

# COUNTRY REPORT

## (Republic of Korea)



Ministry of the Interior and Safety  
So Byung Im

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# 01 일반정보 (General information)

■ **COUNTRY NAME** : Republic of Korea(South Korea)

■ **CAPITAL CITY** : Seoul

➤ the de facto administrative capital city : Sejong

■ **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** : Korean

Language	To my friends	To others
Korean	안녕	안녕하세요
Japanese	こんにちは	こんにちは
English	Hello	Hello

■ **POPULATION** : Approx. 51.6 million  
(as of Jan 9, 2026)



■ **CLIMATE** : A temperate climate with four distinct seasons

■ **RELIGION** : 51% no religion, 20% Protestant, 16% Buddhist  
11% Catholic, 1% other religions(as of Jan 9, 2026)

- Korean Buddhism has deep historical roots and has played a significant role in shaping the nation's history and culture.

■ **NOMINAL GDP** : About \$1.8 trillion, The 13th- or 14th largest economy in the world, The 4th largest in Asia(as of 2025)

■ **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE** : A presidential system based on a democratic republic, with a governance structure characterized by the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as a central–local government system.



# 02 행정안전부 소개 (About the MOIS)

## 행정안전부 주요 업무(Main Functions of MOIS)

### 정부혁신(Government Innovation)

행정·민원제도 개선, 공공서비스 혁신, 정부조직·정원관리, 전자정부 사업

- Manage government organization
- Foster civic participation and innovate public services
- Export e-Government systems
- Enhance government transparency
- Design and coordinate e-Government policies
- Protect personal information, reinforce cyber security for e-Government

### 지방분권 (Decentralization)

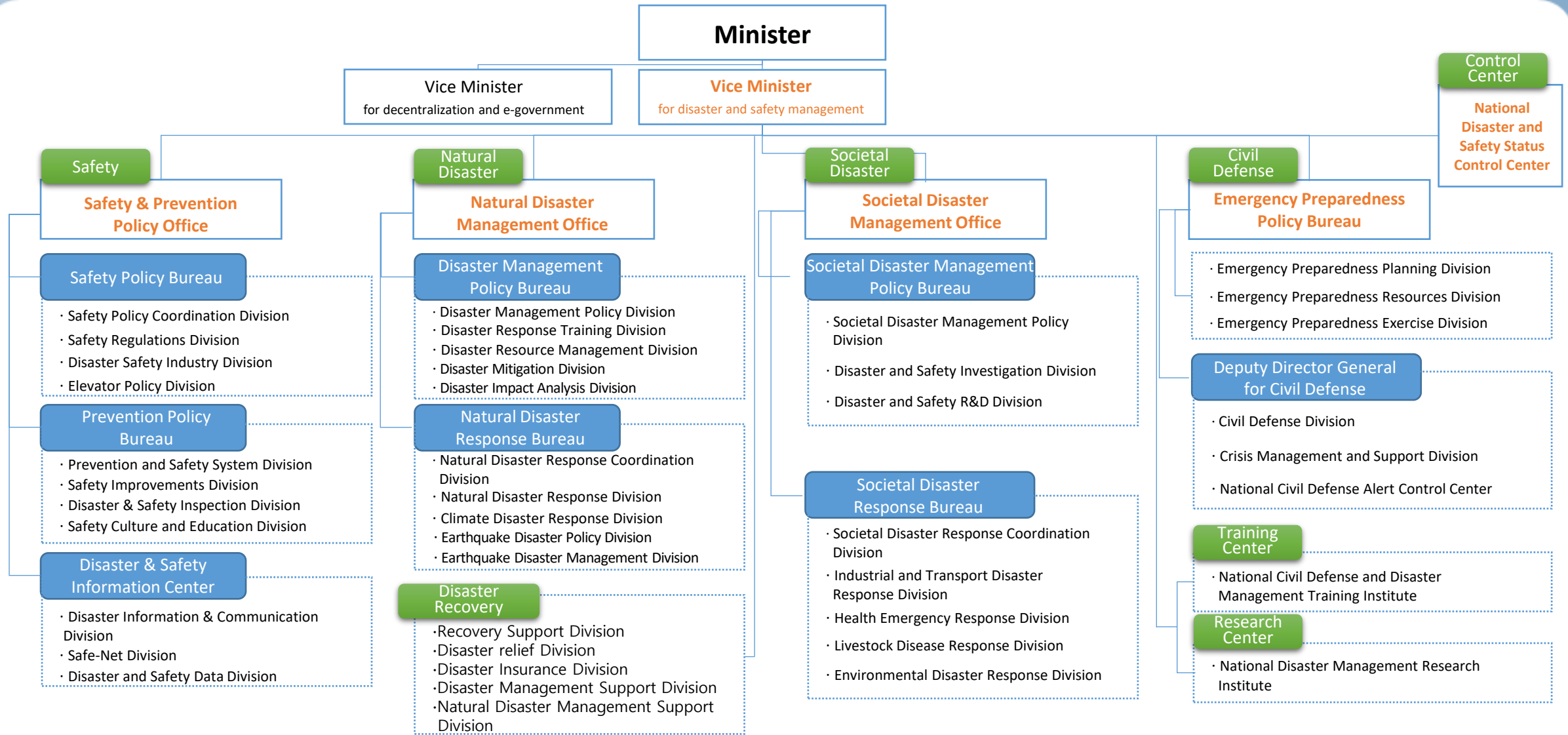
지방자치제도 운영, 지방 자주재원 확충, 도서지역 등 지역발전 사업

- Administer policies for local autonomy and decentralization
- Develop policies on finances and taxation of local governments
- Pursue balanced regional development

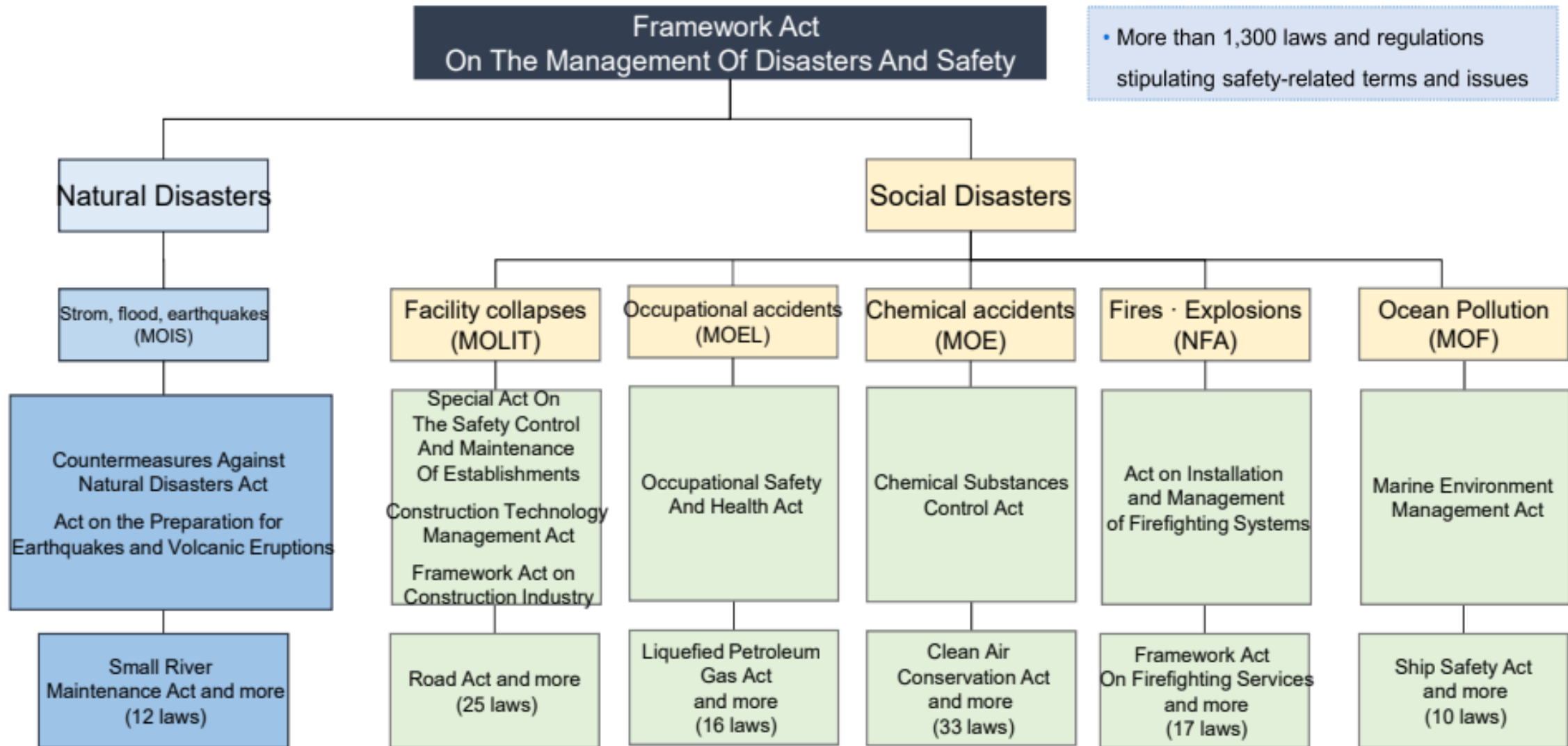
### 재난·안전 관리 (Disaster & Safety)

재난안전 정책 및 예방·대비·대응·복구 총괄, 민방위 제도 운영, 위기상황 관리

- Supervise and coordinate disaster management and safety policies (안전관리 정책의 기획·총괄·조정 및 정부 재난안전 사업예산
- Natural disaster prone area management (자연재해 위험 개선지구의 기준 설정 및 정비사업)
- Emergency operation plan and national disaster preparedness training (재난대응 매뉴얼 총괄·운영 및 국가 재난대비 종합훈련 추진)
- Declaration of national disaster and special disaster area (재난사태의 선포 및 특별재난지역 선포 건의)
- Recovery plan (재난 복구계획의 수립 및 대규모 재해복구사업 시행)
- Inspection (재난관련 안전점검 및 조치, 정부합동안전점검단 운영)
- Civil defense (민방위 계획의 수립·제도개선 및 민방위 업무의 지도·감독)
- Crisis management (재난안전 및 위기상황 종합관리, 재난상황 접수·파악·전파)



• More than 1,300 laws and regulations stipulating safety-related terms and issues



**Enactment of Countermeasures against Typhoons and Floods Act ('67.2.)**

- First institutional law providing definition of disaster
- No definition of social disaster

**Enactment of the Disaster Management Act ('95.7.)**

- First definition of human-caused disaster

**Enactment of the Countermeasures against Natural disaster Act from Countermeasures against Typhoon and Floods Act ('95.12.)**

- Earthquake and drought were added to the category of natural disasters

**Enactment of the Disaster and Safety Act ('04.3.)**

- Categorized types as natural disaster, human-caused disaster, social disaster

- Human-caused disaster and social disaster were integrated into social disaster



**Heavy Rain Damage ('90.9.)**

- Collapse of Levee in Ilsan Region
- Death 126, Property loss 520 billion won



**Collapse ('94~'95)**

- Seongsu Bridge Collapse ('94.10.), Death 32
- Sampoong Department Store Collapse ('95.6.)
- Death 502, Property loss 270 billion won

**Big Fire ('03.2.)**

- Daegu subway fire caused by arson
- Death 192, Property loss 62 billion won

**Typhoon Damage ('03.9.)**

- Typhoon Maemi impact entire Korea
- Death 119, Property loss 4.2 trillion won

**Vessel Sinking Accident ('14.4.)**

- Sewol Ferry sinking accident, Death 295

**Crowd Crush ('22.10.)**

- Itaewon crowd crush during Halloween Festival
- Death 156

# 03 한국의 재난안전정책 환경

(Status of Disaster Impact)

### FATALITY CHANGE & CAUSE

#### ■ DECREASING FATALITY CAUSED BY DISASTERS & ACCIDENTS

- > Death by disasters and accident have been on the decline, but have increased slightly due to recent COVID pandemic.
- > The leading fatality causes of natural disasters are heavy rain and heatwaves.
- > Traffic accidents and fires are the main reason for death in accidents.



### LOSS CHANGE & CAUSE

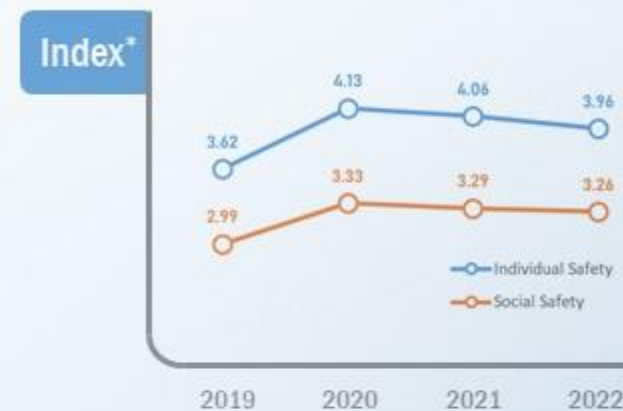
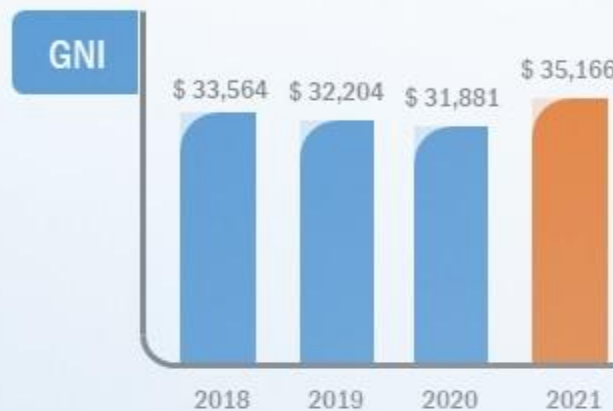
#### ■ INCREASING PROPERTY LOSS BY DISASTERS & ACCIDENT

- > Climate change and deterioration of urban facilities impact disasters and accidents to be larger and more complex and induce property loss to increase.
- > The leading causes of property damage are fires in accidents, and heavy rain and typhoon in natural disasters



\* (출처) 재난연감·재해연보('11~'20)

### PUBLIC DEMAND



\* Public Feeling Index about Importance of Safety (out of 5.0)

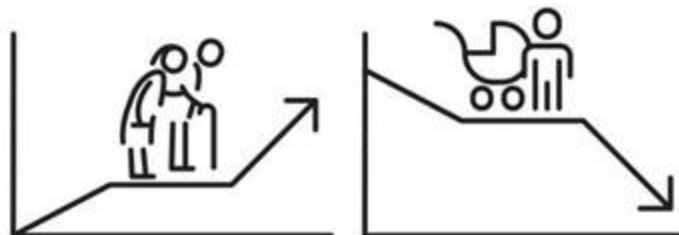
### UPCOMING RISKS

#### Economic Risk



#### Social Risk

(Super-aging and low birth rate society)



#### Climatological Risk



#### Technical Risk

(Hyper-connected and outdated infrastructure)





# 04 주요 재난안전관리 정책 소개 (Disaster Management System)

## MANAGEMENT PHASE

### 00 사전인지·예측 (PRECOGNITION)

Risk identification and assessment: DIA  
Risk monitoring : CCTV Control center

### 01 예방 (Prevention)

SIMP, Safety Innovation Master Plan  
PCSDSB, Prior Consultation System for Disaster and Safety Budgets  
Disaster and safety subsidies and funds  
Insurance  
Designation of disaster-prone area  
Local Safety Index

### 02 대비 (PREPAREDNESS)

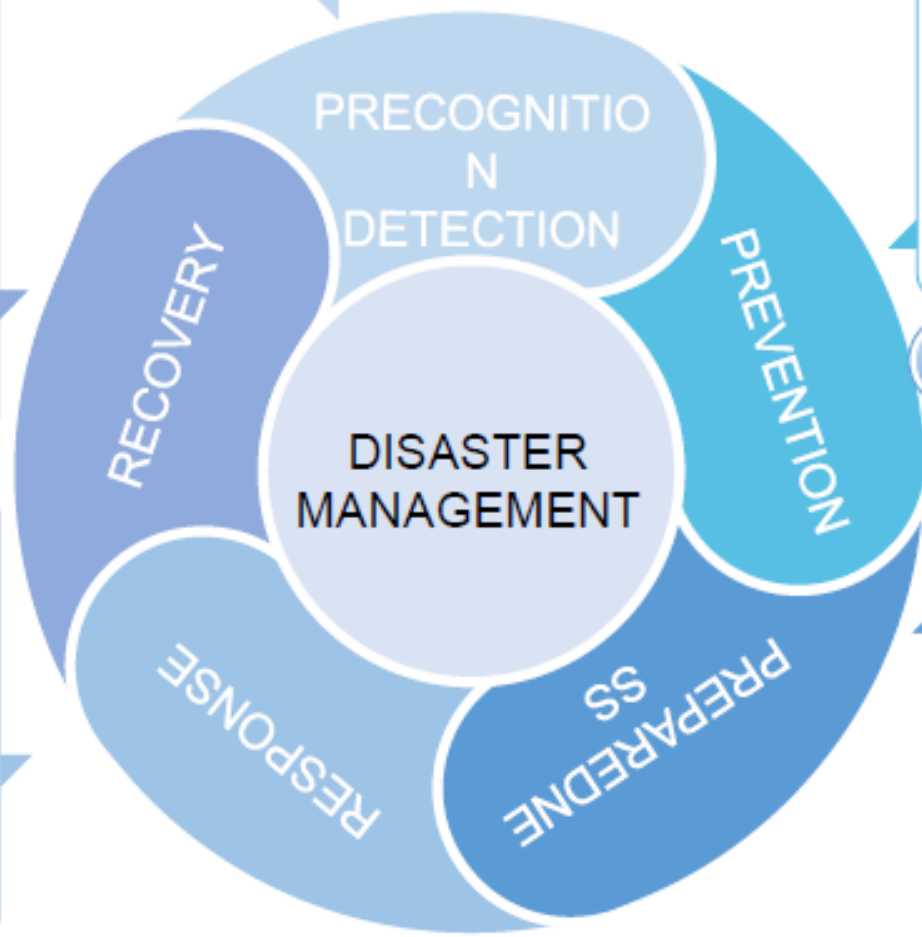
Developing EOP  
Disaster and Safety telecommunications network  
DRSS, Disaster Resource Sharing System  
KASEM, Korean Age-specific Safety Education Map  
Safety e-Report  
Disaster message/broadcasting service  
Training for disaster preparedness  
Expert education for disaster preparedness

### 04 복구 (RECOVERY)

DCRP, District-level Comprehensive Recovery Program, Community recovery program  
NCDT, National Centre for Disaster & Trauma  
NSI, National Safety Inspections  
National budget support for declared special disaster area  
Citizen support fund

### 03 대응 (RESPONSE)

Activating EOP  
Warning Alert  
Evacuating at-risk citizens  
Mobilization order  
Search and rescue  
Declarations of special disaster area



Inter-ministerial and intergovernmental cooperative system with private institutional participation

## “STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE”



### BE BOTTOM-UP

- Reinforce the initial response cooperation.
- Strengthen the governance capacity of local Government
- Intensify the local community resilience

### DO PREEMPTIVE

- Focus on mitigation based on analysis and prediction
- Expand disaster and safety investments to remove risks
- Make preemptive system to prevent upcoming risks

### BE SMART

- Advance the systems for prediction, detection, and response
- Reinforce platform-based information sharing systems
- Expand disaster and safety R&D, and related industry development

### DO TOGETHER

- Encourage civil participation voluntarily
- Autonomous safety management led by the private sector
- Expand life cycle safety education

### ■ PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE ACTORS BEYOND NON-PROFITS IN DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

- **The Volunteer Fire Brigades(VFB)** - complement fire-safety related functions of the government from the Japanese colonial era
- **Local Autonomous Disaster Prevention Team(LADPT)** – emergency liaisons with government, dissemination of alerts, support for resident evacuations and vehicle access control, support for emergency recovery and displacement shelters sourcing and distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- **Korean Red Cross** – disaster management and emergency rescue support agency, an emergency relief provider of humanitarian aid to the victims.
- **Korea Disaster Relief Association(KDRA)** – provide financial support to victims using funds from donations
- **The Integrated Volunteer Support Group(IVSG)** – recruitment, training, allocation, advising, and overall management of volunteers

Figure 23 Structure of the RADPT of Yeonsu-gu, Incheon Metropolitan City

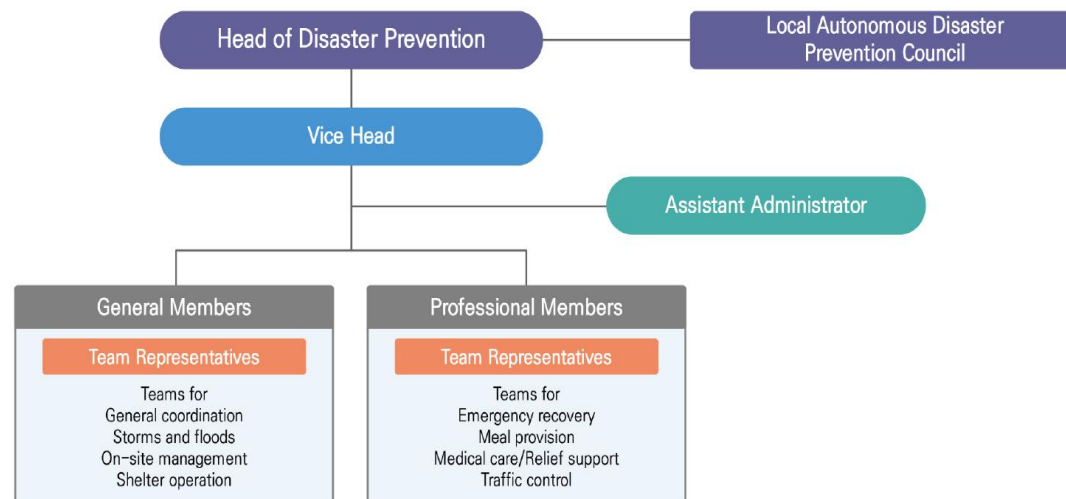
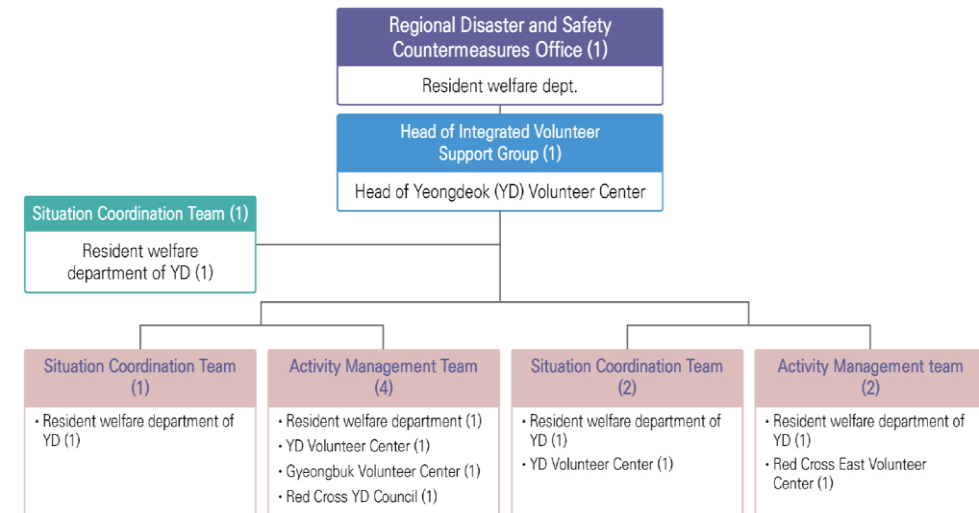


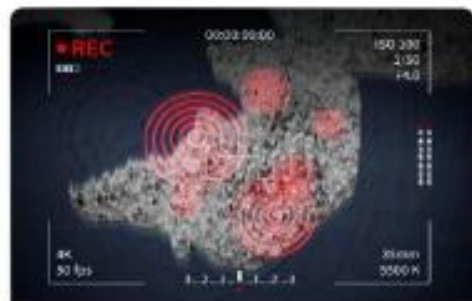
Figure 24 IVSG of Yeongduk-gun for recovery from Typhoon Kong-Rey



## INVESTMENT FOR DRR

### INCREASED INVESTMENT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

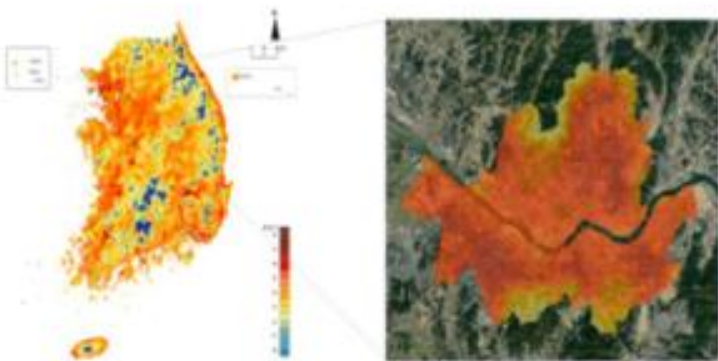
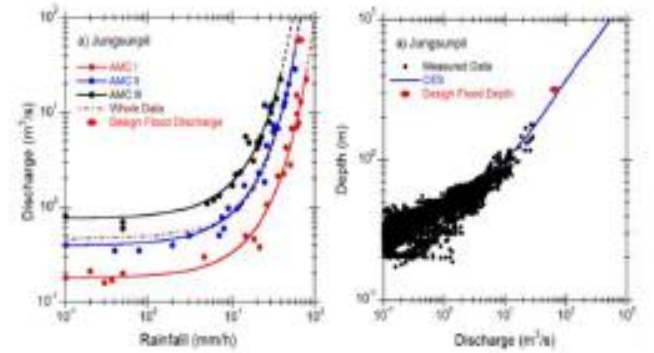
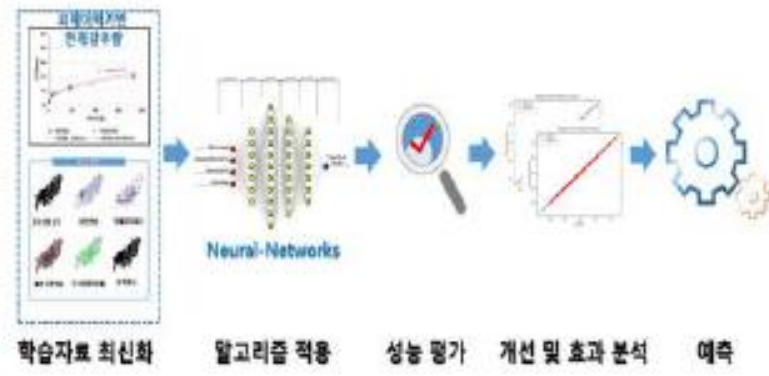
- Investing in disaster prevention yield higher returns in terms of DRR than investment in post-disaster recovery. The ROK continues to increase its investment in DRR, with the central government as the main driver of investment.
- Prior Consultation System for Disaster Safety Budgets (PCSDSB)** – MOIS requests and reviews the disaster and safety related work/budget plans from each central ministry, sets yearly investment directions based on them, reviews investment priorities and suitability and notifies the budget appropriation authority of their decisions.
- Investing various hazard mitigation projects including cutting-edge science and technology (S&T) ; 7.8 trillion won investment in flood prevention facilities and infrastructure such as early warning, R&D programs, technology and products, and insurance.



## INVESTMENT ON S&T

### S&T FOR PREDICTION AND PRECOGNITION OF RISKS

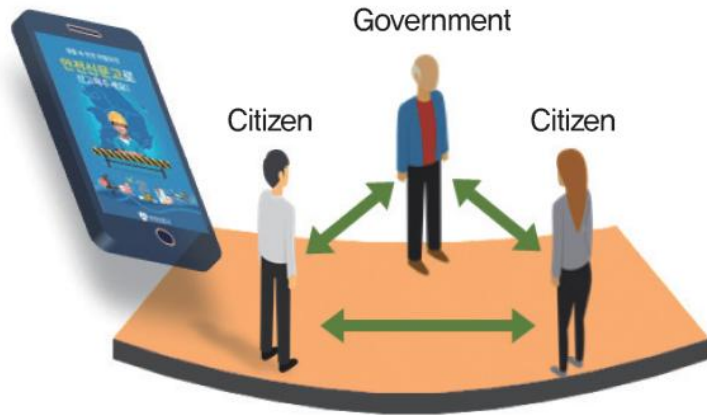
- ▶ Technology using Ai, Big data, IoT, Digital twin for precognition of risks.
- ▶ Detecting technology with various source such as satellites, drone, and CCTV with sensor.



## ■ PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY SAFETY e-REPORT

- ▶ Citizen can report safety risks or issues found in everyday surrounding directly. In addition to enabling safety reporting, it offers a self-safety check features as well as instructions on how to act during a disaster, safety news and others

For Safety e-Report, communication means



Interaction among parties

- File a complaint**  
Report four major illegal parking/ idling cases
- Public safety contents**  
330 safety videos  
How to act during safety accidents
- Self-safety inspection**  
Living safety inspection and checklists are provided
- Safety news**  
Provide real-time safety news

## PUBLIC SAFETY MAP

- Map providing essential information (public safety, traffic, disaster, etc.) in an easy-to-understand format, the Daily Safety Maps provide safety information to the public online and via apps based on an analysis safety factors in the daily surroundings and visualizing them using maps.



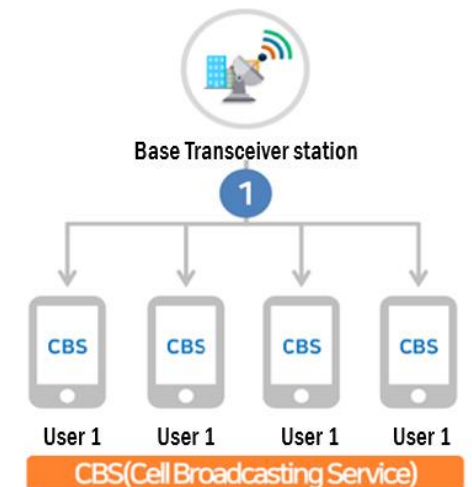
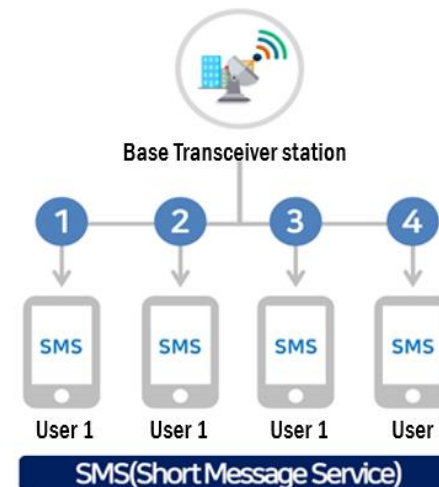
## EMERGENCY ALERTS FOR CITIZEN

- Cell Broadcasting Service(CBS) is provided to local citizens and foreigners with disaster information in a prompt manner, enabling timely response and minimizing damage caused by disasters.

- SMS : Messages are sent to each phone based on 1:1 communication (takes long due to traffic)
- CBS : Messages are broadcast from the base Transceiver station to all phones at once (faster)

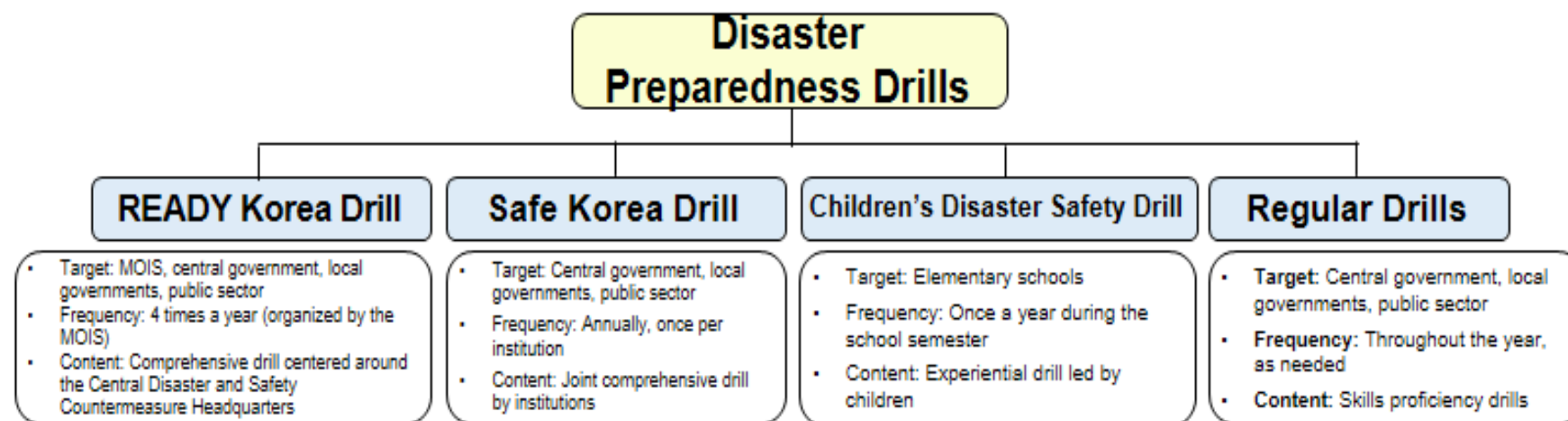


▲ Resident evacuation order via emergency SMS alerts



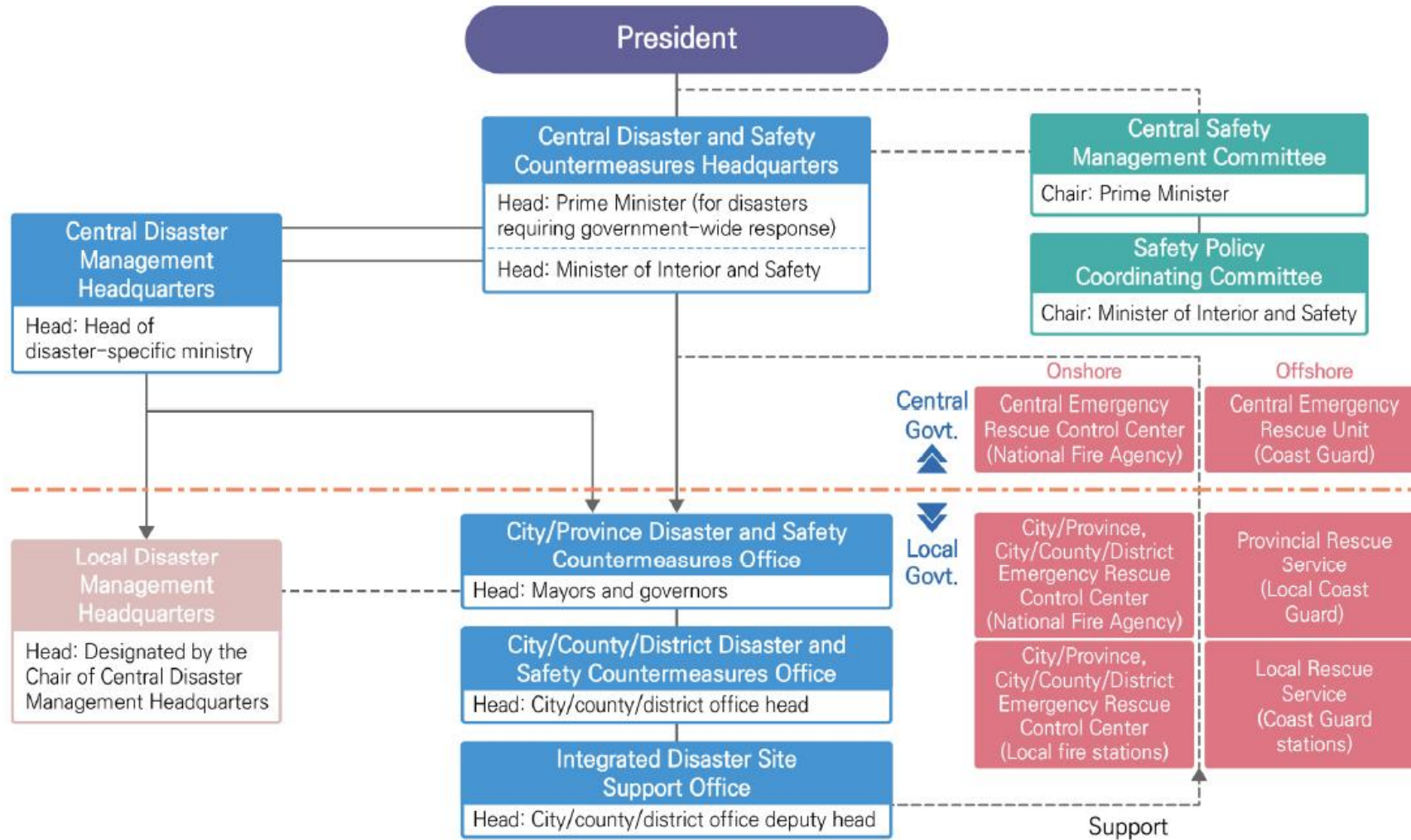
## Disaster Preparedness Drills: Activities designed to plan and prepare actions to be taken in disaster situations, thereby enhancing disaster response capabilities.

- Before an actual disaster occurs, each entity within the community can objectively evaluate current capabilities, identifying gaps, vulnerabilities, and areas for improvement in disaster response procedures and actions.



## Development and Operation of Crisis Management Manuals

- Standard Manual: Defines the disaster management system and the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies for national disasters; prepared by the lead disaster management agency.
- Operational Manual: Specifies procedures and measures needed for actual disaster response based on functions and roles defined in the Standard Manual; prepared by the lead disaster management agency and related organizations.
- On-Site Action Manual: A document detailing specific action procedures for organizations directly involved in on-site disaster response, prepared by designated agencies as specified by the Operational Manual.



< 한국의 재난관리 체계도 >

## ■ NATIONAL(& LOCAL) DISASTER AND SAFETY STATUS CONTROL CENTER (NDSSCC)

- ▶ A total number of 90 employees from 13 central ministries and five related organizations for 1 24/7 monitoring of disaster situations year-round.
- ▶ It serves as the ultimate control tower for overseeing and managing national disaster situations
- ▶ NDSSCC operates disaster information analysis, monitoring, and forecasting systems, and has a 24-hour network with all disaster management authorities.



## NDSC's Mission & Roles

In normal times

- Disaster situation Monitoring
- Sharing & Analysis of major disaster  
· accident information
- Educating & Training for situation management capacity building

In case of disaster

- Reception of Disaster Reports & Collecting of situation information
- Dissemination of situation
- Initial Response and Response Coordination

※ Grounds for Establishment : 「Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety」 Article 18

**24/7** NDSC in operation



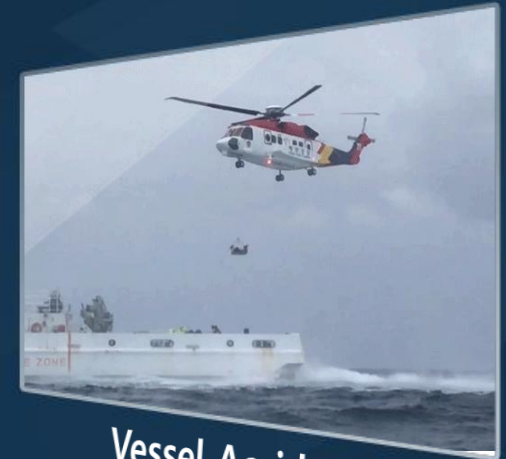
Typhoon·Torrential Rain



Earthquakes



Large Fires



Vessel Accidents

## ■ Procedure for Establishing a Recovery Plan

- In Korea, recovery costs are calculated through a step-by-step process involving damage assessment, verification, standardized cost calculation, and central government approval.
  1. Local governments' initial damage assessment immediately after a disaster (damage to housing, agriculture, public facilities, and so on)
  2. The review of a joint inspection team led by the central government about the damage to ensure accuracy and consistency
  3. Calculating recovery costs based on official recovery criteria and standardized unit costs under the disaster and safety act
  4. Central government review and approval, and allocation of funds

## Overview of Disaster Relief

- **Relief Agencies:** Local Governments (Metropolitan and Provincial Governments, City, County, and District Offices)
- **Supporting Organizations :** Korean Red Cross, Korea Disaster Relief Association, Citizen Corps Active in Disaster (CAIND) & National Association of CAIND, Saemaul Movement Organization
- **Relief Beneficiaries :** Disaster victims, temporary evacuees, individuals in need of psychological recovery

Eligible "**Disaster Victims**" (Article 2 , Disaster Relief Act; Article 1-2, Enforcement Decree)

- ✓ **Individuals who have suffered damage from a disaster as defined under Article 3(1) of the Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety, and whose residence has been damaged to the extent prescribed by Presidential Decree.**
  - ① **Families** of deceased or missing persons due to **natural or social disasters**
  - ② **Persons injured** by a disaster to the extent that their daily life is disrupted
  - ③ Persons whose residences are **destroyed or severely damaged** making them **uninhabitable**
  - ④ Persons under **quarantine** or entry control due to infectious disease prevention
  - ⑤ Persons recognized by the Minister of MOIS or relief agencies as needing relief assistance

☞ Even without evacuation, people whose residences are damaged qualify as disaster victims

**Temporary Evacuees**

: People who have evacuated temporarily in anticipation of a disaster (preemptive evacuees)

## Overview of Disaster Relief

### Types of Relief Assistance

#### ① Provision of Temporary Shelter

\* Public and private lodging facilities, schools, senior centers, community halls, etc.

#### ② Provision of Relief Supplies

\* Emergency and cooking kits, meals, food, and daily necessities, etc.

#### ③ Provision of Medical Services,

#### ④ Infectious Disease Prevention and Quarantine Activities

#### ⑤ Sanitation Guidance and Support

#### ⑥ Funeral Support Services

#### ⑦ Psychological Recovery Support

#### ⑧ Other Matters Prescribed by Presidential Decree

### Relief Period: Emergency relief is provided immediately after a disaster

- The local government head may set the period within six months; extendable if necessary

Category		Damage Scale	Relief Period
Meal Provision	Short-term Relief	Residences flooded or partially destroyed (or worse)	Within 7 days from the date of disaster
	Long-term Relief	Residences partially collapsed	Within 1 month from the date of disaster
		Residences completely collapsed or lost	Within 2 months from the date of disaster
Provision of food, medical supplies, bedding, etc.		-	Provided by the relief agency based on the extent of damage and household size



# 05 주요 재난과 도전과제들 (Major Disasters & Challenges)

## ■ Pohang Earthquake(2017. 11.)

- ▶ Killed: 0, Wounded: 81, Displaced people: approx. 1,700
- ▶ Magnitude: 5.4, Property Damage: approx. KRW 67.2 billion



**The Second-largest Earthquake ever in Korea**

## ■ Fire at Sejong Hospital in Miryang(2018. 1.)

- ▶ Killed: 41(over 30 were aged 70 or older), Wounded: 153
- ▶ Property Damage: approx. KRW 3.7 billion



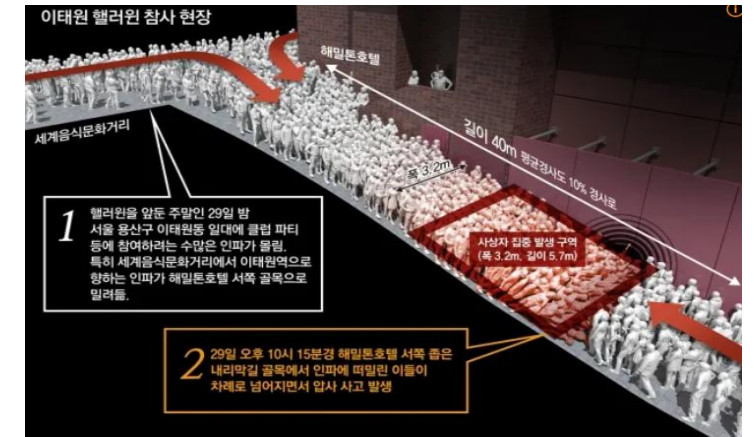
Where Did the Fatalities Occur in Miryang Sejong Hospital Fire?



**The Second-largest Fire ever in Korea**

## ■ The ITAEWON Crowd Crush(2022. 10.)

- Killed : 159, Wounded : 196
- Cause : People collapsing amid the crowd during Halloween festivities, resulting in numerous casualties among visitors.



**The Largest Crowd Crush ever in Korea**

## ■ Wild Fire in the South-East Region of Korea(2025. 3.)

- Killed: 31(most were in their 60s & 70s), Wounded: 156
- Damaged Area:1,038km<sup>2</sup>, Property Damage: approx. \$ 800M



### Gyeongbuk Uiseong Wildfire Spread

As of 6:00 PM on March 25; containment rate : 68%  
Estimated burned area: 15,185 ha



Sparked around 11:24 AM on March 22

## The Largest Wild Fire ever in Korea

## ■ Strengthening disaster prevention and risk reduction

- (Present) There are many policies about disaster prevention, but they didn't function.
- (Measures) Developing hazard maps, Focus on drills and training

## ■ Enhancing field-based and on-site disaster management

- (Present) Korea's disaster management system tends to be highly centralized.
- (Measures) Empowering local governments with stronger response capacity and decision-making authority

## ■ Promoting community-based disaster risk management

- (Present) Communities are often not actively involved in disaster response.
- (Measures) A need for community-based disaster management approach collaborating with local governments



감사합니다