



CITY OF SENDAI
JAPAN

1. About the City of Sendai

The City of Sendai sustained tremendous damages from the Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred on March 11, 2011. Particularly in the coastal area, many citizens were made victims by the tsunami.

In terms of the Great East Japan Earthquake recovery efforts, the City of Sendai has been implementing policies based on the keystone ideas of City Planning that incorporates "Build Back Better" in preparation for future disasters, and the reconstruction of both the city and our everyday lives in cooperation with our citizens.

In 2012, these efforts for recovery were evaluated, and the City of Sendai was recognized as a role model city of Disaster Risk Reduction (hereafter DRR). In addition, in 2015, the 3rd United Nations World Conference on DRR was held in Sendai City.

As a city that experienced major disasters, we will continue harping on our deepest gratitude for the kind support that we received from people and nations around the globe. Moreover, as a city that adopted the Sendai Framework for DRR, we recognize that we have the obligation to convey the experience and lessons that we learned to the world, and to contribute in the promotion of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

2. Efforts of the City of Sendai

From the standpoint of a local government, we are investing into DRR that takes into consideration of areal characteristics and their associated disaster risks, while at the same time implementing initiatives that directly protect citizen's lives and livelihoods.

In particular, our emphasis is on the Community Disaster Management and Human Capacity Building that supports Community Disaster Management.



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We are enhancing citizen's DRR management through holding seminars with the objective of disseminating the Sendai Framework for DRR to citizens, and through strengthening networking between stakeholders.

The City's population include vulnerable groups such as elderly persons and persons with disabilities, who are referred to as "people with vulnerabilities in disasters". In order to guarantee that inclusive mutual-aid will be available when disasters occur, the Registration System for People Requiring Assistance in Times of Disaster is used in advance to ensure that all people with vulnerabilities in disasters will receive the help that they need, and that no one is left behind.

Moreover, ever since ancient times, we have always abided by the principle of respecting the natural environment, and we have constructed our city in a way that allows us to coexist harmoniously alongside nature. We will continue inheriting and conserving the abundant nature of which we live in, and continue to strive to become a city in which citizens can live at ease. Therefore, we gave Sendai the title of 'Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City', and we are working on incorporating viewpoints related to DRR and environmental-conservation into various policies.

Recently, there has been an increase in disaster risks due to not only earthquakes and tsunamis but also heavy rains. Being able to respond accordingly to disasters caused by climate change is also a key challenge for us.

We will focus on implementing policies such as developing green infrastructures, and promoting understanding of various disaster risks amongst citizens.

3. To further advance implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR

In order to further advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR by 2030, we consider it important to evaluate our past efforts and achievements.



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As we approach the midpoint of the implementation cycle of the Sendai Framework for DRR, we are going to conduct an independent review of our own. Although Midterm Reviews are usually conducted on a global or national level, we believe in the significance of conducting reviews on a local government level.

In order to ensure the objectivity of the outcomes of the Midterm Review, this evaluation is conducted in collaboration with the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) of Tohoku University.

Through reviewing our past efforts, we hope to be able to identify the objectives that we have to prioritize from now on.

As such, we hope that we can accelerate the progress of achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework for DRR through clearly outlining objectives and challenges.

We would like to share the results and methods of this evaluation so as to serve as an example for fellow local governments and the rest of the world.

From now on until 2030, we shall continue to act proactively as a city that adopted the Sendai Framework for DRR.

KOHRI Kazuko
Mayor of the City of Sendai, Japan