

Promotion of the Standardisation of Disaster Response Operations by the Prefecture, Cities, Towns, and Villages

Niigata Prefecture



Background

Niigata has recent experience dealing with two earthquake disasters, with the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake (Note 1) and the 2007 Chuetsu Offshore earthquake (Note 2). Additionally, the prefecture gave support to the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake recovery efforts. However, at the time these disasters occurred it was seen as difficult to accurately grasp the details and the quantity of the disaster response operations (Note 3) in the cities, towns, and villages that were suffering, and to appropriately utilise the support staff sent from other municipalities. Based on this experience, Niigata has tried to standardise disaster response operations with coordination between the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages.

Furthermore, they also tried to standardise life rebuilding support operations for victims (Note 4), which takes a particularly large amount of work among disaster response operations, and relies heavily on support staff from other municipalities.

Project Aims

To establish a system that can give swift and appropriate support victims at the time of a disaster, and to standardise life rebuilding support operations for victims with coordination between the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages.

Project Outline

◆ Working study group for disaster planning (2013-2015)

The prefecture and the cities, towns and villages worked in collaboration to examine areas that became problems in past disaster responses, with a focus on prefecture officials or city, town, or village officials who had experience of responding to disasters, to establish details for procedures, clarify sequences, and to organise operational points based on past disaster responses. Local governments also examined systems for supporting cities, towns, and villages from other prefectures that suffer from disaster.

The working group also conducted their investigation while collaborating with universities and nongovernment organisations that had experience of supporting localities suffering from disasters.



The working study group for disaster planning

◆ Operational training courses (beginning in 2013)

Training courses on life rebuilding support

operations for victims were held for prefectural and municipal government officials as an initiative for normal times

◆A council for the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages. (beginning in 2016)

Systems were studied to standardise operations even more, and to make mutual support between municipalities within the prefecture go smoothly, based on the results from the working study group for disaster planning.

Strengths and Innovations

◆Working study group for disaster planning

- 1 Cooperation with universities and nongovernment organisations that had experience of supporting cities, towns and villages municipalities that suffered from disasters
- 2 Establishment of procedural details and sequences that conform to the actual conditions at disaster sites based on people with experience of responding to disasters
- 3 Local governments collaborated to construct a system to support cities, towns and villages from other prefectures that suffer from disaster

◆Operational training courses

- 1 The prefecture held training courses for city, town, and village operations
- 2 Training courses for general life rebuilding support operations for victims were carried out

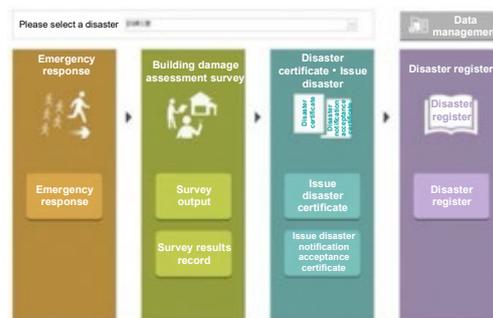
*Other prefectures and administrative divisions often hold training courses for just one aspect of the operations

◆A council for the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages.

- 1 Studied mutual support systems between municipalities in the prefecture based on the experience of support for cities, towns, and villages outside the prefecture that have suffered disasters
- 2 Introduced a joint operational system for life

rebuilding support operations for victims in the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages, in order to construct a system that works smoothly and efficiently

- * By introducing the same system, it's possible for staff who are used to the operation to offer support



Life rebuilding support system for victims

Results of the Project

◆Working study group for disaster planning

- 1 Clarification of the details and sequences of the life rebuilding support operations for victims, shared between the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages
 - Formulation of guidelines for the establishment of a system to carry out life rebuilding support operations for victims at the time of a large scale disaster
- 2 Collaboration between the prefecture and municipalities to construct a system to support municipalities outside of the prefecture
 - Formulation of Team Niigata (Note 5) joint support system basic policy
- 3 Implementation of support for municipalities outside the prefecture through collaboration by the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages, based on the working group's results
 - Support accomplishments up to now
 - (1) 2013 flooding in Fukuchiyama, Kyoto
 - (2) 2014 flooding in Fukuchiyama, Kyoto
 - (3) 2016 earthquake, multiple municipalities in Kumamoto

(4) July 2018 torrential rainfall in Kurashiki, Okayama

(5) 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi earthquake in Abira, Hokkaido



Supporting disaster-affected municipalities (Hokkaido Eastern Iburi earthquake)

◆Operational training courses

- 1 Acquisition of knowledge needed for operations
- 2 Enhanced cooperation between prefectural and municipal government officials
- 3 Smooth support for disaster-affected municipalities

◆A council for the prefecture and municipalities.

- 1 Established and shared support operations for hypothesised times of disaster in municipalities within the prefecture
- 2 Streamlining of internal coordination through the clarification of procedures for dispatching support to disaster-affected municipalities
- 3 Promotion of the standardisation of operations through the introduction of a shared operations system for life rebuilding support operations for victims

Problems, and Responses

◆Working study group for disaster planning

When the initiative first started there were few people with experience of disaster response in the prefecture and municipalities, but by gaining the cooperation of universities and nongovernmental organisations, Niigata was able to establish specific

operational details and issues.

◆Operational training courses

Training expert staff is difficult as the number of times courses can be held in a year is limited, and staff are transferred regularly, so there is a need for an increase in the number of training courses and even more standardisation of operations.

◆A council for the prefecture, cities, towns, and villages.

- 1 Study on mutual support between municipalities within the prefecture took place, but support for municipalities outside the prefecture is being reconsidered as a result of the nation-wide support scheme produced by the national government for disaster-affected municipalities, presented in the system to secure support staff for disaster-affected municipalities.
- 2 Meticulous training is being carried out so that operation systems for life rebuilding support operations for victims can be utilised efficiently when a disaster occurs.

Future Developments

- 1 Construct a smooth support system for disaster-affected municipalities by the end of March 2019
- 2 For the joint operational system that was introduced, work in cooperation with municipalities from other prefectures that have introduced the same system for further enhancement

Reference URL

<http://www.pref.niigata.lg.jp/bosaikikaku/1356843468893.html>

Guidelines for the establishment of a system to administer life rebuilding support operations for victims at the time of a large scale disaster

Contact

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Definitions of Technical Terms etc.

(Note 1) Chuetsu earthquake

This was an earthquake that occurred in the Chuetsu region of Niigata at 17:56 on 23 October 2004, with a magnitude of 6.8. The hypocenter was directly under the ground at a depth of 13 km. At the time, it was the second strongest earthquake in history to record 7 on Japan's seismic intensity scale, after the Great Hanshin earthquake (Osaka-Kobe) of 1995.

(Note 2) Chuetsu offshore earthquake

This was an earthquake that occurred at 10:13 and 23 seconds (JST) on 16 July 2007, with the hypocenter being off the coast of the Chuetsu region of Niigata. The magnitude of the earthquake was 6.8, and the highest seismic intensity was an upper 6 on Japan's seismic intensity scale. It was the first earthquake to record a magnitude over 6 and seismic intensity above a lower 5 since the Chuetsu earthquake of 2004.

(Note 3) Disaster response operations

Particular operations that occur when there is a disaster

(Note 4) Life rebuilding support operations for victims

Indicates the following operations that are carried out after a disaster occurs

- (1) Survey the degree of damage to buildings after a disaster
- (2) Put the results of the survey into data form
- (3) Issue disaster certificates (municipalities certify the degree of damage to residences, property, etc.)

(4) Create a disaster register recording information regarding victims' cases and the state of support

(5) Carry out various types of support for victims

(Note 5) Team Niigata

A cooperation system for municipalities in Niigata prefecture that goes beyond organisational boundaries to carry out support for disaster-affected cities, towns and villages