

Saitama Prefecture

“Saitama GENSAI Project”: A Project for Disaster Mitigation



Situation

The Purpose of this project is to promote disaster prevention and disaster mitigation based community development through having residents take appropriate action, helping themselves and each other in the event of a disaster, sharing information of nearby disasters and preparing for a large scale disaster.



Action

This project was launched through an agreement between Saitama Prefectural Government and WEATHERNEWS Inc. (WNI) in April 2014. On WNI’s website, anyone can easily browse nearby disaster information posted by residents and disaster prevention charts (maps of evacuation centres, inland water hazard maps, outlook charts on possible damage caused by a northern Tokyo Bay earthquake, etc.).

Impact

Residents transmit and share information on disasters including typhoons, torrential rain and tornados while the Prefectural Government transmits heatstroke warning announcements from its Health and Longevity Division using the “Local Government Announcement” function. These days, the number of website hits during normal times is about 300 a day, while the number during a disaster has been 8 times more than normal. Further publicity will be ensured to promote community development aimed at disaster prevention and disaster mitigation.