

Immediate Measures for Building National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation)

May 28, 2013

Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies
for Building National Resilience

1. National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation)

(1) Developments of the Discussions

- The first meeting of the Advisory Committee on National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation) (hereinafter referred to as the “Advisory Committee”), which is comprised of academic experts and private companies, etc. in various fields, was held on March 5, 2013, with the aim of deepening the government’s discussions on national resilience. Five more meetings were held thereafter by the end of May.
- In order to strengthen the government’s system for promoting actions for building national resilience, the Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Building National Resilience (hereinafter referred to as the “Liaison Conference”) held its first meeting on March 19, 2013, and held two other meetings by the end of May.
- On April 10, 2013, the government requested relevant ministries and agencies to make preparations for conducting assessment of vulnerability to natural disasters, as part of the initiative to embody the discussions. The government also sought opinions of local governments and economic organizations.

(2) Basic Policy for Promoting Actions for Building National Resilience

- Based on the Basic Policy for Building National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation), which was determined at the meeting of the Liaison Conference on April 10, 2013, in order to show the government’s basic policy, actions for building national resilience shall be taken in line with the following principles.
- The four basic principles for creating a strong and flexible (resilient) country are as follows:
 - 1) Prevent human loss by any means.
 - 2) Avoid fatal damage to important functions for maintaining administration as well as social and economic systems.
 - 3) Mitigate damage to property and facilities and prevent expansion of damage.
 - 4) Achieve swift recovery and reconstruction.
- Measures shall be embodied under the following policy:
 - 1) Reduction of the total cost through effective use, etc. of the existing social capital
 - 2) Efficient and effective maintenance of facilities, etc.

- 3) Coexistence with nature and harmonization with the environment depending on the characteristics of each region
- 4) Selection and prioritization of measures
- 5) Active use of private sector funding
- These efforts for building national resilience will not only result in protecting human life but in securing social and economic systems that will never become dysfunctional in any event, and will enable us to enhance our national competitiveness and win the trust of the international community.

2. Results of the Assessment of Vulnerability to Natural Disasters (Outline)

(1) Concept of Programs and Sectors of Measures

- In light of the Goals to be Achieved in Advance for Securing National Resilience (Attachment 1), 45 types of events (Attachment 2) as a result of dangerous risks (that should be avoided) were compiled as those for which current measures being taken by each ministry and agency, etc. are not sufficient for making proper responses, based on suggestions by members of the Advisory Committee and events envisaged by each ministry and agency, etc.
- A package of measures to be taken by each ministry and agency for avoiding each of these events is referred to as a program. As actions for building national resilience are to be for emergencies but should also lead to reviewing measures during peacetime, measures of each ministry and agency are categorized into 12 sectors, such as those concerning administrative functions, people's daily lives, economy and society, national land, etc., from a government-wide perspective (Attachment 3). By linking the measures currently taken by each ministry and agency with the 45 programs, problems concerning actions and collaboration were made clear (Attachment 4).

(2) Outline of the Assessment Results

- Actions for each program should preferably be taken in a cross-sectoral manner, covering multiple sectors of measures. However, as shown in Attachment 4, actions in less related sectors have been insufficient in many cases. Furthermore, collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies, between the national and local governments, and between the public and private sectors has as well often been insufficient. Problems by program are as shown in Column A in Attachment 4.
- Looking at the sectors of measures covering multiple programs, there are cases where necessary measures have been taken but risk countermeasures are not sufficient for the time lag before any effect of the measures is seen or where measures have not even been discussed for seemingly difficult events. That is especially true for measures for which medium-to

long-term responses seem to be required. Problems by each sector of measures for each goal are as shown in Column B.

- Major opinions of prefectures and economic organizations are compiled in Attachment 5.

(3) Future Responses

- As the problems shown in Column A in Attachment 4 may directly lead to concrete risks, ministries and agencies shall discuss responses immediately and reflect them as necessary in the budget request for FY2014. With regard to measures requiring collaboration between related organizations in particular, a working group under the Advisory Committee will hold deliberations as explained below.
- Ministries and agencies must also consider opinions of prefectures and economic organizations to reflect them as necessary in their measures.
- With regard to the problems shown in Column B in Attachment 4, ministries and agencies shall hold deliberations, including review of their medium-to long-term responses and related plans, etc.

3. Ideas on the Selection and Prioritization of Measures

(1) Program Selection and Prioritization

1) Significance of the National Government's Role

- Measures necessary for promoting actions for building national resilience should be selected and prioritized on a program basis. The first criterion is whether the national government is supposed to play a significant role in achieving the goals of the program.
- More specifically, judgment should be made based on whether the measures are directly linked to the national functions, whether broad-based responses are required, and whether it is difficult for local governments to assume the primary responsibility for taking responses.

2) Seriousness of the Influence and Degree of Urgency

- Another criterion for selection and prioritization is whether an extremely serious influence is supposed in the event of a failure to avoid certain events, with the likelihood being recognized to a certain extent, and swift responses seem to be required.
- When judging the seriousness of the influence, special emphasis should be placed on “preventing human loss by any means” and “avoiding fatal damage to important functions” among the four basic principles.

(2) Review and Evaluation of Measures

- From the viewpoint of (1) above, the Minister in charge of Building National Resilience will make a concrete decision on the selection and prioritization of programs, while listening to the

opinions of the Advisory Committee. Ministries and agencies are supposed to discuss their measures in a well-modulated manner, based on the decision of the Minister.

- With regard to the programs especially requiring collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies, between the national and local governments, and between the public and private sectors, a working group (Attachment 6) will discuss necessary measures in cooperation with the Advisory Committee.
- When ministries and agencies plan and design new measures for building national resilience, they should evaluate the necessity, effectiveness and efficiency of those measures in light of the goals of each program. In that process, they should pay adequate attention to collaboration between hardware and software, cooperation with other organizations (including those in the private sector), and the effects of such measures during peacetime (program goals will be specified later).
- The results of the aforementioned evaluation should be reflected in discussing problems by each sector of measures.

4. Strategic Promotion of Actions for Building National Resilience

(1) Positioning of the “Immediate Measures”

- The “Immediate Measures” were compiled on a trial basis, based on the 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 each ministry and agency.

(2) What Should be Done by Mid-2013

- Future directions for each program will be compiled by around the end of July. With regard to programs especially requiring collaboration between relevant ministries and agencies, between the national and local governments, and between the public and private sectors, a working group shall be set up under the Advisory Committee to hold deliberations. Additionally, with regard to “promotion of risk communication,” a program common to “events that should be avoided,” another working group shall be set up to hold deliberations.
- Future directions for the selection and prioritization of programs will also be specified.
- Future directions for dealing with policy issues by each sector of measures and opinions of prefectures and economic organizations (regulatory reform, etc.) will be compiled by around the end of August.
- The Cabinet Secretariat will discuss other measures necessary for promoting actions for building national resilience.

(3) What Should be Done in or after Autumn of 2013

- Based on the status of discussions held as above, the government will establish the Policy Outline for Building National Resilience (provisional title), mainly focusing on policy issues by each sector of measures, which will be the basic guidelines for drawing up concrete measures for building national resilience.

***Attachment (Japanese only)**

- 1. Goals to be Achieved in Advance for Securing National Resilience**
- 2. Events that Should be Avoided by Programs**
- 3. List of the Sectors of Measures**
- 4. Outline of the Results of Assessment of Vulnerability to Natural Disasters (Table)**
 - 5-1. Major Opinions of Prefectures (Necessary Initiatives to be Taken by the National Government)**
 - 5-2. Major Opinions of Private Economic Organizations**
- 6. Working Groups under the Advisory Committee on National Resilience (Disaster Reduction and Mitigation)**