10 Examples of utilizing and promoting produce from disaster-affected areas



Source: Prime Minister's Office, "Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Collaboration with Government Agencies, Chapter 3: Initiatives of Government Agencies Toward Creating a New Japan Through the Tokyo 2020 Games" (June 2022) p. 178, 179 http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/pdf/kikantorikumi.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

⑦ Information dissemination on the recovery and appeal of the affected areas

The Reconstruction Agency utilized its official website's "Recovery Olympics Portal Site" to share information about the Recovery Olympics and Paralympics. Right before the opening of the Games, the Minister for Reconstruction released a message titled, "Message on the Opening of the Recovery Olympics."

For domestic audiences, in July 2021, the Children's Recovery Olympics was held to give hope to children from the three disaster-affected prefectures, promote understanding of reconstruction efforts, and showcase the appeal of the local regions. This was achieved through interactions with professional athletes, educational activities related to reconstruction, and food experiences using ingredients from the affected areas. Additionally, starting in the same month, posters and videos highlighting the disaster-affected areas' recovery and appeal, as well as the Recovery Olympics, were displayed as advertisements on and inside JR Yamanote Line trains. Furthermore, the private-sector Tohoku House initiative (sponsored by the Tohoku Economic Federation) collaborated to exhibit panels and videos expressing gratitude for support and detailing reconstruction efforts by individuals active in the disaster-affected areas.

For international audiences, in February 2021, the Tokyo Organising Committee and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government jointly released a media guidebook summarizing reconstruction efforts related to the Tokyo 2020 Games, such as the torch relay, competitions held in disaster-affected areas, and the use of food ingredients, timber, and flowers from these areas. In July 2021, they collaborated to set up a "Reconstruction Booth" within the Main Press Center to share updates on the progress of reconstruction in the disaster-affected areas. The booth featured slides and videos showcasing produce and flowers produced in the three disaster-affected prefectures that were used during the Games. Items such as benches made from Fukushima timber (later utilized by elementary and junior high schools in Fukushima Prefecture that were involved in its production), cushions, postcards with QR codes detailing food safety, and displays on the appeal of local produce and tourism were also provided to promote the regions and encourage information dissemination by international media. At the same

time, briefings were conducted by storytellers of reconstruction efforts and producers from the disaster-affected areas, as well as government agencies such as the Reconstruction Agency; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. These briefings aimed to express gratitude for support, share the current state of recovery and appeal of the affected areas, and dispel harmful rumors. Moreover, during the Games, videos expressing gratitude for support, as well as highlighting the current state of recovery and appeal of the disaster-affected areas, were broadcast in hotels hosting officials and athletes via CNN Japan.

3) Memorial ceremonies

a. Government-hosted memorial ceremonies

Government-hosted memorial ceremonies for natural disasters were unprecedented in the past²⁷. However, considering the Great East Japan Earthquake's extensive damage, significant loss of life, and profound impact on society, the government held annual memorial ceremonies in Tokyo from the first anniversary on March 11, 2012, to the tenth anniversary on March 11, 2021²⁸.

The decision to hold the first-anniversary memorial ceremony was made by the Cabinet on January 20, 2012, under the title “Implementation of the First Anniversary Memorial Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake.” It was decided that the government would host the ceremony at the National Theatre on March 11, 2012, with the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. The ceremony was organized under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister (with the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of State for Disaster Management and Reconstruction serving as vice chairs), and coordinated by the Cabinet Office. It was also decided that representatives from various sectors would attend. On the same day, the Cabinet instructed Minister Tatsuo Hirano to undertake necessary preparations²⁹. Furthermore, a “Great East Japan Earthquake First Anniversary Memorial Ceremony Preparation Office” was established within the Minister's Secretariat of the Cabinet Office. On February 24, 2012, the Cabinet approved a national expression of condolence for the day of the memorial ceremony³⁰. Subsequently, on March 11, 2012, the government-hosted Ceremony to Commemorate the First Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake was held at the National Theatre.

From the second anniversary onward, the memorial ceremonies were conducted following Cabinet

²⁷ January 22, 2013, press conference by Takumi Nemoto, Minister for Reconstruction: “Government-hosted memorial ceremonies for natural disasters were unprecedented. Considering the extensive and widespread damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the government held the first-anniversary memorial ceremony on March 11 last year. With the second year since the disaster approaching, the government has decided to continue hosting a ceremony to commemorate the victims of this unprecedented disaster.”

²⁸ Regarding the venue of the ceremonies, in response to questions about holding the events in the disaster-affected prefectures, Minister Tatsuo Hirano stated, “Various internal discussions were held. Initially, there were plans to host it locally. Informal inquiries were made to affected municipalities. (...) However, considering the widespread nature of the disaster, spanning regions like Nagano Prefecture, it was challenging to narrow the location to a single site. Additionally, there were concerns from local authorities about the appropriateness of hosting the event locally. Some wanted to keep it a quiet event among those affected. As a result, the decision was made to hold the ceremonies in Tokyo, which was deemed the most suitable location after consulting with governors of affected prefectures.” (House of Representatives Budget Committee, February 20, 2012)

²⁹ Minister Tatsuo Hirano concurrently served as Minister of State for Reconstruction for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Minister of State for Disaster Management. From the second anniversary onward, the responsibility was delegated to the Minister of State for Disaster Management.

³⁰ The condolence resolution included the following instructions: “All ministries and agencies shall fly condolence flags and request that public offices, schools, companies, and others do the same. The public is requested to observe a moment of silence at 2:46 PM during the memorial ceremony.” A statement from the Prime Minister titled “To the People of Japan” was also released.

approval and the adoption of resolutions for expressing condolences. However, for the ninth anniversary in March 2020, the government-hosted ceremony was canceled due to the spread of COVID-19³¹.

Instead, a flower-offering ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's Office.

For the tenth anniversary in March 2021, the government-hosted memorial ceremony was once again held, albeit with measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as the exclusion of general attendees for flower offerings.

Regarding memorial ceremonies from the eleventh anniversary onward, during a press conference on January 21, 2020, which marked the ninth anniversary, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga stated that the government planned to continue hosting the ceremonies up until the tenth anniversary. As for 2022 and beyond, he mentioned that decisions would be made based on the circumstances at the time. In March 2022, which marked the eleventh anniversary, the government did not host a memorial ceremony. On the anniversary day, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attended a memorial ceremony hosted by the Fukushima Prefecture government, becoming the first Prime Minister to do so. The following day, he visited the state-run memorials and prayer facilities in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, where he offered flowers and observed a moment of silence³².

Figure 8-3-11 Overview of government-hosted memorial ceremonies

	開催の 閣議決定	弔意表明 の閣議了 解	規模	皇室のご臨席	出席者 (三権の代表・国内外)
東日本大震 災一周年追 悼式	平成 24 年 1 月 20 日	平成 24 年 2 月 24 日	1,165 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震 災二周年追 悼式	平成 25 年 1 月 22 日	平成 25 年 2 月 26 日	1,123 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震 災三周年追 悼式	平成 26 年 1 月 21 日	平成 26 年 2 月 25 日	1,231 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震 災四周年追 悼式	平成 27 年 1 月 23 日	平成 27 年 2 月 24 日	1,146 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震 災五周年追 悼式	平成 28 年 1 月 22 日	平成 28 年 2 月 23 日	1,101 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震 災六周年追 悼式	平成 29 年 1 月 20 日	平成 29 年 2 月 21 日	879 人	文仁親王殿下 (おことば)	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞)

³¹ “First, I must inform the public that the ninth-anniversary memorial ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake has been canceled to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Despite efforts to reduce its scale and implement safety measures in order to hold the ceremony, the current situation necessitates prioritizing every possible step to curb the virus's spread within Japan. Due to this, regrettably, we have no choice but to cancel the memorial service. We deeply apologize to bereaved families and other affected individuals for this decision.” (Excerpt from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's remarks at the flower-offering ceremony on March 11, 2020)

³² The Prime Minister's attendance at the eleventh-anniversary memorial ceremony in Fukushima Prefecture on March 11, 2022, was announced in advance during a press conference by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on February 25, 2022, after the Cabinet's approval of condolence resolutions.

	開催の閣議決定	弔意表明の閣議了解	規模	皇室のご臨席	出席者 (三権の代表・国内外)
悼式				文仁親王妃殿下	参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震災七周年追悼式	平成 30 年 1 月 19 日	平成 30 年 2 月 20 日	830 人	文仁親王殿下 (おことば) 文仁親王妃殿下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
東日本大震災八周年追悼式	平成 31 年 1 月 22 日	平成 31 年 2 月 19 日	913 人	文仁親王殿下 (おことば) 文仁親王妃殿下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)
(東日本大震災九周年追悼式は非開催)	令和 2 年 1 月 21 日 (開催) 令和 2 年 3 月 6 日 (取りやめ)	令和 2 年 2 月 18 日 (追悼式 当日の弔 意表明) 令和 2 年 3 月 6 日 (発災 9 年となる 3 月 11 日 の弔意表 明)	※追悼式は中止され、東日本大震災・総理大臣官邸献花式を実施		
東日本大震災十周年追悼式	令和 3 年 3 月 2 日	令和 3 年 3 月 2 日	207 人	天皇陛下 (おことば) 皇后陛下	内閣総理大臣 (式辞) 衆議院議長 (追悼の辞) 参議院議長 (追悼の辞) 最高裁判所長官 (追悼の辞)

Source: Cabinet Office, “Regarding the 10th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of the Great East Japan Earthquake,” etc.
<https://www8.cao.go.jp/tsuitou/tsuitou.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

b. Memorial ceremonies organized by local governments

Every year on March 11, in addition to the government-hosted memorial ceremony, local memorial ceremonies have been held in disaster-affected areas. In Iwate Prefecture, joint memorial ceremonies were organized by the prefecture and affected municipalities to collectively mourn and honor the victims. Miyagi Prefecture did not host a prefectural memorial ceremony but instead set up floral tributes and signing areas at the prefectural government offices, with some affected municipalities independently holding memorial services. In Fukushima Prefecture, memorial and reconstruction ceremonies were organized by the prefecture (in collaboration with the Association of City Mayors and other municipal associations). Senior officials from the Reconstruction Agency, including state ministers and parliamentary vice-ministers, attended these local ceremonies.

(3) Other outreach efforts

The Japanese government, through the Reconstruction Agency, engaged in various information dissemination efforts related to reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. These efforts included public relations activities via the Reconstruction Agency's website and official social media channels, visualizing the progress of reconstruction, hosting events for the fifth and tenth anniversaries, and providing information for international audiences.

* Initiatives for international audiences to address harmful rumors are discussed in Chapter 7, Section 4.

Figure 8-3-12 Overview of key information dissemination activities

Category	Date	Initiative	Details
Public relations and information dissemination	January 2015	Official Twitter account opened	Shared information on the Reconstruction Agency's activities and the progress of reconstruction via social media
	November 2016	Official Facebook account opened	Shared information on the Reconstruction Agency's activities and the progress of reconstruction via social media
	January 2017	Appointment of Olympic gold medalist Kohei Uchimura as Ambassador for Reconstruction	Promoted recovery through posters and videos
	March 2017	Launch of "Recovery Olympics Portal Site: Toward the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics"	Centralized and disseminated streamlined information on the status of reconstruction and the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics activities in the Tohoku region
	March 2018	3.11 Message Photo Exhibit	Hosted at Tokyo Station, featuring reconstruction-related initiatives by private entities and the current state of disaster-affected areas
	December 2019	Manga "Let's Eat Fukushima-Grown" published	Disseminated information about the revitalization of Fukushima's food industry through the efforts of high school students striving to share the passion of Fukushima's producers nationwide
	December 2019	Manga "Let's Expand Community Car Sharing" published	Depicted and widely disseminated the transformation of regional reconstruction to local revitalization eight years after the disaster
	February 2020	Manga "Opportunities Close to Home" published	Widely distributed this manga nearly nine years after the disaster to help people discover various ways to support the Tohoku region
Visualizing the progress of reconstruction	September 2013	Tsuchioto Information Center	Provided information on and supported the acceleration of recovery and reconstruction of housing and public infrastructure
Fifth and tenth anniversary projects	March 2016	Five-Year Reconstruction Portal Site	"Five-Year Reconstruction Portal Site", a special website for the fifth anniversary of the disaster was launched

Category	Date	Initiative	Details
	June 2016	Tohoku Reconstruction Month	Held reconstruction-related events like the “Reconstruction Forum” and “Exchange Meeting in Tokyo” during the fifth anniversary period
	May 2018	38th Japan-EU Interparliamentary Meeting	The Minister for Reconstruction provided updates on recovery efforts, including the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident response
	2018	Fw: Tohoku Weekly	Introduced the “Fw: Tohoku” initiatives and projects of the “New Tohoku” Public and Private Partnership Promotion Council through events held in Tokyo and various locations in the Tohoku region to enhance awareness and expand opportunities for collaboration
	From 2019	Fw: Tohoku Fan Meeting	Renamed “Fw: Tohoku Weekly” to “Fw: Tohoku Fan Meeting,” and held approximately 20 workshops per year in the Tokyo metropolitan area and Tohoku region
	October 2020	10th Anniversary Portal Site	Launched a dedicated 10 year anniversary site with the message: “Ten years later: Tohoku today and in the future”
	From November 2020	Ten-Year Commemoration of the Great East Japan Earthquake Photo Contest	Invited submissions capturing the progress of reconstruction and the charm of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures
	From December 2020	Fukushima Reconstruction Haiku Contest	Collected haiku poems celebrating the agricultural, forestry, fishery, and tourism attractions of Fukushima
	March 2021	Online symposium	Made efforts to renew interest in disaster-affected areas while sharing lessons and insights aimed at preparing for large-scale disasters through presentations on the initiatives, current status, and future prospects of the affected areas
International outreach	May 2018	The 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting	Shared accurate reconstruction information and addressed harmful rumors through memorial events and welcome receptions
	November 2019	Media coverage of disaster-affected areas by China and Hong Kong	Facilitated media tours for outlets in China and Hong Kong in disaster-affected areas, produced international TV programs broadcast across Asia, and shared recovery efforts through online influencers and journalists with the goal to promote understanding abroad
	March 2021	Overseas video release	Published a video titled “Imagining Tomorrow TOHOKU,” showcasing the current state of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures to a global audience

Source: Reconstruction Agency, “Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Associated Efforts” (December 2021), p. 30

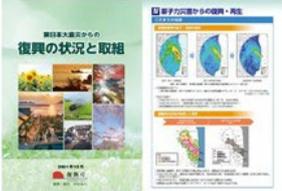
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat7/sub-cat7-2-1/latest/202112_pamphlet_fukko-jokyo-torikumi_02.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

Reconstruction Agency: “Ten Years after the Great East Japan Earthquake” portal site <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/10year/index.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

Reconstruction Agency, “On the Release of the International Video 'Imagining Tomorrow TOHOKU'” <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/m21/03/20210309.pdf> (browsed July 14, 2023)

Figure 8-3-13 Measures by the Reconstruction Agency to prevent the fading of memories of the disaster

Measures by the Reconstruction Agency to prevent the fading of memories of the disaster

<p style="text-align: center;">Pamphlets</p>  <p>Pamphlets that introduce the progress of reconstruction using quantitative data and concrete examples in a manner easy for the general public to understand.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reconstruction Agency official YouTube channel</p>  <p>Launched in October 2020. Videos produced mainly by the Reconstruction Agency are published on topics such as the status of reconstruction in the disaster-affected areas, the appeal of the Tohoku region, efforts to prevent the fading of disaster lessons, and countermeasures against harmful rumors.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reconstruction Agency Facebook</p>  <p>Launched in October 2016. Aims to increase public interest and awareness of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Posts include various information from the Reconstruction Agency and updates from regional reconstruction office staff highlighting the current status and charm of affected areas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TV, radio, and newspapers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aired programs on Discovery Channel Asia showcasing the current state of disaster-affected areas. Shared updates on Fukushima's recovery through collaboration with FM radio programs. Placed advertisements in The Japan Times. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Disaster legacy facilities and storytellers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the preservation of earthquake ruins to pass on the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake to future generations. Conducted information dissemination and exchange of opinions at disaster legacy facilities across regions. Provided support for training storytellers.  <p style="text-align: center;">Ishinomaki: Kadonowaki Elementary School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Online tours</p> <p>In FY 2021, online tours were conducted for foreign dignitaries, including embassy staff in Tokyo, incorporating disaster ruins. The purpose was to provide accurate understanding of reconstruction progress 10 years after the disaster and prevent the fading of disaster memories.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Taro Kanko Hotel</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Kesennuma Koyo High School, Miyagi Prefecture</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ishinomaki: Okawa Elementary School</p>

Source: Created by the Reconstruction Agency, September 2022

1) Public relations and information dissemination

The Reconstruction Agency carried out public relations and information dissemination activities through various media to promote awareness of the status of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and prevent the fading of memories (overseas dissemination and commemorative events will be described later).

On its official website, the Reconstruction Agency established a page titled “Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction,”³³ where it regularly disseminates information through the annual pamphlet “Status and Efforts for Reconstructions from the Great East Japan Earthquake,”³⁴ and the periodically updated ten-page summaries titled “Current Status of Reconstruction and Future Efforts.” Additionally, a document titled “Reconstruction Efforts and Related Policies” consisting of approximately 100 pages has been distributed at Reconstruction Promotion Council meetings.

In January 2015, the official Twitter account was launched, followed by the Facebook account in November 2016, to share updates about the Reconstruction Agency's activities and the status of reconstruction in the disaster-affected areas. Furthermore, in October 2020, an official YouTube channel was launched, where videos produced by the Reconstruction Agency on topics such as the status of reconstruction in the disaster-affected areas, the appeal of the Tohoku region, efforts to prevent the fading of disaster lessons, and countermeasures against harmful rumors are shared.

Additionally, the Reconstruction Agency adopted slogans for use on its official website and at events hosted or supported by the agency. On the fifth anniversary of the disaster in January 2016, the slogan

³³ Reconstruction Agency website <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat1/sub-cat1-1/20131029113414.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

³⁴ The titles of the pamphlets may vary by year.

“Toward a New Stage: Reconstruction and Creation” was introduced. Later, on the tenth anniversary in March 2021, the slogan was updated to “Reconstruction, Creation, and Beyond.”

In addition, to facilitate broad information dissemination, the Reconstruction Agency published manga comics on its official website that can be easily read on smartphones.

Figure 8-3-14 Information dissemination through manga



Source: Reconstruction Agency “Manga List Page”

<https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat20/2019/manga/index.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

2) Visualizing the progress of reconstruction

To accelerate reconstruction efforts, the Reconstruction Agency implemented initiatives to provide clear insights into the progress of recovery and reconstruction projects. This included sharing information comprehensively through the agency's website in a user-friendly, centralized manner for the national government, prefectures, and municipalities³⁵. As part of this effort, on September 27, 2013, the Tsuchioto Information Center was launched to consolidate and display updates on housing and public infrastructure recovery and reconstruction progress. The key features of the Tsuchioto Information Center include:

- ① Centralized access to project overviews, “Reconstruction Albums” with fixed-point observation photos, timelines, map information, and other related resources for individual project areas
- ② Information about housing reconstruction projects from the perspective of residents, including district-specific urban development concepts and unique housing designs wherever possible
- ③ Data for 823 locations across Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures (as of December 2022)

Through these features, the Tsuchioto Information Center allows users to easily access detailed information on housing reconstruction, urban renewal, and other reconstruction efforts on a district-by-district basis.

³⁵ Reconstruction Agency: Housing and public infrastructure recovery and reconstruction information website https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/portal/juutaku_koukyou/index.html (browsed July 14, 2023)

Figure 8-3-15 Tsuchioto Information Center screen image



Source: Reconstruction Agency, “Supporting Acceleration Through Visualization of Housing and Public Infrastructure Reconstruction—Providing Progress Updates via the Tsuchioto Information Center and Related Tools” (September 27, 2013)
https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat10/sub-cat10-3/20130927_mieruka_tsuchioto.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

3) Fifth and tenth anniversary projects

a. Great East Japan Earthquake fifth anniversary initiatives (Tohoku Reconstruction Month, Reconstruction Forum)

To mark the fifth anniversary of the disaster, the Reconstruction Promotion Council outlined basic policies in January 2016, emphasizing: ① Sharing lessons learned from the disaster (urban planning, community-building, disaster preparedness, etc.) nationwide, and ② providing accurate updates on the progress of reconstruction, including the resolution of nuclear accident issues, to audiences both within and outside of the disaster-affected areas. In March 2016, the council presented the initiative to strengthen information dissemination on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and designated June 2016 as “Tohoku Reconstruction Month.” The policy emphasized the importance of enhancing public interest in reconstruction efforts while promoting various reconstruction-related events during this period, with participation from diverse entities such as the national government, affected local governments, and other stakeholders, both within and outside the disaster-affected areas.

The Reconstruction Agency launched a dedicated website, the Fifth Anniversary Portal Site, in March 2016, and hosted various events in June, such as the “Fifth Anniversary Reconstruction Forum” and the “Exchange Meeting in Tokyo.”³⁶ The forum, held on June 6 at the Iino Hall & Conference Center in

³⁶ Reconstruction Agency website, “Tohoku Reconstruction Month”
<https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/main-cat16/index.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

Tokyo, was attended by the governors of the three affected prefectures, U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, and representatives of diplomatic missions. Key activities included a discussion among the three governors, panel discussions by experts, and a mini concert in support of reconstruction. Presentations and panel discussions were held in four sessions covering the recovery of industries, disaster-resilient urban planning, information dissemination from Fukushima, and community-building, providing a platform to share updates with domestic and international audiences.

The Exchange Meeting in Tokyo hosted a “New Tohoku” photo exhibition over 18 days (June 11–28, 2016) at 3331 Arts Chiyoda in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, featuring events such as “Youth Day,” “Art Day,” “Women’s Empowerment Day,” and the “New Tohoku Market.”

Additionally, the Reconstruction Agency established a dedicated Fifth Anniversary Portal Site³⁷ on March 4, 2016.

b. Projects to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Reconstruction Agency implemented various initiatives, including the 10th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake Online Project in FY 2020. These efforts aimed to express gratitude for the support received from around the world, showcase the recovering disaster-affected areas’ progress, appeal, and future prospects to both domestic and international audiences, and further advance reconstruction efforts. Additionally, the initiatives sought to share the lessons learned and knowledge gained from reconstruction activities, contributing to preparations for future large-scale disasters.

A 10th Anniversary Portal Site³⁸ was launched in October 2020, featuring messages from Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and the Minister for Reconstruction Katsuei Hirasawa, as well as interviews with the governors of the three affected prefectures. It also included reports on reconstruction from local stakeholders, discussions on reconstruction, messages from notable figures such as former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy, and videos sharing lessons learned and knowledge gained from experts in disaster prevention. Additionally, the site served as a centralized platform to disseminate related content such as the current state of Tohoku, the appeal of Tohoku, lessons learned, and messages of gratitude and support. These efforts aimed to rekindle interest in the disaster-affected areas and promote the sharing of lessons learned and knowledge gained in preparation for future large-scale disasters.

The “Ten-Year Commemoration of the Great East Japan Earthquake Photo Contest,” launched in November 2020, invited submissions highlighting reconstruction efforts and the beauty of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures³⁹. Similarly, the “Fukushima Reconstruction Haiku Contest,” launched in December 2020, sought haiku poems celebrating the region’s agricultural products and tourist attractions⁴⁰. Winning entries were showcased on the Reconstruction Agency’s website.

³⁷ Reconstruction Agency website, “Fifth Anniversary Portal Site” <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/5year/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

³⁸ Reconstruction Agency website, “Ten Years after the Great East Japan Earthquake” portal site <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/10year/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

³⁹ Reconstruction Agency website, “Ten-Year Commemoration of the Great East Japan Earthquake Photo Contest” <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/10year/photocontest/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

⁴⁰ Reconstruction Agency website, “Fukushima Reconstruction Haiku Contest” <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/10year/haikucontest.html> (browsed July 14, 2023)

4) International outreach

a. Information dissemination at international conferences such as the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and receptions events

Efforts to disseminate information during international conferences held in Japan aimed to provide accurate updates on the progress of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the response to the nuclear disaster. These initiatives targeted visiting foreign dignitaries, media representatives, and others to convey correct information, promote Japanese food, and boost inbound tourism.

During the 42nd G7 Summit and related ministers' meetings, held in Ise-Shima on May 26–27, 2016, which coincided with the fifth anniversary of the disaster, a range of activities was organized. These included panel exhibitions, video presentations, and pamphlet distributions to showcase the progress of reconstruction. At related reception events, food products sourced from disaster-affected areas were served.

In May 2018, during the 38th Japan-EU Interparliamentary Meeting, the Minister for Reconstruction attended and presented on reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. Later that month, at the memorial service and welcome reception held as part of the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, a booth hosted by the Reconstruction Agency provided accurate information on recovery efforts and served nine varieties of sake from the three disaster-affected prefectures as part of an effort to counter harmful rumors.

In 2019, at the G20 Osaka Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy held in June, along with related ministerial meetings and side events, the Reconstruction Agency organized panel exhibitions, pamphlet distributions, and served food products sourced from disaster-affected areas. Similarly, at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in August, panel displays and regional food offerings were featured.

b. Production of DVDs for embassy officials

In 2017, as part of its initiatives to promote understanding overseas, the Reconstruction Agency produced promotional videos highlighting the appeal of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures. These videos were distributed on government internet television platforms and provided as DVDs for embassies and consulates abroad to use. In 2020, in response to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency created videos showcasing the reconstruction process and progress in the three disaster-affected prefectures. These videos were designed to be accessible to foreigners unable to visit Japan or disaster-affected areas in person, offering clear insights into the reconstruction efforts.

In 2019, a tour of disaster-affected areas was organized for Tokyo-based embassy officials. This initiative aimed to deepen their understanding of the progress in reconstruction efforts. In 2021, marking the 10th anniversary of the disaster, the agency conducted an online tour targeting embassy officials and foreign representatives. The tour included earthquake ruins to help preserve the memory of the disaster and the lessons learned while providing accurate updates on the reconstruction process.

c. Facilitating media coverage of disaster-affected areas

In 2018 and 2019, the Reconstruction Agency arranged visits by Chinese and Hong Kong media

outlets to disaster-affected areas. These visits resulted in extensive reporting through newspapers, television, and online radio. Additionally, as part of efforts to counter harmful rumors, the agency produced overseas television programs focused on food safety and the appeal of the Tohoku region. These programs were broadcast across Asia through Discovery Channel Asia.

d. Utilizing online influencers and journalists

In 2018, the Reconstruction Agency collaborated with prominent journalists, influencers, and bloggers from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea to enhance understanding of the reconstruction efforts abroad. This initiative included publishing a total of 30 online articles aimed at addressing harmful rumors and promoting tourism in the disaster-affected areas.

5) Regional storytelling activities

Efforts to preserve and pass down the memories and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake include regional storytelling activities carried out by storytellers. To support these efforts, prefectures have implemented initiatives such as establishing network organizations to strengthen cooperation among storytelling groups, developing human resources, and providing certain financial support. At the national level, the following projects have been implemented to promote these activities. However, there are concerns that the understanding of the current status of earthquake memorial activities and follow-up efforts are insufficient.

- Storytelling activities to support creating purpose in life for disaster victims

The Reconstruction Agency, through its Mental Recovery project, funded by the general subsidy for support for disaster victims, provides financial support for activities that contribute to creating purpose in life for disaster victims. Among these are initiatives where survivors themselves become narrators to recount their earthquake and tsunami experiences and activities that create opportunities for elementary school students and others to learn lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake. These activities are part of the broader regional storytelling efforts.

* Details of the Mental Recovery project can be found in Chapter 3, Section 3.

- Disaster Storytelling Ten-Year Project

Based on the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency has been conducting the Disaster Storytelling Ten-Year Project annually since 2013. This project involves dispatching storytellers, including municipal officials, firefighters, Japan Fire Fighting Women's Club members, and members of community disaster prevention organizations who were active in disaster-affected areas, to municipalities nationwide upon request to deliver talks and other activities.

Starting in 2023, the project plans to expand its scope by dispatching storytellers who have worked in large-scale disaster-affected areas beyond the Great East Japan Earthquake.

* For disaster education, see Chapter 4, Section 3. For educational travel, see Chapter 6, Section 5.4.

3. Development of earthquake memorial centers and preservation of earthquake ruins

(1) Development of state-run memorials, prayer facilities, and parks

1) Memorial and storytelling facilities in the three affected prefectures

To honor and mourn the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, pass on the memories and lessons learned of the disaster to future generations, and communicate a strong commitment to reconstruction to both domestic and international audiences, the government has developed key facilities, such as hills and plazas to serve as memorial and prayer facilities, within memorial parks established by local governments. In Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, the national government constructed and manages the land and buildings for the state-run memorial and prayer facilities, while the prefectures manage the legacy facilities (exhibition areas) within these buildings. These facilities were gradually opened to the public from 2019 and were fully completed in March 2021. In Fukushima Prefecture, part of the facility came into service in January 2021, and work is continuing with the aim of completing the facility by the end of FY 2025. Details of the development process and facility contents are provided in Chapter 5, Section 3.

Additionally, as part of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework, Fukushima Prefecture has developed and operates the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum on land adjacent to the Fukushima 3.11 Memorial Park.

Figure 8-3-16 Legacy facilities in the three affected prefectures

Operating body	Facility name	Location	Opening date
Iwate Prefecture	Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum	Rikuzentakata (Within Takata Matsubara Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park)	September 2019
Miyagi Prefecture	Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum	Ishinomaki (Within Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park)	June 2021
Fukushima Prefecture	Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum	Futaba (Adjacent to Fukushima 3.11 Memorial Park)	September 2020

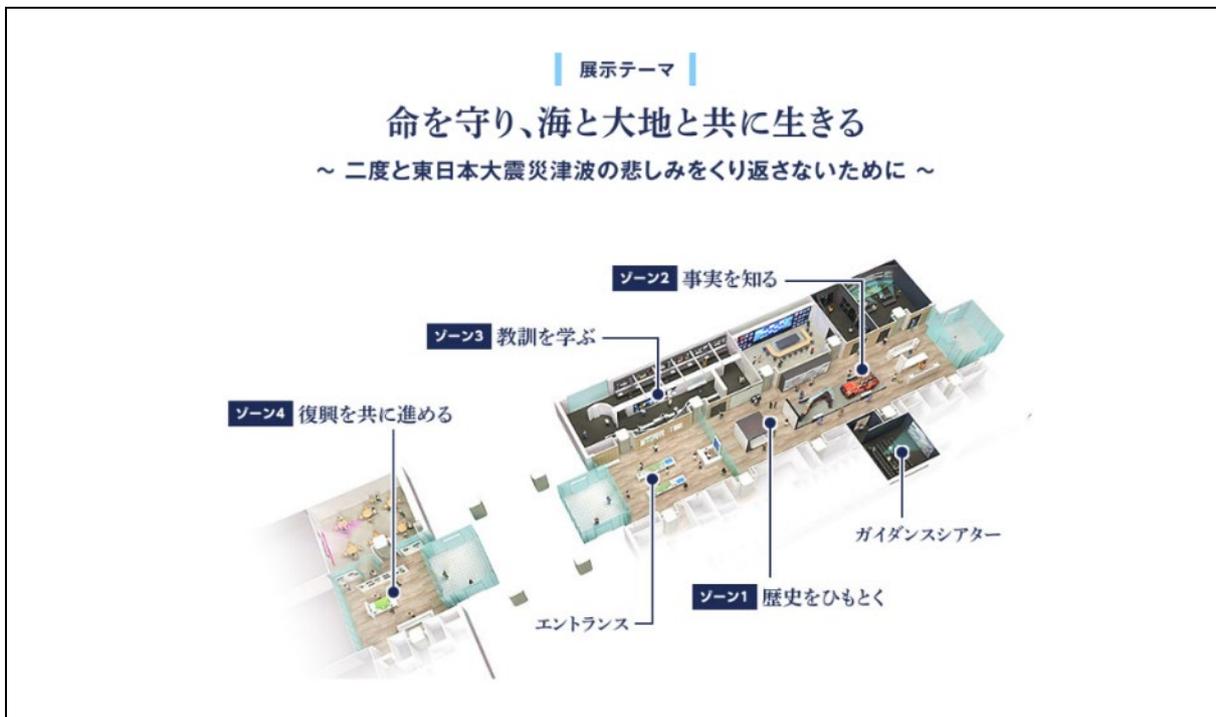
a. Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum (Iwate Prefecture)

In Iwate Prefecture, the Takata Matsubara Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park Earthquake and Tsunami Legacy Facility Study Committee was convened in September 2015 to formulate the basic and detailed designs for the legacy facility within the park. In 2018, the official name, Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum, was decided, and the museum opened in September 2019.

The museum's goal is to ensure the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake tsunami is never repeated by passing on the facts and lessons learned from the disaster to future generations while sharing the progress of reconstruction with domestic and international audiences. Its exhibits, centered around the theme of “Protecting lives, and living together with the ocean and earth,” showcase the history of tsunami disasters in the Sanriku region, photographs and videos related to the Great East Japan Earthquake tsunami, reconstruction efforts, and items from the disaster.

The permanent exhibits consist of the entrance area, a guidance theater, and four zones: “Tracing history,” “Learning the facts,” “Learning lessons,” and “Moving towards reconstruction together.”

Figure 8-3-17 Exhibit overview of the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum (as of November 2022)



Source: Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum website
<https://iwate-tsunami-memorial.jp/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

b. Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum (Miyagi Prefecture)

In the Minamihama district of Ishinomaki, which suffered extensive damage from the disaster, the construction of Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park was planned. As the park's core facility, the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum was developed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum opened in June 2021, three months after the park's opening in March 2021.

The museum aims to ensure that the tragedy and confusion experienced during the Great East Japan Earthquake are never repeated by passing down the disaster's memories and lessons learned to future generations. Additionally, it serves as a gateway to other disaster legacy facilities across the prefecture. The exhibits include: "Collection of Memories," "Great East Japan Earthquake," "Tsunami: Lessons for the Future," "Our Road to Recovery," "Kataribe: Testimonies of Survivors," and "Our Memories." The museum also features a video theater that uses scientific perspectives and realistic footage to convey the terror of tsunamis, as well as testimony videos from 79 organizations and 90 individuals affected by the disaster.

Figure 8-3-18 Exhibit overview of the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum



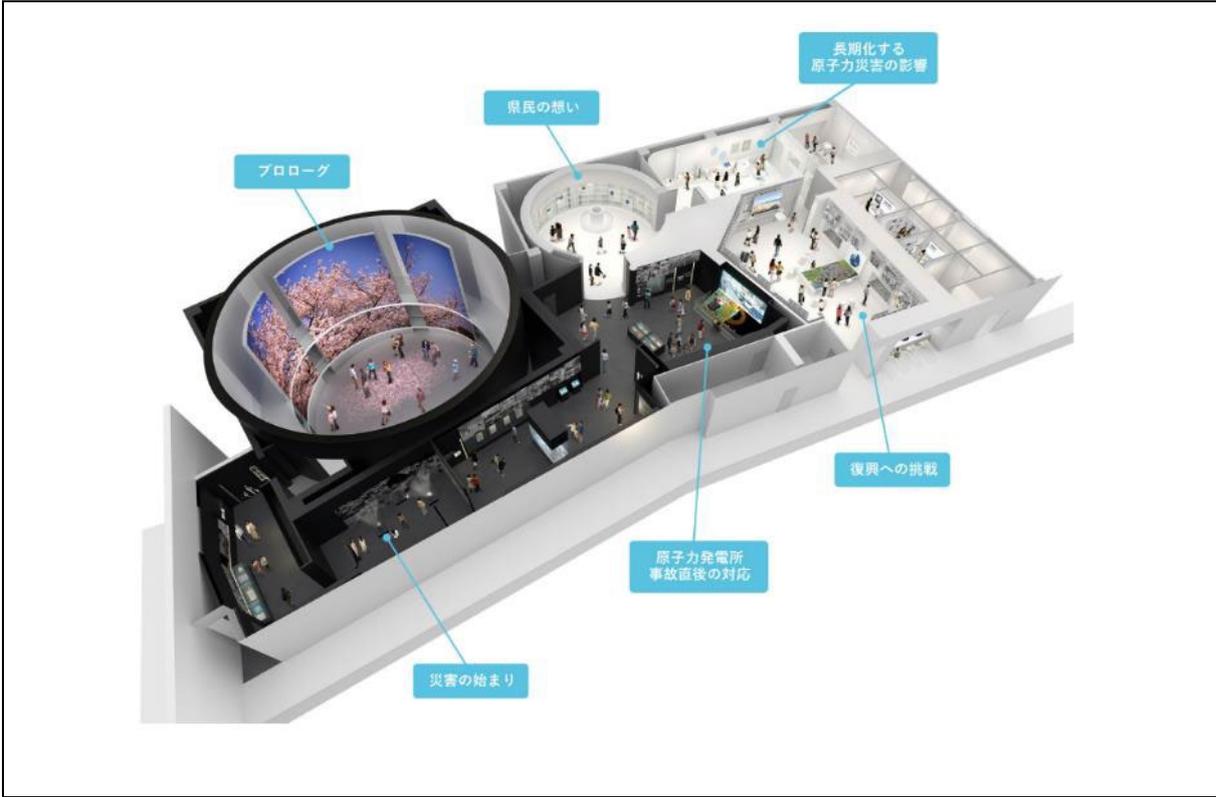
Source: Miyagi Prefecture, "Guide to the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum"
https://www.pref.miyagi.jp/documents/40349/220401_denshokantennzigaigyoku.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

c. Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum (Fukushima Prefecture)

In Fukushima Prefecture, an archive hub facility dedicated to passing down the records and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster to future generations was designated as one of the international industry-academia collaboration hubs in the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework. In April 2015, the “Expert Panel on the Archive Hub Facility for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster” was established. Based on the panel's report, Fukushima Prefecture began constructing the archive facility in an area within Futaba, adjacent to the Fukushima 3.11 Memorial Park spanning the towns of Futaba and Namie. In September 2019, the facility was officially named the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum, and it opened in September 2020.

The museum operates under three core principles: ① Passing down and sharing lessons with the world by preserving the records and lessons of the nuclear disaster and recovery, ② Promoting disaster preparedness and mitigation by utilizing Fukushima's unique experiences and lessons from the nuclear disaster to enhance disaster prevention and reduction efforts, and ③ Contributing to accelerated reconstruction by promoting the revitalization of community life, culture, and traditions while fostering human resources in collaboration with individuals and organizations dedicated to Fukushima. The museum houses approximately 270,000 items, including materials depicting the local area before the disaster, scenes from the disaster, and evacuation life in its aftermath. Approximately 200 of these items are on display. The museum features a range of exhibition areas, including: “Prologue (Prologue Theatre),” “The Beginning of the Compound Disaster,” “The Immediate Response to the Nuclear Accident,” “The Voices of Fukushima,” “The Long-term Impact of the Nuclear Disaster,” and “Striving for Revitalization.” It also hosts periodic special exhibits tailored to timely themes. In addition, the museum organizes fieldwork tours to disaster-affected areas, provides storytelling sessions (four times daily), and conducts research contributing to disaster preparedness and mitigation. Through these initiatives, the museum conveys what transpired during the unprecedented compound disaster in Fukushima, how the region has responded, and the lessons learned to enhance disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts globally.

Figure 8-3-19 Exhibit overview of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum



Source: Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum website <https://www.fipo.or.jp/lore/> (browsed July 14, 2023)

(2) Preservation of disaster ruins

Facilities damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, such as government offices, schools, hotels, and seawalls, serve as important mediums to convey the devastation of the tsunami, foster awareness of natural disaster risks, and enhance disaster preparedness. At the same time, they preserve traces of past life in the affected areas. From the beginning, there were strong demands from local governments to utilize these facilities in future community-building efforts. However, due to their potential to evoke painful memories for local residents, the decision to preserve or dismantle these disaster ruins sparked significant debate across regions⁴¹.

The national government, acknowledging that similar facilities after past large-scale disasters were generally funded by local governments or donations, took a cautious approach toward providing direct financial support for preserving these ruins. However, the government did support surveys related to preservation through the reconstruction grants program. As discussions on earthquake ruins gained momentum in certain regions several years after the disaster, the high costs associated with preservation emerged as a critical issue.

In response, the Reconstruction Agency announced its policy on November 15, 2013 in a press release titled “Support for the Preservation of Earthquake Ruins⁴².” According to this policy, as an exceptional measure, the government would provide funding through reconstruction grants for initial preservation costs for one earthquake ruin per municipality, provided that issues such as cost-sharing for maintenance and consensus among residents and stakeholders were resolved. Maintenance costs after preservation would be borne by the respective municipalities, which were expected to utilize donations and admission fees, as these expenses were not eligible for national support⁴³.

Following this policy, nine municipalities used reconstruction grants to preserve earthquake ruins. Disaster-affected municipalities have positively evaluated the use of reconstruction grants for preserving earthquake ruins and establishing memorial facilities.

⁴¹ Reconstruction Agency, “Great East Japan Earthquake: Lessons Learned & Know-How Gained” (March 2021) p. 229–230

⁴² Reconstruction Agency press release “Support for the Preservation of Earthquake Ruins” November 15, 2013 https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/m13/11/20131115_press_sinsaiikou.pdf (browsed July 14, 2023)

⁴³ Press Conference by Takumi Nemoto, Minister for Reconstruction (November 15, 2013): “Second, the initial costs necessary for preservation will be covered by reconstruction grants. However, we must consider that in the past, similar facilities were primarily maintained through local government funding or donations. As a guideline, the cost should not exceed what would be required to dismantle the facility. Third, municipalities are expected to take responsibility for maintenance costs, utilizing donations and admission fees as necessary. Regarding maintenance costs, we must emphasize that this support is unprecedented. Previous cases of similar facilities have generally relied on local government funding or donations. Therefore, I hope everyone understands that this measure is exceptional. Furthermore, if the national government were to take on maintenance costs, the facility would essentially be treated as a national asset. This support is provided through reconstruction grants aimed at assisting in reconstruction-oriented urban development. It is hoped that municipalities will take responsibility for maintaining and managing these earthquake ruins as regional assets, preserving the devastation caused by the tsunami as a narrative for future generations and utilizing it for future urban development. Furthermore, as a general rule, maintenance and management costs are borne by the managing entity. If the financial burden and the managing entity differ, it could lead to ambiguities in responsibility and hinder long-term, stable management. Therefore, we have decided that the government will not support maintenance and management costs.”

Excerpt from “Support for the Preservation of Earthquake Ruins” (Reconstruction Agency press release, November 15, 2013)

<p>(2) Response policies For earthquake ruins located within municipalities, support will be provided using reconstruction grants under the following conditions, after clarifying issues such as ① The relationship to reconstruction-oriented urban development, ② the appropriate approach to cost-sharing, including maintenance and management expenses, and ③ confirmation of consensus among residents and stakeholders.</p>
<p>① Each municipality will be limited to one designated location. ② Support will be provided for initial costs necessary for preservation (up to a reasonable amount, not largely exceeding the estimated cost of removing the structure). ③ Maintenance and management costs will not be covered. ④ If additional time is needed to gather public opinion and determine whether to preserve the earthquake ruins, emergency repair costs incurred during this period or removal costs in cases where preservation is ultimately not chosen will be covered using reconstruction grants.</p>
<p>Note: Facilities beyond the scope of preservation, such as related infrastructure, will be separately evaluated in the context of urban development. * If the earthquake ruins are not owned by the municipality, the municipality must clarify to the government how it will ensure responsibility for maintenance and operation (e.g., through ownership acquisition).</p>

Figure 8-3-20 Support for the preservation of earthquake ruins through reconstruction grants (as of the end of March 2021)

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iwate Prefecture: three facilities
Miyako: Taro Kanko Hotel
Tanohata: Aketo Seawall
Rikuzentakata: Topic 45 (former roadside station) ○ Miyagi Prefecture: five facilities
Kesenuma: Kesenuma Koyo High School
Higashi-Matsushima: Former Nobiru Station Platform
Yamamoto: Nakahama Elementary School
Ishinomaki: Kadonowaki Elementary School
Sendai: Arahama Elementary School ○ Fukushima Prefecture: one facility
Namie: Ukedo Elementary School |
|---|

(3) Utilization of earthquake ruins and memorial hubs

1) Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council

As the construction of memorial parks, earthquake ruins, and legacy facilities progressed in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council (initially called the Memorial Park Network Council) was established in July 2018. The council, led by the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau as its secretariat, included the participation of the four affected prefectures in the Tohoku region and the city of Sendai. The council aims to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster memorial activities through collaboration among these facilities.

This council facilitates networking among memorial parks in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures, in addition to disaster legacy facilities in Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures, as well as the city of Sendai, either completed or under consideration. Its purpose is to promote exchanges, regional revitalization, and the strengthening of local disaster resilience through collaboration.

In November 2018, the council introduced a registration system for disaster legacy facilities to convey

the realities and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The first round of registered facilities was announced in March 2019. After several rounds of additional certification, a total of 317 facilities have been registered as of January 31, 2023. Facilities are classified into three categories based on considerations such as accessibility and ease of understanding for visitors. Facilities categorized as Class 2, which are easily accessible due to transportation infrastructure, and Class 3, which provide guides or storytelling activities to enhance visitor understanding, are permitted to use unified pictograms on facility signboards and other materials. This way, information is communicated in an organized manner which promotes widespread public awareness of legacy facilities. Further initiatives include integrating legacy facilities into GPS car navigation systems, adding them to GSI maps, distributing common pamphlets at each facility, and holding opinion exchange meetings to strengthen collaboration among legacy facilities.

From December 2018, a Disaster Legacy Examination Committee, comprising experts, was convened to discuss initiatives organized by the Network Council, such as the creation of the “3.11 Densho Road.” In March 2019, the Disaster Legacy Examination Committee handed over a set of recommendations to the chair of the Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council. The recommendations emphasized the need for a collaborative framework among academia, industry, government, and civil society to develop the 3.11 Densho Road. They also proposed ongoing efforts in areas such as “utilization of disaster legacy facilities,” “archiving lessons learned,” “strengthening disaster resilience,” and “revitalizing regions through exchanges” in order to pass on the memories and lessons.

In response to these developments, the 3.11 Densho Road Promotion Organization was established in August 2019, consisting of academic institutions, private industry groups, and leaders of local governments in the Tohoku region. Under the dual framework of the governmental Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council and this organization, academia, industry, government, and civil society collectively work under the slogan, “Lessons save lives,” to communicate the facts and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and advance the formation of the 3.11 Densho Road.

Organizational structure of the Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council

Chair: Director of the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau

Vice Chair: Director of the Planning Department, Tohoku Regional Development Bureau

Members: Director of the Construction Policy Department, Tohoku Regional Development Bureau

Aomori Prefecture: Director of the Department of Prefectural Land Regulation

Iwate Prefecture: Director of the Iwate Prefectural Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention Department / Director of the Department of Prefectural Land Development

Miyagi Prefecture: Director of the Reconstruction and Crisis Management Department / Director of the Civil Engineering Department

Fukushima Prefecture: Director of the Planning and Coordination Department / Director of the Civil Engineering Department

Sendai: Director of the Urban Development Policy Bureau / Director of the Urban Development Bureau

Councilor of the Reconstruction Knowledge Team, Reconstruction Agency (added February 2022)

Figure 8-3-21 Classification of disaster legacy facilities

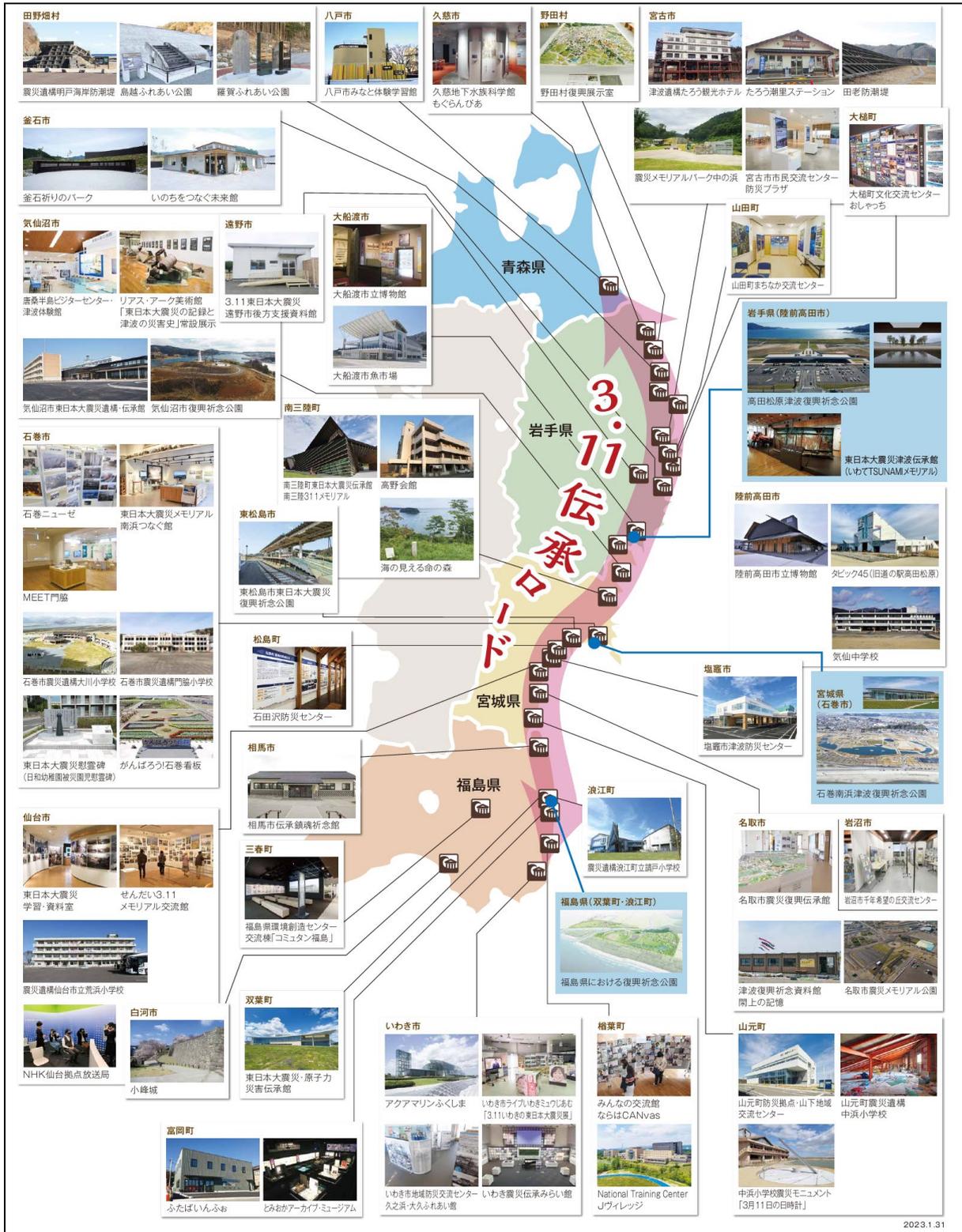
震災伝承施設の分類

第1分類	第2分類	第3分類
 <p>昭和28年3月3日 大東南海地震記念碑(名所) (宮城県石巻市磯崎町)</p> <p>下記の項目のいずれか一つ以上に該当する施設。</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・災害の教訓が理解できるもの ・災害時の防災に貢献できるもの ・災害の恐怖や自然の畏怖(いふ)を理解できるもの ・災害における歴史的・学術的価値があるもの ・その他、災害の実情や教訓の伝承と認められるもの 	 <p>震災伝承看板 「地域の防災」資料展示を兼ねる「語り部施設」 (福島県双葉郡川口町)</p> <p>第1分類の条件を満たし、かつ、公共交通機関等の利便性が高い、近隣に有料又は無料の駐車場がある等、来訪者が訪問しやすい施設。</p>	 <p>津波復興たつぎ語り部ホール (宮城県釜石市)</p> <p>第2分類の条件を満たし、かつ、案内員の配置や語り部活動等、来訪者の理解しやすさに配慮している施設。</p>

Figure 8-3-22 Pictograms, guide signboards, etc.

 <p>震災伝承施設のピクトグラム</p>	 <p>ピクトグラムを用いた案内標識</p>	 <p>3.11 伝承ロードマップ (3.11 伝承ロード推進機構)</p>
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Figure 8-3-233.11 Densho Road and key legacy facilities and earthquake ruins



Source: Earthquake Disaster Legacy Network Council

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