

5-3. Project on International Dissemination of Information on Japan's Efforts for Disaster Risk Reduction

5-3-1. Background of the Survey

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities relate to a broad range of policies and involve various ministries, agencies and organizations, which require effective information sharing, coordination and cooperation among DRR related organizations including national and local government. In Japan, the government issues a whitepaper on disaster management every year. The whitepaper compiles the information of the efforts by the relevant government organizations for DRR in the year, which enable the relevant organizations to share their DRR activities with each other and to provide information to the public and relevant parties.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) adopted in 2015 underlines the importance of strengthening disaster risk governance, and stresses the need for building awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing disaster risk information and data. Also, the SFDRR underscores the importance of the periodical assessment and public reporting of the progress of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction.

In this context, the Cabinet Office, Japan initiated a project to widely disseminate information of Japan's knowledge and experiences on the efforts for DRR which can serve as a useful reference for strengthening DRR efforts in other countries, especially in developing countries. The project focused in particular on disseminating information of the Japan's efforts for strengthening disaster risk governance through the process of the development of whitepaper on disaster management. ADRC undertook the project.

5-3-2. Outlines of the Project

The outlines of the project were as described below.

(1) Development of a Japanese-English Terminology on DRR

A Japanese-English terminology for the words and terms frequently used in the "2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan" was developed.



The figure displays three screenshots of a Japanese-English terminology table for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Each screenshot shows a grid with multiple columns and rows. The first column in each table contains Japanese text, and the subsequent columns contain English translations. The tables are organized into sections, with the first screenshot having a blue header, the second having a white header, and the third having a green header. The content includes various DRR-related terms and their corresponding English equivalents.

Fig. 5-3-1 Japanese-English Terminology on DRR (Source: Cabinet Office, Japan)

(2) Translation of “2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan”

A summary version and a full version of the “2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan” were translated into English using the terminology developed in the above activity (1) and English reports and brochures of the relevant DRR organizations. The necessary numbers of the translated white paper were printed for distributing in the designated workshops and events, and the versions saved as PDF were prepared for offering download to the DRR related parties around the world. The versions can be downloaded at the following website of the Cabinet Office, Japan.

Summary Version: http://www.bousai.go.jp/kaigirep/hakusho/pdf/WPDM2015_Summary.pdf

Full Version: http://www.bousai.go.jp/kaigirep/hakusho/pdf/WP2015_DM_Full_Version.pdf

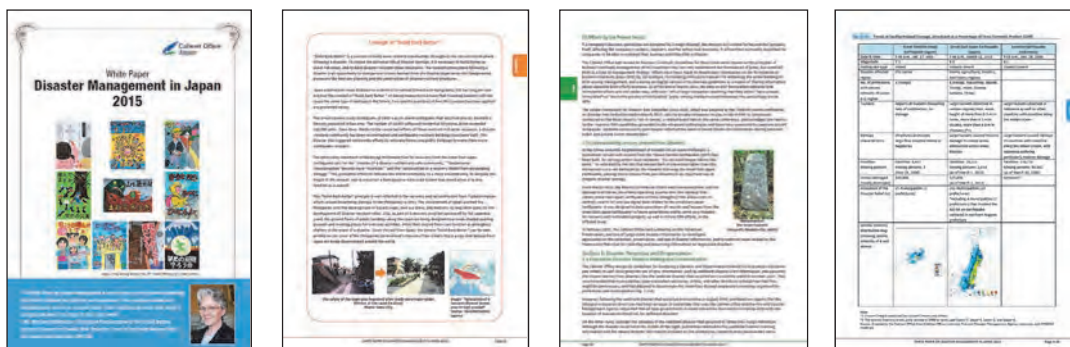


Fig. 5-3-2 English Version of the 2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan
(Source: Cabinet Office, Japan)

(3) Activities for Widely Disseminating Information of Japan’s Efforts on DRR

Using the translated “2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan,” activities for widely disseminating information of Japan’s efforts on DRR were conducted as follows.

1) Introduction of the White Paper on Disaster Management in the ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Asia Partnership (IAP) Meeting

In the ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting held in Delhi, India on 17-19 November 2015, Mr. Yohei Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, Japan introduced that the government of Japan prepared the first English translation of the White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan in the fiscal year. Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director International Cooperation Division, Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office, Japan provided a brief introduction to the translation project of the white paper on disaster management in Japan. Further, the English version of the white paper was distributed to each participant during the period of meeting which was attended by many DRR stakeholders in Asia.



Fig. 5-3-3 Introduction of White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan in the IAP Meeting (Left: Mr. Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, Japan/ Right: Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director International Cooperation Division, Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office, Japan)

2) Special Session on the White Paper in the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2016

In the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2016 which was jointly hosted by the governments of Thailand and Japan, and UNISDR on 25-26 February 2016 in Phuket, Thailand, a special session on the white paper was organized on 26 February 2016, the second day of the ACDR.

In the special session titled “DRR Policy Reporting for Better Governance,” the participants had an exchange of their knowledge, experiences, and views on DRR policy reporting and information sharing of the DRR activities in their own countries. Also, the summary version of the “2015 White Paper on Disaster Management in Japan” was distributed to each participant.



Fig.5-3-4 Special Session on the White Paper in the ACDR2016

In the session, at first, Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director of Cabinet Office, Japan introduced the Japan's White Paper on Disaster Management which has been developed every year since 1963. Then, it was followed by the presentations of the efforts for DRR information reporting and sharing in the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. Mr. Arun Pinta from International Cooperation Section of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Thailand explained the Thailand's white paper developed through a JICA project in his presentation.

After these presentations, a couple of questions or comments were heard from the floor. Mr. Julio Serje from UNISDR picked up the initiatives on the global report on disaster risk reduction developed by UNISDR and pointed out that such a paper firstly focus on introducing various DRR efforts taken place in the world among various stakeholders. However, he added another function of the paper, "self-reflection", that is to review what we have done so far and identify gaps of these efforts, which he believes the most important function such papers have.

At the end of the session, Mr. Saito of Cabinet Office of Japan mentioned that there are challenges identified in the session to strengthen disaster risk governance for the promotion of SFDRR, and also strong needs to further discuss and seek better methodologies for the promotion of DRR policy reporting systems in Asia.