

# Telling Live Lessons from Disasters

## - Deliberating on “Story Telling” -

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2010  
17-19 January 2010, Kobe Portopia Hotel, Kobe, Japan

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Lessons from Disaster (TeLL-Net)  
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- **Tragic impact of natural disasters; but, important lessons**
  - Tragic impact; and yet, very important lessons : threats of nature, preciousness of life, importance of communal living, etc.
- **Telling Live Lessons activities in many places**
  - Various mediums : oral story-telling, artifacts, photos, videos, monuments, artistic works, etc.
  - Very strong power in moving receivers of live lesson telling
- **Unite relevant entities; create strong flow**
  - Constant exchange, mutual learning
  - Little interest in Telling Live Lessons → promote awareness
  - Raise awareness

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial  
**Disaster Reduction and Human  
Renovation Institution (DRI)**

- 160,000 items of first account records of the EQ, collected from citizen; 800 items selected for exhibit
- Exhibiting the emotions and hearts of those in the disaster site -->very powerful message
- Volunteers of Story Telling i.e. "Story Tellers"



Exhibiting sadness, anger, regret etc. of those who took photos



Exhibiting sense of gratitude to the person who kindly brought water bottles from far distance in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the EQ

### **Audio exhibit of a radio interview on a street in an early phase of EQ**

- ... well, I just left my father in the collapsed house...
- ... I managed to grab his foot, but simply couldn't pull him out...
- ... and then, fires were coming close, ...I tried, ... but father said "yeah, son, you go", then I left him...
- ... I think he is dead now...

## Turkey (Adapazar) Earthquake and Culture Museum



Powerful Earthquake happened along North Anatoria Fault in Aug 1999; over 17000 dead  
Constructed by Ministry of Public Works; transferred to City of Adapazar

Based on report by Mayumi SAKAMOTO, Kyoto University, 11 Oct 2007

Compiled by Ikuo KOBAYASHI, TeLL-Net

## 921 Earthquake Museum of Taiwan

- EQ of 21 Sep 1999, hit central Taiwan
- Over 2300 dead
- Extraordinary fault emerged on surface



Shaking experience, AV record of quake

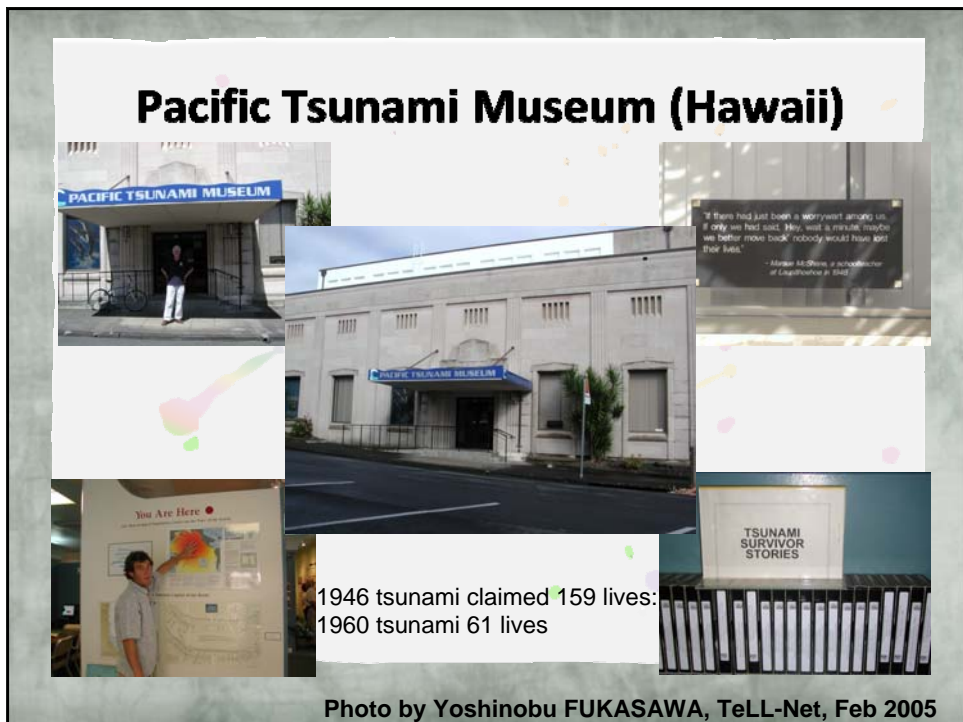


Preservation of fault on surface



Preservation of collapsed school on site





## Indonesia Tsunami Museum (Banda Ache)

2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami killed 130,000 persons  
out of 350,000 population of Banda Ache



Photo by Mayumi SAKAMOTO, Kyoto University, 2007

## Emphasis of the moment of tsunami and site of damage

Museum (behind)  
next to mass grave



Boat stranded on roof top

Photo by Mayumi SAKAMOTO, Kyoto University, 2007





## PNG Aitape Tsunami – Video Interview



Painting



A dog named "Tsunami"



Memorial Canoe "Lus Mangi"



Legendary paddle



Painting



Memorial Song 1



Memorial Song 2

1998 Tsunami claimed over 2,200 out of 12,000 local population  
-Victims attach their memory to important items:  
  painting, dog named Tsunami, memorial canoe "LUS MANGI" (lost child),  
  memorial songs, etc.  
-Legendary paddle taken over for 14 generations



噴火・火山誕生⇒災害⇒恵み



## Mimatsu Masao Memorial Museum



地球の破壊力と再生力  
Provided by Sabro MIMATSU

- Active volcano, recent eruptions in 1910, 1944, 1977, 2000
- Great power of nature; co-existence of local residents and volcano
- Bought the volcano site for preserving
- UNESCO Geo-park:
  - Museum Director as No.1 attraction
  - Volcano as major part of exhibition; keep building ruins, land transformation, etc.
- Education to children in particular





## Gamadas Dome - Mt. Unzen-Fugen volcanic Eruptions -

- Eruption of 1990～1995 created new volcano dome
- Pyroclastic flow of 1991 left 43 dead
- Field museum → **UNESCO Geo-park**



土石流被災家屋保存公園と大野木場砂防みらい館



Geo-park をめざす平成新山フィールドミュージアム Mt. Unsen-Fugen Disaster Memorial Facility: Gamadas Dome

## Telling Live Lessons of 1783 Volcano Eruption

Local story-telling exercise over generations

- Large scale eruption of Mt. Asama (2568) in 1783
- Flash mud flow hit Kanbara village, 477 dead, only 93 survived thanks to the shrine hill
- Important experience of restoration of the village community



## Museum in Ouwerkerk, The Netherlands

- 1953 Powerful storm and tidal surge --> collapse of coastal embankment --> 1835 lives lost (Initiation of the DELTA Plan)
- Four large caissons to close collapsed site
- After 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, local volunteers initiated opening of memorial facility (inside of caisson as museum) --> Government support from 2008, expansion of facility
- Main theme: Living with water



## Conditions of Telling Live Lessons

1. Grass root willingness; facilities can follow later where needed
2. Key person (inside/outside); driving force to materialize
3. Language to mediate live lesson tellers and receivers

## Significance of Telling Live Lessons

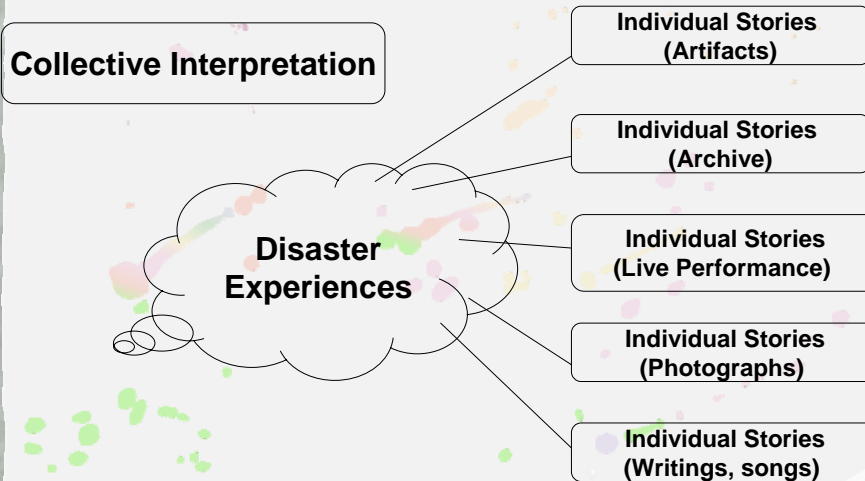
1. Precious lessons for better life, better society?
  - At very large cost of human lives
2. Powerful push to practice?
  - Addressing to hearts: knowledge → practice
3. Providing energy for recovery/reconstruction?
  - Appreciation of truly important things → energy for creating better living

## Role of Museum in Telling Live Lessons

1. **Venue of exchange across times and spaces**
  - Direct exchange by language
  - Artifacts, AV items, photos --> sympathy with story tellers  
--> indirect exchange across time and space
2. **Place where to understand overview of a disaster**
  - **Collage of Telling Live Lessons of individual experience**
  - Do not forget reconstruction phase (time dimension)
  - Quality control of individual TeLL activity
3. **Core of Telling Live Lessons in the disaster-hit area**
  - Museum as the core of various TeLL activities



## Individual Stories, Collective Interpretation



By Prof. Isao HAYASHI Institutes of Humanities National Museum of Ethnology

## Museum as the Hub of Telling Live Lessons

- Not necessarily comprehensive disaster reduction museum (expensive)
- But consortium of various live lesson telling bodies and entities, museum with information centre function



## International Forum on Telling Live Lessons from Disasters

- 20-22 March 2010, Kobe, Japan
- Some 30 initiatives from 20 countries/areas (ex)
  - 1953 Storm surge floods (Zeeland, The Netherlands)
  - 1999 Earthquake (Adapazar, Turkey)
  - 2004 Tsunami (Ache, Indonesia)
  - 1946, 1960 Tsunami (Hawaii, USA)
  - 2005 Hurricane (New Orleans, USA)
  - 1999 Earthquake (Chichi, Taiwan)
  - 2004 Earthquake (Sichuan, China) etc

## International Forum on Telling Live Lessons from Disasters

- Why Telling Live Lessons? How significant?  
How effective?
- Set up [TeLL-Net Portal Site](#):
  - Links to Forum participants → common entry point to various examples of Telling Live Lessons
  - Virtual venue of regular exchange and mutual learning among Tell-Net members
  - Raise public awareness on Telling Live Lessons
- Strengthen TeLL-Net → better represent Telling Live Lessons activities around the world

## **International Forum on Telling Live Lessons from Disasters**

- For details of the Forum:

<http://tellnet.jp/fo2010.html>

- For enquiry and participation, contact to:

[contact@tell-net.org](mailto:contact@tell-net.org)