

Future Directions and Prioritization of Programs for Building National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation)

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Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies
for Building National Resilience

1. Purport of Compiling Future Directions

- Based on the discussions of the Advisory Committee on National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation) (hereinafter referred to as the “Advisory Committee”) consisting of intellectuals, the Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Building National Resilience (hereinafter referred to as the “Liaison Conference”) compiled the “Immediate Measures for Building National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Immediate Measures”) on May 28, 2013, demonstrating the national government’s commitment to strategically promoting actions for building national resilience.
- In this process, vulnerability assessment was conducted by way of linking initiatives currently taken by the national government with the 45 types of events that should be avoided and the 12 sectors of measures and by way of ascertaining problems from the viewpoint of avoiding each of such events and promoting actions for building national resilience in each sector of measures.
- Based on the results of the vulnerability assessment, the Immediate Measures suggests that future directions for each package of measures to be taken by relevant ministries and agencies for avoiding each of the events that should be avoided (hereinafter referred to as “program(s)”) should be compiled by around the end of July 2013. With regard to “promotion of risk communication,” which is a program that especially requires collaboration and represents a cross-sectoral problem, a working group shall be set up under the Advisory Committee to hold deliberations. Additionally, it was also determined that future directions for the selection and prioritization of programs should be specified by the end of the same month.
- Discussions on the selection and prioritization of programs have so far been held in line with the concept shown in the Immediate Measures, i.e., placing special emphasis on avoiding serious national risks first. In the future, local governments, private business operators and other various entities are expected to promote their efforts for building national resilience in close collaboration with the national government.
- This document compiles future directions for each program and presents the results of the selection made by the Minister in charge of Building National Resilience.

2. Future Directions for Each Program

- Concrete measures to be implemented in each program and future directions based thereon are as shown in Attachment 1.
- The results of deliberations at working groups will be reflected in relevant measures in programs and future directions, and the outline of the strategies concerning risk communication compiled by the relevant working group is as shown in Attachment 2.

3. Programs to be Prioritized

- The programs are all necessary from the viewpoint of building national resilience, but the following programs for avoiding the events that should be avoided were selected by the Minister in charge of Building National Resilience as those to be implemented intensively in the immediate future, based on the significance of the national government's role, the seriousness of the influence, and the degree of urgency.

“A large number of casualties due to multiple large-scale collapses of buildings and transportation facilities or fires in overcrowded areas in big cities”

“A large number of mortalities due to a large-scale tsunami, etc. affecting broad areas”

“Broad-scale prolonged flooding in urban districts due to an abnormal weather phenomenon, etc.”

“A large number of casualties due to a large-scale volcanic eruption or sediment disaster (deep-seated landslide), which may also increase the vulnerability of the national land for years thereafter”

“A large number of casualties due to delay in evacuation as a result of a failure in communication of information or due to other reasons”

“Prolonged suspension of supply of food, drinking water and other vital goods in disaster-affected areas”

“Absolute shortage of rescue and first-aid activities due to damage sustained by the self-defense forces, police, fire department, maritime safety authorities, etc.”

“Functional disturbance of national government offices in the Tokyo metropolitan area”

“Paralysis and prolonged suspension of information communication due to disruption of power supply, etc.”

“Deterioration of international competitiveness caused by a decline in corporate production capacity due to disruption of supply chains”

“Disruption of energy supply necessary for maintaining social and economic activities and supply chains”

“Breakdown of land and marine major transport networks, including disruption of mainlines in the Pacific Belt Zone”

“Stagnation of stable supply of food, etc.”

“Breakdown of power supply networks (power stations and substations, power transmission and distribution equipment) and oil/LP gas supply chains”

“Expansion of damage due to deterioration of farmland and forests”

- Future directions for these programs to be implemented intensively are as shown in the Attachment.
- “Risk communication,” “countermeasures against the aging of infrastructures” and “research and development,” which are presented as cross-sectoral problems in the Immediate Measures, are all significant as measures common to the entirety of the related programs and will be promoted in cooperation with those selected programs.

4. How to Implement Programs

- Based on the future directions mentioned in 2. and the selection of programs mentioned in 3., relevant ministries and agencies will prepare a budget request for FY2014 for their measures concerning national resilience in a well-modulated manner. In that process, they should seek means for appropriate division of roles and collaboration between hardware and software and for active use of funds and know-how of the private sector, while paying adequate attention to the effects of such measures during peacetime.
- The Cabinet Secretariat will compile budget requests filed by relevant ministries and agencies, mainly for those selected programs to be implemented intensively, by around the end of August 2013.
- Future directions for dealing with policy issues by each sector of measures mentioned in the Immediate Measures will be compiled by around mid-September, and the Policy Outline for Building National Resilience (provisional title), which will be the basic guidelines for drawing up concrete measures for building national resilience, will be established in or after the autumn of 2013, mainly based on those future directions.
- These Future Directions and Prioritization of Programs were compiled on a trial basis, based on an overview and preparatory examinations within a limited period of time, and will be made more detailed and elaborate in the future, while incorporating measures embodied by relevant ministries and agencies.