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Disaster Response and Preparedness Mechanisms

A Comparative Study
of
On-Scene Disaster Response
of
Philippines and Japan

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Outline of Presentation

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Introduction

Emergencies occur every now and then in the Philippines. These emergencies are either large or small and range from fires to hazardous materials to natural and technological disasters.

Each incident requires a response. Whether from different departments within the same jurisdiction, from mutual aid partners, from national or local government units, responders need to be able to work together, communicate with each other, and depend on each other.

Introduction

Japan is also located in the Circum-Pacific Mobile Belt where seismic and volcanic activities occur constantly. Although Japan covers only 0.25% of the land area of the planet, the number of earthquakes and active volcanoes is quite high. In addition, because of geographical, topographical and meteorological conditions, the country is subject to frequent natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains and heavy snowfalls as well as earthquakes and tsunami.

Introduction

In spite of such efforts, in 1995, more than 6,400 people died of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Also, 2011, more than 18,00 people died or went missing due to Great East Japan Earthquake. There is also a high probability of the occurrence of large-scale earthquakes in the near future including impending possibilities of Nankai Trough Earthquake and Tokyo Inland Earthquake. As such, natural disaster remain a menacing threat to the safety and security of the country

Statement of the Problem

This study sought answers to the following questions:

- ▶ What are the Response Mechanisms/Algorithms of Response of the Philippine Government and Japanese Government from:
 - National
 - Prefectural/Provincial; and
 - Local/Municipal respond during the onset of disaster?

Statement of the Problem

- ▶ What are the good practices and innovations in disaster risk reduction and management in the different level of administration/organizations in Japan as lessons from the past disasters? and
- ▶ What are the learnings and uphold on the lessons of Preparing for Better Response, most especially on the lessons of mega-disasters such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake?

Significance of the Study

This research study provides a glimpse of information or a comparison of response algorithm of Philippines and of Japan. Though there are information's that lean more on preparedness phase on a disaster thematic area yet it is relatively connected in order to promote effective disaster response. To some extent this research may also help for future reference and study. This research will also provide list of good practices, lessons learned, innovations of Philippines and of Japan.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this research is mainly focused on the response aspect of disaster management of Philippines and of Japan. This research is also limited to some Prefectures, City/s, Municipality/s, Institutions and Non-Government Organization visited by the Researcher.

The challenges encountered along with completion of this study includes language barrier, instructions or lectures given were in Japanese, majority of the literature related to Disaster Risk Reduction are in Japanese. Finally, time constraint as to interpretation and comprehensive analytical inputs of the study.

Research Methodology

Research Design:

This research used an observational method and survey method on descriptive research design. In survey method research, clientele answer questions administered through interviews along with the lecture or questionnaires given beforehand.

Research Methodology

Research Locale:

This research was conducted in various areas in Japan such as in **Kansai Region** or **Kinki Region** (Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, Osaka and Kyoto); **Hokkaido Region** (Sapporo City, Minamifurano Michinoeki and Toya); **Kanto Region** (Tokyo and Kanagawa); and Kouchi Region (Kochi City).

Research Methodology

Data Gathering Procedure:

The Researcher visited various Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Institution, Offices, Facilities, Communities and Universities as scheduled by ADRC to attend lectures, orientations, seminar and briefing. The Researcher ask questions to the Resource Speaker, Lecturers and Facilitators to clarify and define issues which are related to the research topic.

The Backbone of Disaster Management of Japan and Philippines

Japan Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System

DISASTER COUNTERMEASURES BASIC ACT

- Enforced in 1962
- comprehensive and strategic Disaster Management System
- addresses all of the disaster phases of prevention, mitigation and preparedness, emergency response as well as recovery and reconstruction
- clearly defines the roles and responsibilities among the national and local governments
- cooperation of relevant entities of the public and private sectors in implementing various disaster countermeasures

The Backbone of Disaster Management of Japan and Philippines

Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC ACT No. 10121



An Act Strengthening The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction And Management System, Providing The National Disaster For Reduction And Management Framework And Institutionalizing The National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Plan, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes.

Salient Feature of PDRRMS





- repealed PD 15166 and transformed NDCC into National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) which is empowered with policy-making, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation functions which will be carried out through the seventeen (17) main responsibilities stipulated in the law.
- OCD serves as Executive Arm and Secretariat of the NDRRMC
- Primary mission: administer a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program

Salient Feature of PDRRMS

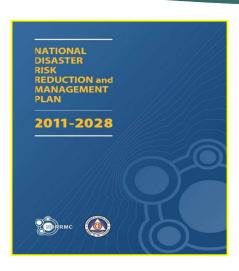


DRRM Network



- establishment of the "DRRM Network", or the replication of the NDRRMC from the national down to the regional, provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels
- LDRRMCs' primary responsibility in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of any disaster;
- Establishment of LDRRMOs in every Province, City and Municipality, and Barangay to set the direction, development, implementation and coordination of DRRM programs in their areas;
- NDRRM Framework approved on 16 June 2011 as the overall guide to achieve the vision of safer, adaptive and resilient Filipino communities toward sustainable development;

Salient Feature of PDRRMS



- NDRRM Plan approved on 7 February 2012 to implement all our DRRM targets
- Serves as the national guide on how sustainable development can be achieved through inclusive growth while building the adaptive capacities of communities; increasing the resilience of vulnerable sectors; and optimizing disaster mitigation opportunities with the end in view of promoting people's welfare and security towards gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development
- The plan has four (4) distinct yet mutually reinforcing priority areas, namely, (a) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; (b) Disaster Preparedness; (c) Disaster Response; and (d) Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation.

Japans Response Algorithm

Japan and Natural Disaster By Central Disaster Management Council

A wide range of natural disaster occurs



It is critical to protect citizens lives, safety and property from natural disasters



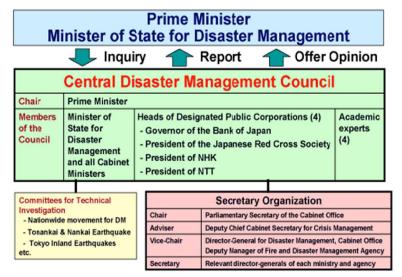
By implementing prevention and initial response drills, as well as recovery and reconstruction measures against disasters in close cooperation with related governmental agencies

Roles:

To formulate and promote the implementation of the Basic Disaster Management Plan and Earthquake Plans

- 1. To deliberate important issues disaster on management according to requests from the Prime Minister or Minister of State for Disaster Management (basic disaster management coordination policies, overall of disaster countermeasures and declaration of state of disaster emergency)
- To offer opinions regarding disaster management to the Prime Minister and Minister of State for Disaster Management

Central Disaster Management Council



Under the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the Central Disaster Management Council was formed, its brief being to ensure the comprehensiveness of disaster risk management and to discuss matters of importance with regard to disaster management.

Basic Disaster Management Plan



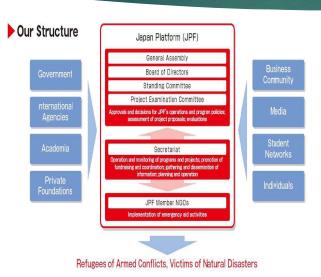
The Basic Disaster Management Plan is a comprehensive and long-term management plan forming a foundation for the Disaster Management Operations Plan and Local Disaster Management Plan. It stipulates provisions the establishment of the disaster management system promotion of disaster management measures, acceleration of post disaster recovery and reconstruction measures, and promotion of scientific and technological research on disaster management. The plan was revised entirely in 1995 based on the experiences of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. It defines responsibilities of each entity such as the national and local governments, public corporations and other entities

Outline of Emergency Disaster Response



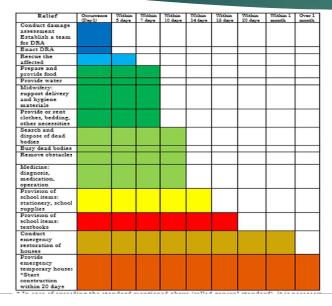
In the event of a disaster, the national and local governments quickly collect and share disaster and damage information, and secure communications to carry out effective emergency activities such as emergency rescue and medical operations. Based on such information, local governments set up a disaster management headquarters and related organizations establish their own operations mechanism. The national government collects disaster information at the Cabinet Information Collection Center 24 hours a day. When a large-scale disaster strikes, an emergency team composed of the director generals of the respective ministries and agencies gathers immediately at the Crisis Management Center in the Prime Minister's Official Residence to grasp and analyze the disaster situation, and report the results to the Prime Minister.

From the Non-Government Organization of Japan – Japan Platform



Japan Platform (JPF) is an international emergency humanitarian aid organization which offers more effective and prompter emergency aid, in response to the world situation, focusing the issues of refugees and natural disaster. JPF conducts such aid with a tripartite cooperation system where NGOs, business community, and government of Japan work in close cooperation, based on equal partnership, making the most of the respective sectors' characteristics and resources.

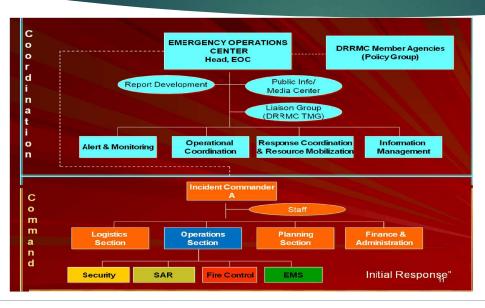
From Specific Institution of Japan – Miki Management and Training Center, Hyogo Prefecture



Timeline based on Disaster Relief Act (Relief Contents) (General Standard)

* In case of exceeding the standard mentioned above (called general standard), it is necessary to set the special standard and consult with Prime Minister from Governor

Philippines Response Algorithm



to the response challenges encountered from the past major disasters or incidents, ICS was mandated to be established in the **Philippines** through Republic Act 10121

Findings

Based on the gathered data, the Researcher found out that there are similarities and peculiarities on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management especially on Response Mechanism such as:

Similarities:

- ▶ Both countries are situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire where active faults, trenches, volcanic eruption, geo-hazards and hydro metrological hazards are so prevalent.
- ▶ In times of disaster response, its top most priority is life preservation, incident stabilization and property conservation.
- ▶ Presence and involvement of Disaster Volunteer in every village or town.
- ▶ Involvement of Self Defense Force

Findings

Peculiarities:

- ▶ Philippines has a greater number of Islands that composes the country. This is a challenge in terms of responding to an emergency as to accessibility and transportation issues.
- ▶ The use of Incident Command System as an On-Scene Disaster Response Mechanism for the Philippines.
- Institutional Mechanism and Coordination during emergency
- ▶ Specific Agency, Department and Offices look into specific hazard for Japan
- ▶ Level of awareness to DRR is higher in Japan

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions and recommendation are drawn:

- ▶ It is imperative that the culture of preparedness is being inculcated in every citizen and in all walks of life. Everyone has its role in making our environment safe to live.
- ▶ Integration of DRR in school curriculum and make it as major subject from primary grade to college. This knowledge foundation plays a vital role keeping the whole of society safe from disaster.
- ▶ Our nature changes and maybe this change is called "Natural Disaster" and is at our door waiting to happen. We humans being cannot say no to it. Therefore, we need to live in harmony with nature by mitigating and make preparations or else suffer its consequences.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- ▶ Conveying the knowledge and experiences from the past generation to future generation, from indigenous knowledge to the way of science will play an important part in the integration of measures to increase the level of disaster awareness to reduce risk and vulnerability.
- ▶ "Natural disaster will always be with us but disaster need not be"- Gen. B. Ramos