# Disaster Recording & Statistics to Ensure the Sustainability of National DRR Efforts



#### Satoru NISHIKAWA Ph.D

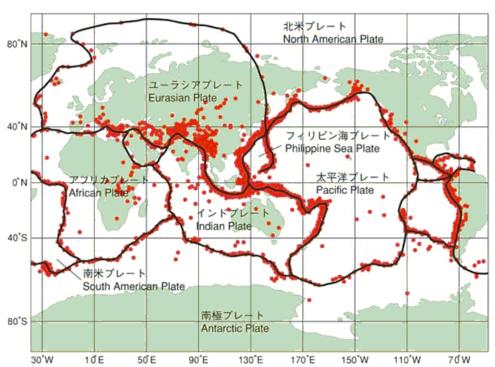
Vice-President, Japan Water Agency
Advisory Group to SRSG on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk
Reduction

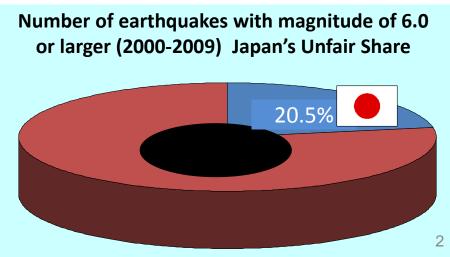
October 2014

# Mother Nature is not Gentle in Japan!

- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Volcanic Eruptions
- Typhoons (July – October)
- Heavy Monsoon Rains (May – July)
- Floods
- Landslides
- Snow Avalanches







Japan's long tradition of coping with natural disasters



- 416A.D. August, Yamato-Kochi Earthquake 
  The first written record of Earthquake in Japan within "Nihonshoki" the first
- official history book of Japan, edited in 8<sup>th</sup> century.

  684A.D. November, Hakuho-Nankai Tonankai

  Earthquake (Estimate Magnitude: 8.2-3) & Tsunami
  - The first written record of Earthquake Tsunami in Japan within "Nihonshoki".
- Most dreadful things historically in Japan for children
- 1. Earthquakes, 2. Lightning/Thunder, 3. Fire, 4. father(typhoon)

Jishin Kaminari Kaji

Oyaji Not anymor

# Traditional "UKIYOE" drawing after 1855 October Ansei-Edo Earthquake



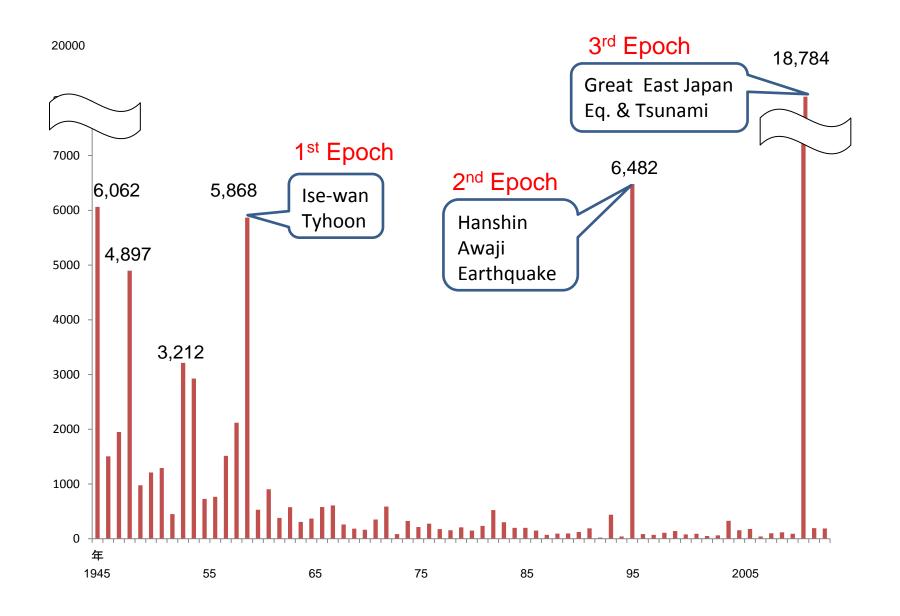
Edo (Old name of Tokyo) citizens beating the legendary Catfish Monster which was believed to cause earthquake

# Bitter experiences of Tsunamis in Japan



22,000 people were killed by 1896 Meiji Sanriku Earthquake Tsunami

#### Statistics on Casualties by Natural Disasters in Japan



### From Yokohama, Hyogo to Sendai

### Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action 1994

- ▶1st Internationally negotiated document on disaster reduction
- **≻**Principles

Basis for the Strategy

Assessment of the status of disaster reduction midway into the Decade Strategy for year 2000 and beyond

➤ Plan of Action

Activities at the community and national levels

Activities at the regional and sub-regional levels

Activities at the international level, in particular through bilateral arrangements and multinational cooperation

➤ Follow-up Action

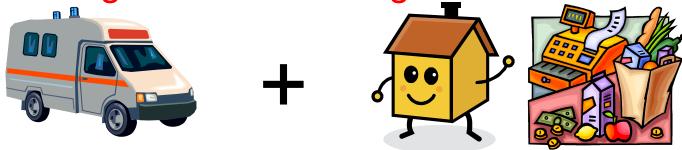
### Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

- ➤ Expected Outcome
- ➤3 Strategic Goals (incl. integration of DRR into sustainable development!)
- ▶5 Priorities for Action
- ➤ 4Cross Cutting Issues

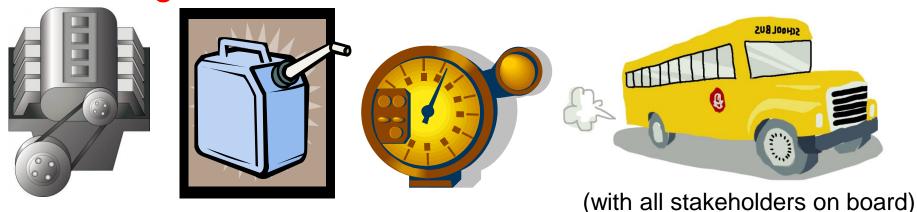
### What should be stated at Sendai 2015?

# What will be our main message? Some food for thought

From "Saving Lives" to "Saving Lives & Livelihoods"



### Need Engines, Fuels and Meters to Drive HFA forward



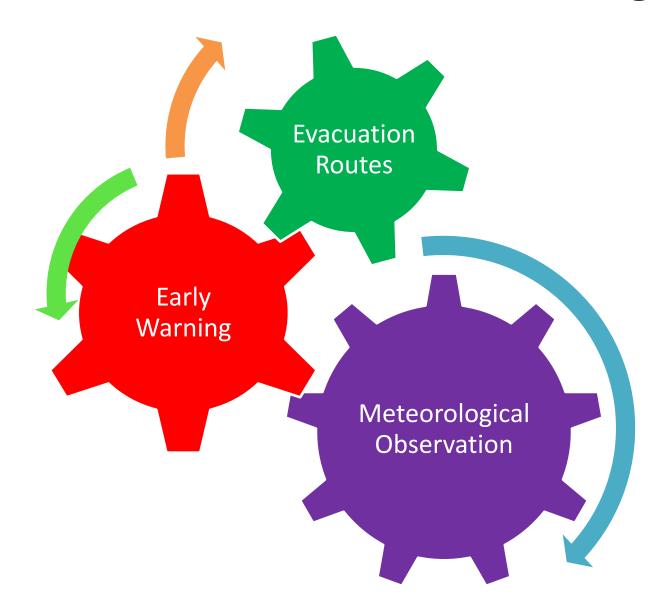
(finance & budget)

(national mechanism) (statistics and measurements)

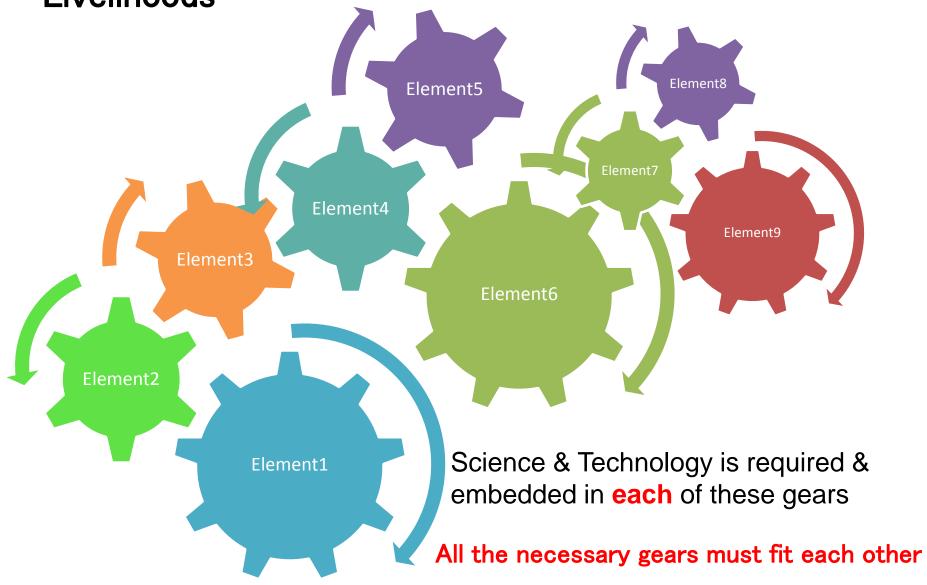
## Expectations for the Post-2015 DRR Framework

- Mainstream DRR & Ensure Sustainability of DRR
- ➤ Strengthen National Platform/Focal point of DRR
- Combine structural and non-structural measures
- ➤ Build Back Better, based on every lessons learnt
- Ensure reliable disaster recording and statistics to justify investment
- Full utilization of available science and technology into real practice
- Create a win-win with private sector

### Some Elements for Evacuation from Flooding



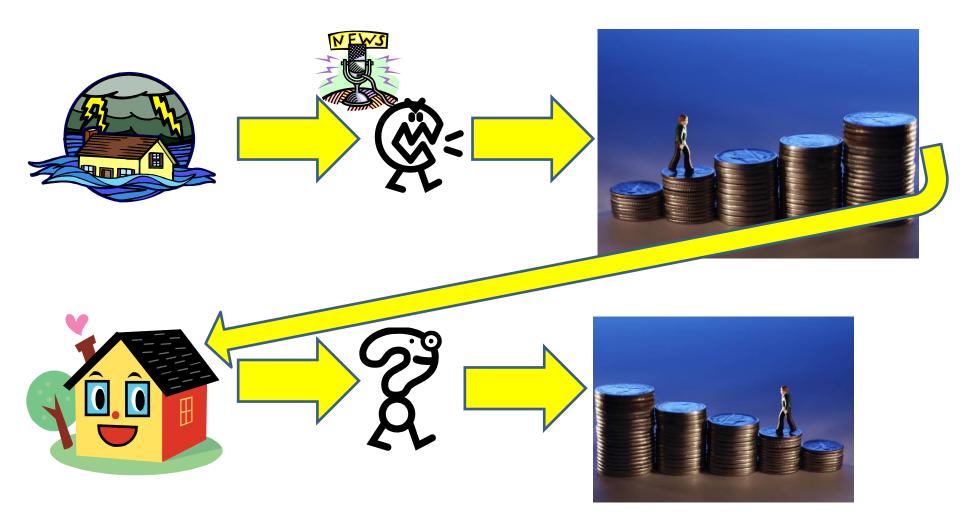
Numerous Efforts are Necessary to Save Lives and Livelihoods



Somebody Must Bundle Together Various **Elements** Element8 Element7 Element4 Element9 Element3 Element6 Element2 Element1 **Elastic Band is Needed** All the necessary gears must fit each other



# The Paradox of DR Administration



How can we sustain DRR efforts at National/Local Levels?

## How can I secure budget for DRR!?

- ➤ Justifications are required to negotiate DRR budget with the Ministry of Finance.
- ➤ Unless budget for DRR are sustainable, cannot expect sustainable DRR at national and local level.
- >Ad-hoc voluntary donations are unstable.
- ➤ A sustainable DRR cannot rely on "ad-hoc beauty contest for funding".

### DRR should be seen as Investments not Expenditures!

To justify investment, B/C (benefit per cost) needs to be explained

#### **Basic Disaster statistics**

- human casualties
- ➤ losses of housing
- physical damage numbers
- > economic damage figures

# The Annual Official Report on Disaster Countermeasures (White Paper on Disaster Reduction) since 1963 in Japan



The cover picture is the winner of the Annual Disaster Awareness Poster Competition.

- > Descriptive report on individual disaster damage & response
- **→** Disaster statistics, Official recording
- ➤ Disaster reduction **policies**
- ➤ Measurements of achievements on risk reduction action
- ➤ Reports on **expenditures** of previous F.Y. and action taken **by sector** and **by four phases** of disaster reduction
- ➤ Budget for the coming F.Y. by sector and by four phases

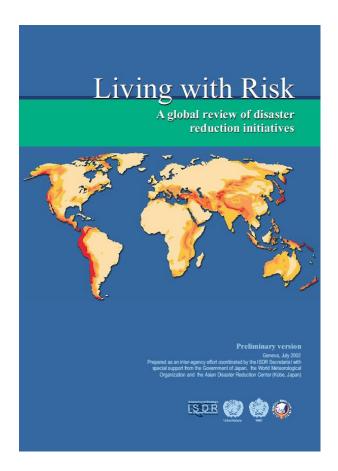


- ◆ Must be submitted to the regular annual session of National Diet
- ◆ To be discussed in the **Special Committee on Disaster Countermeasures** in **both houses** of the National Diet



a way to table disaster reduction on the national agenda a way to draw public attention to disasters in "peaceful years" a way to maintain institutional memories of disaster reduction policies regardless of political changes

# Japan's Proposal to apply this Official Reporting as a tool to ensure that DRR is a priority



Supported ISDR to edit the first version of Living with Risk, July 2002

→ GAR since 2007

**HFA Priority 1** 

JICA Assisted Thai Government to Issue their Annual Official Report on Disaster Risk Management (White Paper) 2007



Proverb by Japanese Physics Scientist Dr. Torahiko TERADA (1878-1935) who investigated the damage by 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake

「天災は忘れた頃にやってくる」



"Natural Disasters will hit us by the Time People have forgotten about it"

How to Sustain DRR at National/Local Levels!?

See you in Sendai!



UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan