Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society

June 21 - July 2, 2010

The Japan Foundation
JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme
Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society

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JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme
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Foreword

“Disaster Prevention and People:
Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society”

In recent years, large-scale natural disaster repeatedly occur in the East Asia region. These natural disasters threaten human life and safety, and destroy valuable social infrastructure and cultural environments which have been created over a long period of history. In particular, the socially vulnerable people, such as seniors, women, children, and people in poverty, are damaged enormously and in the meantime they are hard to recover from severe damages.

Japan is located in the circum-Pacific mobile zone where seismic and volcanic activities occur constantly. Also, because of geographical, topographical and meteorological conditions, the country is subject to frequent natural disaster. As a result of numerous disaster experiences and lessons learned, Japan’s efforts and technologies in the field of disaster reduction are now gathering worldwide attention. The disaster reduction approaches not only from the scientific technology but also from the social science fields are well researched in Japan. It is said that 90% of the total victims of natural disasters in the world are concentrated in the East Asian countries and disaster reduction becomes a common issue among the region. Japan can substantially contribute with its knowledge in the field of disaster reduction.

The program pays particular attention to ‘people’s linkage’ as social and cultural aspect in disaster management. It offers opportunities to make relationship between people who understand the importance of their own life, environment, history, and culture. Japanese people who have experienced and suffered from disaster and participants who have a strong desire to construct efficient disaster countermeasures in their own countries will talk and learn together by sharing ideas and experiments across countries from different regions and fields. By paying special attention to the relationship between people, the program promotes strong network in the community and aims to build strong society preparing to disasters in the East Asia.

Young leaders in the East Asian countries from various fields such as administrators, teachers, NGO members, journalists, researchers, artists, community leaders, etc., especially those who engaged in disaster managements was invited to this programme. They discussed and shared the situation of their own countries, and learnt Japanese experiences and efforts for disaster reduction. Participants visited central government offices and NGOs to receive an overview on disaster managements, and then visited sites to learn urban area’s flood control measures in Tokyo. They also visited Kobe City where there are a lot of specialized institutions and high awareness on disaster reduction to learn their pioneering measures. In Kobe participants met and talk with people who were affected tremendous damages by the earthquake in 1995. Then in Niigata Prefecture, participants learnt about the experiences of the earthquake and floods in recent years especially their measurements in collaboration with the local government and the community. They shared experiences with village people in a mountain area of Niigata to know their recovery measures, and encourage each other awareness on disaster reduction.

The Japan Foundation hopes that the network that has developed among the participants in this year’s programme will contribute to a deeper level of mutual understanding throughout the East Asian region. Finally, the Japan Foundation would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those individuals who contributed to the realization of this programme.
About JENESYS

The Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) is designed to strengthen solidarity in East Asia through the promotion of mutual understanding amongst the younger generation in the region. In January 2007, the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a large-scale youth exchange initiative, budgeted at US$315 million, entitled the JENESYS Programme. Under the programme, approximately 6,000 young people, mainly from East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries, will be invited to Japan over a five year period (2007-2012).

The Japan Foundation is organizing a series of East Asia Future Leader Programmes, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration fund, as an international exchange programme for young intellectuals in Asia and Oceania under the JENESYS Programme.

*JENESYS Programme in the Asia and Oceania Section of the Japan Foundation

<1st Year: 2007-2008>
- International Forum “Towards and East Asia Community: Beyond Cross-Cultural Diversity; Inter-cultural, Intersocietal, Inter-faith Dialogue”
- Group A “Migration in Asia and Oceania: Towards a Win-Win and WIN Scheme for the Origin-Destination Countries and for the Migrant themselves”
- Group B “Urban Community Development Inspired by Culture: The Potential of Creative Cities”

<2nd Year: 2008-2009>
- Group C “Overcoming Poverty through a Social Inclusion Approach: The Status quo of Asia and Oceania in a Globalized Economy”
- Group D “Environmental Conservation through Biodiversity: In Search of Sustainable Development”
- Group E “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis”

<3rd Year: 2009-2010>
- Group F “The Potential of Peace Education in Asia and Oceania”
- Group G “Re-Acknowledging Cultural Diversity: The Roles and Possibilities of the Asia and Oceania Region”
- Group H “Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society”
About Participants

<Expected Participants>
Future leaders who are engaged in comprehensive ‘disaster prevention’ and ‘people in community’ within the Asia and Oceania region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Politics and Public Administration</th>
<th>Central/Local government policy makers or officials, International Organization officials, Politicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Educators working in schools, universities, communities, or other organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Those utilizing art, theater, music, literature, etc. to promote ‘disaster prevention’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Those promoting ‘disaster prevention’ through CSR, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO/NPO and Community</td>
<td>NGO/NPO affiliates, community leaders, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media or Academia</td>
<td>Journalist and Researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<Requirements for the Participants>
Candidates for this program will need to meet the following criteria:
- They should be 35 years or under as of June 1, 2010, and currently engaged in, with intent to continue to play a leading role, such fields as academics, politics, government service, business, journalism and the NGOs;
- They should be nationals of one of the following countries (preferably resident in the country): ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Republic of Korea, New Zealand (15 countries in total);
- They should be sufficiently fluent in English to be able to give individual or group presentations, contribute to discussions and produce an individual or group paper on a chosen topic;
- They should be seeking to utilize the knowledge and networking benefits gained from this programme for their career and future activities.
- In principle, applicants should have no experience of visiting or studying in Japan under the programs organized or funded by the Japanese government.

<Obligation of the Participants>
- Candidates for the programme should fill in the Application Form and submit it to either the Japan Foundation branch office or the Japanese Embassy in their country;
- They should then submit the following documentation to the Japan Foundation headquarters in Tokyo by the designated date:
  (1) Health Questionnaire
  (2) Country report presentation - a transcript of a prepared, short presentation to be given on the first day of the programme, introducing the participant’s career background as related to the topic and outlining the current situation of their country (10 minutes per participant). Details will be sent out once the candidate has been accepted.
- To write a group paper, and organize presentations and workshops at the end of the programme. (The theme, volume and allotted time will be indicated during the programme);
- To engage actively in the entire programme as a member of a team;
- To submit a feedback report within the designated time at the end of the programme;
- To cooperate in answering questionnaires and participate in any follow-up activities, etc. requested by the Japan Foundation after the programme.

<Terms and Conditions>
- Participants are prohibited from extending their stay in Japan, even at personal expense;
- They must adhere to the arrival and departure date and flight to/from Japan once it is confirmed;
- No private activity will be allowed except during the designated free time;
- Participants are requested not to bring along any family members etc. with them during this programme.

<Costs>
The Japan Foundation will cover all participation costs, which includes international airfare (economy class), domestic transportation, accommodation fees, meal allowance, and insurance premiums for those invited to participate.
Members

Programme Advisor

Japan

Tamiyo Kondo
Associate Professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University

Participants

Australia

Heath Owen Bracey
Station Officer, Tasmania Fire Service, Australia

Jennifer Kate Clancy
Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Officer, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

Brunei

DK Siti Ummikalthum PG Hajia Muhammad
Assistant Public Relation Officer, Ministry of Education, Negara Brunei Darussalam

Mas Diana Binti Abudul Samat
Education Officer, Deputy Principle, Sayyidina Othman Secondary School, Ministry of Education, Negara Brunei Darussalam

Cambodia

Sopheaktra Bun Yin
Disaster Risk Reduction officer, Cambodian Red Cross

China

Zhao Xu
Project Coordinator, Shining Stone Community Action, Local NGO

India

Prerna Sharma
Programme Coordinator, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, India

Manish Prasad
Unit Head, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Basic Rights, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, India

Indonesia

Avianto Amri
Disaster Management Specialist / Emergency Operations Manager, Plan International Indonesia

Ida Ansharyani
Lecturer / Program Manager, University of Samawa / Penjaga Pulau Community, Indonesia
Republic of Korea

**Sang-Hyun Park**
Researcher, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, Korea

**Young-Bin Kim**
Assistant Administrator, National Red Cross of Republic of Korea

Laos

**Khounkham Douangphachone**
Technical Staff, Own Village Association (OVA), Local NGO, Laos

Malaysia

**Lim Choun Sian**
Research officer, Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute (SEADPRI), Malaysia

Myanmar

**Tay Zar Moe Myint**
Program Analyst, UNDP in Myanmar

New Zealand

**Costley Nichola Ann**
Emergency Management Officer / Regional Planner, West Coast Civil Defense Emergency Management Group / West Coast Regional Council, New Zealand

Philippines

**Catherine Cristobal Abon**
Instructor, Project Research Assistant, National Institute of Geological Sciences, University of the Philippines-Diliman

Thailand

**Dawan Sanlee**
Field Staff, Save Andaman Network Foundation (SAN), Thailand

Vietnam

**Nguyen Ninh Trong**
Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Plan International in Vietnam

Japan

**Yuko Ikenouchi**
Postgraduate Student (Master Course), Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University
Architect
Profile of Programme Advisor
Tamiyo Kondo, Ph.D

Present Position
- Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University

Specialized Field
- Residential Environment Planning
- Community-based Planning
- Disaster Recovery Planning

Education
- Ph.D at Kobe University Graduate School of Science and Technology (2003)
- Master of Science at Kobe University Graduate School of Science and Technology (2000)

Professional Experience
- Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University (2008 - present)
- Research Scientist, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (2003 - 2008)
- COE researcher, Research Center for Disaster Reduction Systems, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University (2003 - 2004)

Major Paper (selected)
- Tamiyo Kondo, ‘Planning for Post-Disaster Rebuilding in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina Disaster — What we can and should learn from New Orleans? —,’ Journal of Disaster Reduction (2008) in Japanese
# Programme of Activities

## Day 1 ■ June 21, 2010 (Monday)

Arrival in Japan

Stay in Tokyo

## Day 2 ■ June 22, 2010 (Tuesday)

*<Introduction Session>*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture “Disaster Prevention and Experiences of Restoration in Japan” Tamiyo Kondo, Professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00-17:00</td>
<td>Country Report from the Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00-20:00</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in Tokyo

## Day 3 ■ June 23, 2010 (Wednesday)

*<Visit Government Office>*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:30</td>
<td>Courtesy Call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>Visit Cabinet Office</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*<Site Visit: Flood in Urban Area>*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00-18:00</td>
<td>Sea level area in Tokyo (Visit NGO, Lecture, Site Visit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in Tokyo

## Day 4 ■ June 24, 2010 (Thursday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Leave Tokyo for Kobe (bullet train)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td>Visit Kobe City Office, Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:30-17:30</td>
<td>Visit Hyogo Prefectural Office, Lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in Kobe

## Day 5 ■ June 25, 2010 (Friday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Visit Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ARDC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td>Visit Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30-17:30</td>
<td>Visit Environment and Disaster Mitigation Course, Maiko Public High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in Kobe

## Day 6 ■ June 26, 2010 (Saturday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Visit Community (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Visit Community (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay in Kobe
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 7 ■ June 27, 2010 (Sunday)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Research / Rest Day</td>
<td>Stay in Kobe</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 8 ■ June 28, 2010 (Monday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Leave Kobe for Niigata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-16:30 Visit Niigata Prefectural Office (Courtesy Call, Lecture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00-18:30 Cultural Tour in Niigata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 9 ■ June 29, 2010 (Tuesday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-12:00 Visit Community (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30-17:00 Visit Community (2)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 10 ■ June 30, 2010 (Wednesday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Leave Niigata for Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Preparation for Presentation (Individual and group)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 11 ■ July 1, 2010 (Thursday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-15:00 Group Report and Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30-17:30 Overall Evaluation Session (at Japan Foundation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30-20:30 Farewell Dinner</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 12 ■ July 2, 2010 (Friday)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Departure of the Participants</td>
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</table>
Programme Advisor

Tamiyo Kondo
Associate Professor of Graduate School of Engineering,
Kobe University, Japan

Concept and Design of this program
The topic of this program is disaster reduction. Especially, it pays careful attention to ‘People’ as a social and cultural fabric, resource and its resilience for disaster reduction and recovery. Participants visited not only national and local government, research institution and schools but also community to share their own experience and lesson learnt from Great Hanshin Earthquake (1995) and Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Earthquake (2004). It was great opportunity for all the participants to exchange their intelligence in variety of sectors, and at the same time, they had a chance to learn all phase of disaster management cycle, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Participants’ presentation
I was so impressed by groups’ presentation which was held on last day. Four groups set different themes such as education, community involvement, and resilience, which are holistic and integrated approach for disaster reduction. I believe that this is because of participants’ expertise and their deep understanding for disaster reduction, and also the characteristics and design of this program enables this which I indicated above.

What they have learnt in Kobe and Niigata through long-term recovery activities
We recognized the power of social resilience in Kobe and Niigata through long-term recovery activities. To build the resilience before disaster is one of the most important challenge for disaster reduction. The strong society is where they have things to protect, such as pride and local culture that they want to get it back. In Yamakoshi village, non-profit sector was trying to utilize peoples’ social resilience rather than giving what they do not have. Second point is that we have to prepare for recovery before the disaster. Thinking about recovery after disaster is too late. For example, there is lot of mitigation, preparedness and response pages in Disaster Reduction Planning document, but little thoughts about recovery phase which is common in Japan. If we conduct enough mitigation and preparedness, the speed of recovery would be short. We have to understand this disaster management cycle, not only mitigation and preparedness. Third point is that disaster-stricken areas survivors are working hard to transferring their lessons, which itself lead to disaster reduction. I, as Japanese, am proud of them and they are assets for international disaster reduction.
What we have learnt from this Program? or What I have realized again through JENESYS
“Disaster Prevention and People” : Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society

JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program
July 1st, 2010
Tamiyo KONDO, Associate Professor, Ph.D
Kobe University Graduate School of Engineering Department of Architecture

What you expected in JENESYS program

• Disaster Reduction in Japan: How to cope with vulnerability
• Community-based disaster reduction and management

[Today’s presentation from each groups]
Holistic and Integrated approach to Disaster Reduction
• Group A: Education
• Group B: Community Involvement and Resilience
• Group C: Integrated Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction
• Group D: Disaster Prevention and People

What we have to learn from Recovery (1)

• Preparing for long-term recovery phase is also disaster reduction.
  – If you are not prepared for disaster, it is difficult to reduce the damage of the society by emergency response
  – If you conduct enough mitigation and preparedness, the speed of recovery would be short, people can get normal life

What we learned from Recovery (2)

• We recognized the power of social resilience in recovery phase (Kobe and Niigata)
  • Community organizing and community development before the earthquake hits. Community networking before disaster.
  
  Is it possible to create the community relationships before an event occurs? (Ms.Ann) → This is our challenge.
  – The strong society is where they have things to protect, such as pride and local culture
  
  Heritage and culture form strong bonds of resilience (Mr. Bracey)
  – To build the resiliency before disaster is one of the most important elements for disaster reduction

“Utilizing” the social resilience

• Non-profit sector was trying to utilize the social resilience. That is their recovery assistance in Niigata
  – Utilizing their power, pride, and their resilience rather than giving what they do not have (Mr. Inagaki)
  – We recover what we lost, but we didn’t revived nor restore our life (Mr. Abe)

ex) Providing disaster recovery public housing in Kobe did not utilize the peoples’ resilience.

Cont.

• We have to prepare for recovery before the disaster. Thinking about recovery after disaster is too late.
  • Planning for strategy, process and partnership between government, private and non-profit sector for recovery
  • There is lot of mitigation, preparedness and response phase, but little menu of recovery phase indicated in Disaster Reduction Plan by national and local government in Japan
    • City of Kobe government have community planning system and partnership between community organization, private consultants, local government since 1980.
      – Prevent “Recovery Disaster”
        – No solitary death, not destroying community

Programme Advisor
Transfer the experience and lesson from devastated area to other

  The lesson in response and recovery phases
  – Preserve the community when entering temporary housing
  – Care for women in emergency shelter: ex)breast feeding
  • The wisdom and intelligence that they learned from disaster to other communities and countries
  – Story teller in DRI: Listening story tellers’ experience directly: think disaster not as knowledge but as their own problem (Mr. Myint)
**“Disaster Prevention and People: Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society”**

JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme  
June 22nd, 2010  
Tamiyo KONDO, Associate Professor, Ph.D  
Kobe University Graduate School of Engineering Department of Architecture  
tamiyo@people.kobe-u.ac.jp  
http://www.tamiyokondo-lab.jp/index.html

CRED defines a disaster as a “situation or event, which overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request to national or international level for external assistance” (definition considered in EM-DAT).

**Natural Disasters 1900-2009**

Source: EM-DAT the International Disaster Database  
http://www.emdat.be/

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**World Earthquake Magnitude (M≥4) since 1960**

Japan Land Area = 0.1% × World Land Area, Small Country in size, however; Earthquake in Japan = 10% in the World.

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**Number of Occurrences of Earthquake Disasters by Country 1974-2003**

Source: EM-DAT the International Disaster Database  
http://www.emdat.be/

---

**Number of Occurrences of Flood Disasters by Country 1974-2003**

Source: EM-DAT the International Disaster Database  
http://www.emdat.be/

---

**Regional distribution of disasters by type 1991 - 2005**

Source: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
What is Disaster Reduction?

Vulnerability
Hazard
Predisposition
Trigger
Mitigation and Preparedness
Loss Damage
Prediction Simulation
Reduce the Vulnerability
Disaster Response
Understanding the Hazard

Disaster Prevention → Disaster Reduction


What is vulnerability?

- The characteristics of a person or group and their situation that influence their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural hazard
- Key variables explaining variations of impact include class, occupation, caste, ethnicity, gender, disability, and health status, age and immigration status.
- Physical vulnerability and Social vulnerability
- Risk = Hazard × Vulnerability
To reduce the vulnerability = Disaster Reduction


Pressure and Release (PAR) model

Root Causes
Dynamic Pressure
Unsafe Conditions
Hazard
Flood
Cyclone
Earthquake
Tsunami
Volcanic eruption
Drought
Landslide
Biological

Social Structures & Power Systems
Class
Gender
Ethnicity
Other power relationships

Livelihood & its resilience
Baseline status
Well-being
Self-protection
Social Protection & Governance

Governance
National & International Political Economy
Power relations
Conflicts & War
Environmental Trends
Debt Crises
Etc.

Great Hanshin Earthquake (1995)
Housing Units Destroyed 87% Made of Wood

Pre-war Housing Units 58% destroyed

Great Hanshin Earthquake (1995)
Pre-war Housing Units 58% destroyed

There was often severe damage to so-called “pre-existing unqualified buildings” that did not meet the existing building standards and related ordinances. Old dilapidated buildings especially, were damaged severely.

Source: The Housing Bureau of the City of Kobe, Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Measures for the Reconstruction of Housing in the City of Kobe
Mass Public Housing Project in HAT Kobe

- Positive Aspect: Quick, mass housing provision for people who cannot afford to rebuild their home (low-income, seniors)
- Negative Aspect: Relocation from old neighborhoods and concentration of seniors
- More variety of housing rebuilding assistance policy by public sector needed

Self-help Housing Rebuilding and Rental Housing Subsidy through Disaster Restoration Fund

**Self-help Housing Rebuilding Subsidy**
- Special Loan: Lowering interest rate from 4.1% to 3.7%
- Provide interest subsidies for five years

**Rental Housing Subsidy**
- Total Applicants: 39,004
- Rent Subsidy (for landlord)
- Intended Renters

- Poor assistant for self-build housing reconstruction
- Feelings of inequality, financial burdens between public housing tenants and self-help housing rebuilding citizens

Community-based Recovery Planning
- They planned the “stream” based on their lesson learnt after earthquake

Takatori Neighborhood After Earthquake

They maintain the alley, local characteristics by loosening the regulation by District Plan.
The characteristics of Rokkomich Neighborhood Recovery (Biwa-cho)

- Land Readjustment Project
  - land contribution
  - land relocation

- Hundreds of Community Meetings for neighborhood recovery plan

- Strong Community Network

Mountain Area Damage
landslide mountainside’s collapse

What would be the indicator for recovery?

Source: Kimio Meguro, 2008, City and Disaster Reduction, The Open University of Japan Press

- Is it Quick Recovery for pre-disaster status?
- If we redevelop the urban infrastructure by pre-disaster status, does it mean recovery?

To define the “Recovery” is difficult

What is “Good” Recovery?

- The recovery goal would be different from discipline, time and stakeholders.
- Physical Recovery
  - Urban infrastructure, housing recovery
- Economy Recovery
  - Urban economy, Local economy, family-finance issue
- Mental Recovery
- Pursue more safe and sustainable society
- View recovery from a perspective of “Community”
  - Not only physical but also social community network
  - Community as social fabric: house, clinics, schools and neighbors

What is Strong Society?

- No Disaster
  - No life loss, infrastructure damage
  - Disaster Prevented Society

- Small Disaster
  - Little life loss, infrastructure damage
  - Disaster Reduced Society

- Resilient Society
  - Resilience for recovery: national and local government, community, and individual level
  - Recover the physical and social elements based on the lesson to reduce the risk for next disaster

Transfer and Exchange the experiences and lessons of disasters across borders
- To reduce the number of victims by preparation for future disasters

Reference

- EM-DAT the International Disaster Database
  http://www.emdat.be/
- http://www.recoveryplatform.org/
- http://www.tellnet.jp/
JENESYS
East Asia Future Leadership Programme 2010
Disaster-Prevention and People:
Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society

June 21- July 2, 2010
Organised by the Japan Foundation

June 22, 2010 18:00~
Welcome Reception at International House of Japan, TOKYO
JENESYS East Asia Future Leadership Programme
“Disaster-Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society”

Opening Speech: Japan Foundation
♦ Introduction of the mission of the JENESYS Programme, inviting young leaders from East Asia to participate in an opportunity to share information on disaster-management and find out how its challenges and demands had been met in the various countries of the region. At the same time, participants would have an opportunity to learn from Japan’s technical knowledge and experience in disaster-management.

♦ The Programme had been designed to enable participants to learn from advisors and other experts providing current examples of disaster prevention in Japan, in order to deepen understanding as to how young leaders in the East Asian community could cooperate together in disaster-prevention for the future.

♦ Japan Foundation wished the Programme to provide an opportunity for the participants to learn about Japanese culture, and to foster good international relations.

Hyon Bin Kim’s speech representing the participants of JENESYS Programme
♦ Representing the participants in the JENESYS Programme, Mr Kim noted that it would be a great opportunity for all of them to learn about the Japanese system of disaster-prevention, which would greatly benefit their careers.
Toast by Professor Tamiyo Kondo of Kobe University, Programme Advisor

♦ Professor Kondo said he trusted the Programme would contribute to successful disaster-management, for which each participant would in future be responsible in their home country, and that each participant would benefit from the opportunities for cultural exchange offered by the Programme.

June 23, 2010 11:00~
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TOKYO

Courtesy Call on the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chinami Nishimura

JENESYS

♦ The group expressed their enthusiasm for the Programme and their eagerness to learn about Japan’s latest technology and research as well as the various counter-measures taken in disaster-prevention, which would be of benefit to each of the countries they represented.

Chinami Nishimura, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

♦ The Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs welcomed the 21 JENESYS members from EAS countries who had come together to work to create a strong trans-national community which would have greater resilience to disasters, thanks to being able to learn from Japan’s knowledge and experience in disaster-prevention and through sharing information with each other.

♦ Ms Nishimura observed that Japan is known as a country which is particularly prone to natural disasters and as such is active in cooperating with ASEAN and ASEAN+3 in the field of disaster-prevention. Niigata, one of the sites to be visited on the Programme was Ms Nishimura’s hometown and had suffered numerous earthquakes in recent years. She hoped that the participants would gain a lot from the visit, and be able to apply that knowledge to their efforts back home.

Points raised in the Q&A

♦ During the question and answer session, Ms Nishimura said that the high level of commitment and sense of responsibility manifest in local communities whenever there was a disaster was a noteworthy feature of disaster-management in Japan. Evacuation drills were conducted regularly at schools and workplaces, and the Japanese government provided funds to national and regional institutions focused on disaster-prevention research.

June 23, 2010 14:00-
Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Viewing of DVD about Disaster-Management in Japan

The DVD about Disaster-Management in Japan outlined the following points:

1. The Nation and its Disasters

   Japan is located in the circum-Pacific seismic zone where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur constantly. Also because of its geographical, topographical and meteorological conditions, Japan is subject to frequent natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains and heavy snow.
2. Process in Disaster Management, Laws and Systems
Disaster countermeasures are taken according to the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act and various further disaster-management related laws.

3. The Disaster Management System
The Central Disaster Management Council is one of the committees in charge of key Cabinet policy and issues Cabinet Office directives on Disaster Countermeasures.

The Disaster Management Planning System divides 3-ways:

i. Basic Disaster Management Plan, prepared by the Central Disaster Management Council;
ii. Disaster Management Operational Plan, drawn up by each designated government department and public corporation; and
iii. Local Disaster Management Plan, drawn up by each prefectural and municipal Disaster Management Council.

4. Features of Disaster Countermeasures
National land conservation projects such as river improvement, soil erosion control and soil and coastline conservation are carried out strategically in order to protect national land, citizens’ lives and property from various disasters. Observing, forecasting and warning of disaster risks is improving, and the Japan Meteorological Agency uses a 24-hour system to monitor natural phenomena and weather conditions. National and local governments act quickly in response to a disaster emergency to provide support for recovery and rehabilitation.

5. Disaster Reduction Activities of Citizens
Individuals, communities, corporations and other entities are encouraged to participate in activities for mitigating disaster damage according to the publication “A Basic Framework for Promoting a Nationwide Movement for Disaster Reduction”.

6. International Cooperation in Disaster Reduction
A UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was held in 2005 in which the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 theme of “Building the Resilience of National and Communities to Disasters” was highlighted.

June 23, 2010 16:00~
Site Visit: Nakagawa and the NPO “Safety & Amenities First! machi-tzukuri [town planning]”, Katsushika District, TOKYO

Overview
A visit was made to the “Below-Sea-Level-City”, an area in urban Tokyo set below sea-level hence facing the risk of flooding due to ground subsidence. Ground subsidence in the area was the result of the extreme pumping-out of ground water at the time of urbanisation. The high density of the population made the area more prone to damage from potential flooding. In Katsushika district, 3 different groups – a community association in Shin-Koiwa, the NPO “Safety & Amenities First! machi-tzukuri” and experts from Tokyo University – have been collaborating on new types of disaster mitigation systems since 2006.

Site Visit: Nakagawa, Katsushika District
Objectives:
♦ To compare the height of town with the water-level of the river, showing that the water-level is much higher than the town;
♦ To observe some examples of actual flood mitigation measures, such as water gates and river embankment.

**Lecture at the headquarters of “Safety & Amenities First! machi-tzukuri”**

♦ To gain understanding of the origin of ground subsidence in the area and estimate the degree of possible damage;

♦ To learn what initiatives were taken by the community to understand and prepare for disaster. The community knew from experience that central government would be slow to fulfil their needs at a time of disaster. Thus initiatives were taken by the community to assess potential risks and find what could be done at community level to prepare for disaster.

♦ To study how the community established a tight network and maintained it through various activities;

♦ To observe the importance of collaboration with experts and the NPO to strengthen the community against possible disaster. The NPO had been set up to build a society steel against disasters and working towards the prevention of flood damage. The NPO worked with the community association and experts from Tokyo University on disaster prevention.

♦ To identify the key feature of the community’s disaster mitigation effort as being collaboration between residents, the community as a whole and the experts. The community association provided various activities and drills preparing residents’ minds for the eventuality of floods. Also, with the help of experts from Tokyo University, the community gained knowledge and understanding of the general character of the region and were updated on effective disaster prevention measures.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ Good communication between neighbours was cited as a key characteristic of a successful local community. Community events contributed to creating a close-knit neighbourhood. To strengthen the community, the NPO offered various workshops with the collaboration of experts. The NPO also functioned as a bridge between the private sector and government.

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**June 24, 2010 14:00~**

**Kobe City Municipal Office**

**Site Visit: The observation deck on Floor 24 of Kobe City Municipal Office Building**

♦ To learn about the geographical characteristics of this city of over 1 million citizens, surrounded by mountains and the ocean;

♦ To locate the ocean, the Rokko Mountain Range, the rough location of the epicentre of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and its centre, for the purpose of following the lecture.

**DVD viewing, followed by a lecture on “Experience and Countermeasures for a Metropolitan Earthquake” by Tatsuo Koyama, Disaster Management and Planning Bureau, Hyogo Prefectural Government**

♦ To obtain an overview of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake which took place on January 17, 1995—Mark 7.3; Death Toll: 6434; Insured: 43,792 – from the video in use as an educational resource in schools in Kobe;

♦ To witness the damage caused by fire and destruction of buildings, as well as situations at hospitals and involving the police and civil defence forces;
♦ To learn about recovery programmes following the earthquake; to review the city’s approach to disaster management and recovery, such as providing evacuation sites, organising volunteer activities, damage inspection and fortification of urban infrastructures, and restructuring of the public services.
♦ To learn about the problems the city faced, and their countermeasures. For example, at the time of the earthquake, a number of fire hydrants failed to function, hence the city had now installed a 100-ton water reservoir as one of its disaster mitigation measures.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ Kobe’s “Green Belt Project” was explained in response to a question about its landslide prevention programme. National government had purchased the boundary between the city and the mountain to prevent it being used for development;
♦ Regarding the debris from the destruction caused by the earthquake, burnable waste went to the incinerator, and non-conversable debris such as concrete was used in construction as landfill;
♦ New buildings built after the introduction of the new building code had been required to follow the code standards. Buildings built prior to it still remained but were eligible for funding for reinforcement works.

**June 24, 2010 16:00~**

**Hyogo Prefecture Disaster Management Centre, KOBE**

**Viewing of introductory video about the Disaster Management Centre**

♦ To gain an overview of the facilities of the Disaster Management Centre, which brought together under one roof all disaster mitigation planning in Kobe. The Centre maintained a close liaison with other crisis management organisations;
♦ To learn about the information-gathering systems owned by the centre, such as the seismograph, river and basin information, telemeter, real time images from high-attitude surveillance videos, etc.;
♦ To understand the functions of the institution as the nexus of decision-making, emergency relief coordination and disaster-forecasting in Kobe.

**Lecture on Disaster Management in Hyogo Prefecture**

♦ To understand the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Kobe was confident that the city would never be hit by an earthquake. Also Kobe prided itself on its state-of-the-art water supply network. This overestimation led to much loss of life in Kobe at the time of earthquake. The city’s unpreparedness greatly exacerbated the damage suffered;
♦ To review the figures relating to the damages of Kobe city, both physical and financial;
♦ To learn about measures taken for recovery and restoration. The aim was not to re-build the same city but to create a new city, strong enough to withstand disaster. Underpinning the multiple plans for recovery and deemed a lesson for international society, priority was given to recovering the infrastructure prior to embarking on the restoration of livelihood, society and industry;
♦ To review the “3 hours, 3 days and 30 days” scheme for disaster management. The first 3 hours to determine how the disaster would be managed and whether the city could cope on its own or need national support; the first 3 days to save lives and rescue those buried in the debris, and 30 days to help victims in temporary facilities understand what was being done and to feel safe;
♦ To reflect on ways of providing peace of mind to victims by offering them housing, securing job opportunities and assuring them that the community was rebuilding;
♦ To recognise that types of natural disasters were changing, therefore disaster responses needed to be adapted accordingly;
♦ To acknowledge the efforts made in working towards disaster reduction. Community preparedness was crucial, as 77% of people saved at the time of the earthquake were rescued by neighbours.

**June 25, 2010 10:00~**
**Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), KOBE**

### First Lecture: "A Trip round Disasters in the World", by Makoto Ikeda

♦ Mr Ikeda gave an overview of disasters in the world and the importance of disaster reduction in Asian nations. The global number of disasters was increasing every year, with a ratio of approximately 40% occurring in the Asian region and some 90% of victims located in the Asian region on account of 1) its geographical conditions 2) its increasing population and 3) poverty;
♦ Mr Ikeda outlined the work of the ADRC: With 27 member countries and 5 advisor countries, the ADRC pursued activities such as addressing disaster reduction issues from a global perspective. Its main activities included information-sharing, organising international conferences, issuing publications, organising visiting research programmes, developing community-based hazard-mapping for effective building of awareness, and building a disaster management support system in the Asian Pacific region.
♦ To learn about field surveys and initiatives in affected areas in the world, such as those affected by floods in the Philippines and the Sumatra region off Thailand, in particular the launch by the ADRC of an Education and Human Resources Building Programme to build community capability in Sri Lanka.

### Second Lecture: "ASEAN Cooperation Project: Community Capacity Building" by Makoto Fujieda

♦ Mr Fujieda gave a closer view of the main activities of the ADRC:
  1. Information-sharing through the website and booklets;
  2. HR Development via training courses and visiting researchers;
  3. Community Capacity Building for Total Disaster Risk Management, Community-based Hazard Mapping, and Tsunami Awareness;
♦ The following projects were administered by the ADRC:
  1. School education programmes on disaster reduction;
  2. Capacity building of local government officials in Disaster Management;
  3. Development of a web-based Glide Associated Disaster Event database;
  4. Utilisation of satellite imagery in Disaster Management.
♦ Broadly, the ADRC Project was:
  1. A training system for local government officials;
  2. An instrument for building local government disaster management capability, based on training modules with customised materials;
♦ Components of the Project comprised: 1) gaining an assessment of the current situation 2) establishment of teams of experts 3) development of training materials in local languages 4) training of trainers in each country and 5) training of trainers of local government officials in each country, with follow-up consisting of monitoring and evaluation.
Mr Fujieda concluded by looking at the ‘Town-watching’ Disaster Reduction effort for the purpose of creating community-based hazard maps, with focus on the actual hazard map in use in Kobe to pinpoint areas of especial vulnerability and to indentify both positive ones and negative ones still requiring countermeasures. Hazard mapping encouraged discussion of how to install better protections from natural disasters and to helped build local autonomy in disaster management.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ As part of the difficulty of working with a range of different cultures/countries, the problem of variations in levels of hazard awareness was raised. For example, what was considered as a flood in certain regions was not viewed as such in others. Also, house-building techniques varied from region to region, which affected ADRC efforts to offer know-how regarding safe housing. Challenging the understanding of local people who might be aware of small disasters but not ready for mega ones was one of the issues needing attention;

♦ Regarding the successful use of hazard mapping in the local community, it was important to recognise that the purpose of the map was to identify the location and nature of potential hazards. It was very important to coordinate local people’s perspectives with those of experts, as well as to ensure take-up by local government officials. The Hazard Map was only a tool or ‘means to an end’; it should not be regarded as an ‘end’ of disaster management.

**June 25, 2010 13:15~**

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial - Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute, KOBE

**Brief Overview of the Institute**

The Institute welcomed 500,000 visitors a year, more than 60% of whom were children. Its museum was considered as a disaster reduction ‘educational’ museum.

The Institute was also viewed as a research centre for professionals and offered training for disaster management practitioners. Thanks to its cooperation with networks of international disaster prevention organisations, the Institute contributed to a safer and more secure society.

**Personal experience shared by Kosuke Yamada, Institute storyteller**

♦ As a volunteer storyteller at the Institute sharing his personal experience of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, Mr Yamada related his personal experience of the event and of the city’s recovery process, and what he had found out from the experience.

♦ Participants learned that the Institute contributes to disaster reduction not only through the work of government and experts but also thanks to the contribution of citizens of Kobe city sharing their true story in order to pass it on to the next generation.

**Tour of the Institute and Museum**

♦ The Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake could be re-lived at “1.17 Theatre” through recreation of the destructive power of earthquakes using sound and dramatic images and realistic dioramas of “Streets Just After the Earthquake”, reproducing the devastated streets as they appeared in the immediate aftermath of the catastrophe, and viewing of “The Great Earthquake Memorial Hall,” a documentary film outlining the recovery and reconstruction process;

♦ The displays of earthquake-related materials conveyed the impact of the disaster and citizens’ reconstruction initiatives;

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♦ Participants could experience how the Institute taught visitors about the mechanism of natural disasters, including tsunamis and landslides.

June 25, 2010 16:00~
Disaster and Disaster Mitigation Department, Maiko High School, KOBE

**Overview of the School & Department**

Maiko High School in Kobe was the first high school in Japan to offer a Disaster Mitigation Course introduced 7 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, in April 2007. Prior to that, typical disaster mitigation education offered in schools consisted of standard evacuation drills and geology classes. The new Mitigation course laid emphasis on the importance of life and on the need for mutual support and care about others.

**Lecture on the Maiko High School Environmental Disaster Mitigation Course, by Seiji Suwa**

♦ Mr Suwa outlined the 3 educational goals offered by the Course:
  1. To learn the lessons of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and encourage students to think about the importance of life whilst cultivating their resilience towards disasters;
  2. To learn about the natural and social environment, in order to recognise the power of nature and weaknesses in the social environment;
  3. To collaborate with universities, research institutes and relevant organisations to raise students’ potential for ‘thinking globally and acting locally’.

♦ Key features of the course included international exchange programmes, participation in workshops and seminars, invitations to guest teachers, joint study sessions with primary school pupils, volunteering and community support activities, and use of the hands-on problem-solving study method.

**Presentation on the Environmental Disaster Mitigation Course by 12th-graders of Maiko High School**

♦ In well-worked presentations using power-point imagery, students gave an account of the Environmental Disaster Mitigation Course and of the opportunities it offered for practical learning about disaster management, including volunteer activities, field studies, international exchanges, working with fire-fighters and police officers and participation in disaster drills;

♦ Students spoke about how they had utilised the knowledge gained in their daily lives;

♦ Students described their initiative in demonstrating to younger children by means of a specially-prepared quiz how they could be involved in disaster mitigation.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ Students were asked why they had chosen as their major enrolment in the Maiko High School disaster management course. Also, they shared their future hopes and dreams after graduating from high school.
June 26, 2010 9:30~
Noda North Community Development Conference, North Noda District, Kobe City

**Viewing of a DVD about North Noda District and its process of recovery in the wake of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake**

♦ The film conveyed the severe damage suffered as a result of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in Kobe’s Noda North district, where in certain areas of the district 90% of homes completely collapsed and burned down;
♦ It showed the sequence of the restoration process and how the community had been redeveloped through district-based planning and through initiatives to re-integrate the community via communal activities, which had been integral to the recovery process.

**Lecture on the Recovery Process and Community Re-Development by Setsuji Kawai**

♦ Mr Kawai, Chief Officer of North Noda Community Re-Development Conference, outlined the process of community re-development following the seismic disaster through 1) a re-landscaping project 2) reconstruction of residential buildings in dense urban districts and support of returning former residents and 3) building a stronger community network through communal activities.
♦ The urban district was very dense with narrow streets which made it more prone to severe damage at the time of disaster. Community residents, city officials and experts had come together to rebuild a safer community after the earthquake. Care had been taken to involve the community in urban planning discussions and to respect the views of residents. Residents had been made aware of the importance of participation and cooperation in the programme, which would enable them to take the initiative in re-building their community rather than being led by the government.
♦ Once reconstruction had been completed in 1999, the community worked on the “soft” part of community building. A community organisation “Noda Kitaku Furusato Net” was set up to play a role in information-gathering and in beautification of the town. The community placed great value on re-development through cooperation and participation.

**Site Visits: North Noda neighbourhood and community sites**

♦ Participants were able to observe the results of the community effort to restore the town: new and wider streets, a new park with memorial objects, new cooperative housing to meet the need of residents with insufficient financial resources to rebuild their homes.
♦ Through a tour of the post-earthquake lay-out of new, wider streets and improved public open spaces, they could observe at first hand the effort made by the community to beautify the town and re-build the community network.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ The question was raised as to how women’s and young people’s aspirations were taken into account during community meetings? The answer was that this was difficult since setting out new regulations required the participation of landowners who were predominantly men. However, women and young people were able to take a more active role in organising events and festivals;
♦ Regarding what measures were accorded priority in the 2 years following the earthquake, one was to check on the motivation of the leaders, to make sure they were not becoming exhausted. Care should be taken to support leaders as a crucial element in recovery;
♦ As to how to resolve conflicts in a community where people had lost a major portion of their lives, it was crucial to maintain thorough communication between community members, government officials and consultants. It was never helpful for government officials to become the sole centre of meeting.

June 26, 2010 13:30~
Community Visit: Biwa Town, KOBE

**DVD film on the Restoration of Biwa Town after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake**
♦ Biwa town was one of the first towns to be consigned a land-readjustment project as 80% of the households had collapsed due to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. 600 residents had formed a new community association, a Residents’ Association to take initiatives in the planning of community revitalisation.
♦ A new community revitalisation plan was submitted to the city of Kobe for the land-readjustment project, with residents of Biwa town playing a key role. There was a close collaboration between Government and private sector after the disaster.

**Lecture with film sequences on the restoration of Biwa Town by Yoichi Kojima of the Residents’ Association**
♦ Mr Kojima outlined the processes and challenges of the Biwa town revitalization project and the coordination between community initiatives and the city of Kobe;
♦ He stressed the importance of input from the community and community relationships during the recovery process.

**Q&A**
♦ Countermeasures for natural disasters other than earthquakes were river and soil control to mitigate possible water disasters, such as had happened in the past in Rokko Mountain;
♦ For future disaster management, the town would join with local schools to participate in evacuation drills a few times a year. It was important for people to get to know each other. Also, residents volunteered to work as storytellers to pass on the experience of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake to the younger generation;
♦ It was explained that the prefectural government provided funding, and the national government issued new law to facilitate funding in Hyogo. The government paid great attention to community opinion in targeting assistance;
♦ Coordinating the many and various ideas put forward by the community was one of the challenges of the restoration project. The assistance of experts and consultants was helpful in this regard.

**Site Visit: Neighbourhood of Biwa Town and its community sites**
♦ The purpose of the visit was to observe community efforts in the restoration of the town, including the new park and memorial monument. It was noted that these sites were an important reminder of the experience of disaster to pass on to the next generation.
Niigata Prefectural Office

**Courtesy call on Kurio Mori, Vice-Governor of Niigata Prefectural Office**

♦ Niigata is developing as an international city located on the Japan Sea coast with easy access to other Asian countries. Thanks to its accessibility, Niigata functions as the starting point of International exchanges.

♦ Niigata wanted to take this opportunity to foster relations between the prefecture and the participating nations on the JENESYS programme.

**JENESYS**

♦ Yosuke Kusakabe representing the Japan Foundation provided an overview of the JENESYS programme and its mission;

♦ East Asian countries were prone to natural disasters and Japan was no exception. Japan should share its knowledge and experience regarding disaster management by contributing to disaster preparedness in East Asian communities.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ Having been Director of Agriculture at the time of the Chuetsu Earthquake, Mr Mori shared his experience of delivering food supplies to the victims. It had taken a week to gather information on local needs. As to when it was appropriate to stop the food supply, his guideline was when the infrastructure was back in place—when water, gas and electricity were restored was the moment for the food supply to be terminated.

♦ Due to its geographical setting Niigata focuses on its infrastructure design—dam-building, re-designing roads and re-landscaping—as tools for disaster prevention.

**Lecture on Post-flood Restoration Works in Niigata at the Disaster Management Department**

♦ Participants learned about the flood damage and restoration project implemented by Niigata Prefecture Disaster Management Department in 2004;

♦ The Disaster Management Department introduced 5 different options for flood control: 1) Channel widening 2) Riverbed excavation 3) Bank reinforcement and levee heightening 4) installation of channels and drainage ditches and 5) anti-flood ponds.

**Lecture on Disaster Management Programme following the Chuetsu Earthquake**

♦ The two most recent large-scale earthquakes in Niigata were compared: the 2004 Mid Niigata Prefecture Earthquake and the Niigataken Chuetsu-Oki Earthquake, which happened 2 years and 8 months later. The methods of managing the crisis and measures taken were different in each case;

♦ The geo-sociological characteristics of Niigata had contributed to the damage suffered, the isolation of the community and the cutting off of lines of supply;

♦ Effort had been expended on trying to improve life for the refugees;

♦ Value was placed on having a comprehensive disaster prevention system, utilising visual information available online.

**Points raised in the Q&A**

♦ As understood, Niigata was prone to a range of natural disasters, hence the question was asked how did Niigata educate the community regarding risks? A community Self Defence organisation had been set up and since the types of hazard varied from place to place each area was encouraged to create its own hazard map for communication to the population;
♦ Regarding the 5 methods of river control, how did the costs break down and what were the pros and cons of each method?
♦ As for how to manage to relocate people living at the area needed for river construction, the answer was to set up a monetary fund to compensate residents for the loss they would necessarily suffer;
♦ As to how to respond to people at different levels financially during the restoration process, the government accorded priority to the weakest members of society. However the first stage of crisis management was to rescue everyone. Support would come from funding and aid in the form of a ‘loan’ was also available.

June 28, 2010 9:30~
Community Visit: Nagaoka City, Niigata, including Yamakoshi Village

Site Visit: Nagaoka Citizens’ Disaster Management Centre
The institution was the second disaster management centre in the city of Nagaoka, where children could learn about disaster management while having fun. Children could visit the centre even during heavy snow to play in the inside playground. In the event of a disaster, the centre would serve as storage depot for relief supplies and as a headquarters for volunteers.

The Centre displayed and provided educational tools and information points for children and visitors to learn about disaster management. Also on display was the earthquake warning system set up by the national government after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake.

Site Visit: Temporary House used in the wake of the Niigata Earthquake
The temporary houses used at the time of the Niigata Earthquake which were on display in the city came in 3 sizes to accommodate different types of household. About 460 temporary houses were built during the month after the earthquake. Questions were answered regarding the durability of these rented houses, the financial burden of renting them, leasing information, etc.

Site Visit and Lunch: Tanada, a restaurant in Yamakoshi, Nagaoka
Tanada Restaurant was established by a group of women of Yamakoshi Village who got together after the earthquake to help with the rebuilding of the community by preparing meals according to Japanese and local cuisine, using locally-grown vegetables.

Site Visit: Yamakoshi Branch of Niigata Prefectural Office
Viewing of DVD about Yamakoshi Village and its earthquake damage
Yamakoshi Village greatly valued its tradition and culture. Because of its geographical location, the village was prone to landslides and heavy snow. When the earthquake hit the fragile village, the entire population of Yamakoshi was required to evacuate and move to temporary housing. A Japanese home village full of spirit and human feeling had a struggle to survive.
Lecture by Hiroshi Inoue, a provisional reconstruction volunteer

As a provisional reconstruction volunteer, Mr. Inoue worked with the people of Yamakoshi during the process of rehabilitation of the community.

♦ Mr Inoue described the situation of Yamakoshi Village after the earthquake and the plans for the rehabilitation of the community on the return to Yamakoshi from temporary housing;
♦ Volunteers like Mr Inoue worked as mediators to help the community through the restoration process and overcome the difficulties for outsiders of working with a very close-knit, hierarchical community;
♦ Establishing good communication both internally and externally in Yamakoshi was a key factor in gaining the community’s confidence and trust.

Site Visit: Model Houses for Public Housing

Government had made available public housing as an option for residents whose homes would need to be rebuilt on their return to the village. The model house, the result of collaboration with the local community association, offered an exterior appearance that matched the traditions and scenery of the Yamakoshi area. It was designed to be resistant to heavy snow, barrier-free and used wood from Niigata. Providing this housing was a measure taken to assist the reconstruction of the community.

Site Visit: Kogomo, the most damaged settlement of Yamakoshi Village

The area had suffered from a landslide and was still undergoing anti-erosion construction at various locations. Houses buried by the landslide had been left as they were, showing the degree of damage the region had suffered.

Lecture on the revitalization effort in Yamakoshi, by Tomonobu Haga, Executive Manager of Nagaoka International Affairs Centre

♦ Mr Haga described the geographical characteristics of Niigata and the challenges presented by natural disasters;
♦ Because hierarchy was strong in the community, it was felt that the revitalization process required the ideas and networking skills of the younger generation. Diversity was introduced by these youthful volunteers and the community was continuing to grow;
♦ Villages with a long history were disappearing rapidly. When an old community was lost people realised the value of a small community. It took an outsider to recognise the importance of such cultures in order to enhance their value. A new dynamism was generated enabling people to regain pride in their community;
♦ Disaster management initiatives arising out of the Chuetsu Earthquake were shared with Sichuan, China. Experiences were communicated, and such communication helped to mobilise communities affected by disaster.

Lecture on the recovery contribution of the private sector by Fumihiko Inagaki

♦ Mr Inagaki described how the private sector and NGOs had held discussions with the communities undergoing rehabilitation following the earthquake;
♦ In 2004, the Disaster Volunteer Centre was set up, followed in 2005 by the Restoration Association, both initiatives taken by private sector. Their role was to coordinate the different sectors involved—government officials and citizens—and marry restoration planning with the needs of the community;
♦ As one of the innovative measures adopted after the earthquake, temporary reconstruction volunteers (Chiiki Fukkou Shienin) were introduced. The idea was to have third party involvement in engagement between community and government so that talks about revitalization would be more rounded, rather than focusing only on people’s bare needs and what could be done by the government to meet them;
The third-party volunteers were not there to serve; they were to encourage people to help each other and recover their lives. The idea was to focus on what people already had and make that the resource generating recovery, instead of simply providing things that were missing. The key concept was to create a society in which everyone could utilise their inner power.

**Lecture by Takumi Abe, a temporary reconstruction volunteer**

Mr Abe said Temporary Reconstruction Volunteers were organised by NGOs and funded by government. Nagaoka City had been restoring what had been damaged, but that had not led to the revitalisation of the community. The activities of various NPOs showed positive outcomes in rehabilitating the community and helping the government locate volunteers able to assume coordinating roles, according to successful examples set by NPOs.

There were 51 volunteers aged between 20-50, supporting over 100 communities. They listened to the citizens’ stories and engaged with them in various activities. By having people outside the community join in, citizens began to be curious about what went on in other regions, which stimulated them to re-evaluate their culture. Right after the earthquake it was hard for people to think positively about their community. However, spending time talking about themselves made them realise what were their vision and hopes for the community once it was back on its feet.

To break into a tightly-bonded community was difficult at first as the residents did not welcome the outsiders. Though listening to stories and engaging in sports, volunteers gradually gained acceptance and came to be trusted as teammates of the rehabilitation project of the community.

**Introduction of 2 new community-based businesses inspired by the experience of the earthquake**

♦ Introduction of Tanada, a restaurant established after the earthquake by Yamakoshi farmers’ wives. The women appreciated the help received from outsiders during the process of recovery from the earthquake and opened the restaurant as a token of appreciation, both for their community and also to be able to offer the visitors to Yamakoshi something to enjoy. All the dishes were made from locally-grown vegetables. It was an example of a community coming back to life after the trauma of disaster through interpersonal exchange;

♦ Introduction of Chuetsu Fukkou Shimin Kaigi, where women got together to create stuffed animals from towelling in the shape of elephants called makenai-zou, ‘not-defeated elephant’ as a new kind of craft-art offered in Yamakoshi, where the attractions to tourists had been limited to bull-fighting and koi carp fish. The makenai-zou project had been passed on to the Yamakoshi community from Kobe, where victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake had created makenai-zou from towels donated initially from all over the country.
July 1, 2010 10:00~
Group Presentation at the Japan Foundation, Tokyo

♦ Each group presented its topic, followed by a Q&A session with other group members.
♦ Wrap-up presentation given by Professor Tamiyo Kondo.

**Group A**
“The Role of Disaster Education in building a Society competent in Disaster Management”
Group Members:
Manish Prasad, Lim Choun Sian, Ida Ansharyani, Sang Hyun Park, Dk Siti Ummikalthum Pg Hajia Muhammad

**Group B**
“Fostering Community Involvement to build Resilience and enhance Recovery”
Group Members:
Heath Bracey, Mas Diana Binti Abdul Samat, Yin BunSopheaktra, Young Bin Kim, Tay Zar Moe Myint

**Group C**
“An Integrated Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons learned from Japan and East Asia”
Group Members:
Zhao Xu, Khounkham Douagphachone, Jennifer Clancy, Dawan Sanlee, Ninh Nguyen

**Group D**
“Disaster Prevention and People: How to Create a Strong Society”
Group Members:
Catherine Abon, Nichola Costley, Prerna Sharma, Yuko Ikenouchi, Avianto Amri
Reports from Participants
Fostering Community Resilience –
What Australia can learn from Japan.

Summary
For more than twenty years Australia’s emergency management strategies have been based on PPRR or Prevention, Preparedness Response and Recovery. This has evolved from an internal agency focus approach to community-centred focus over recent years. During this study tour in Japan there were countless excellent examples of this community-centred focus for disaster management. Whilst the disaster mitigation/disaster management processes, technology, research and disaster management centres are similar to those in Australia, I have not witnessed examples of these wonderful community initiatives back home. These experiences have left a lasting impression and my ambition is to integrate some of these elements into our agencies approach to disaster management in an effort to build greater resilience in our Australian communities.

Whilst we endeavour to prevent disaster through engineering, technology, research, mitigation processes and alike through the injection of billions of dollars we mustn’t lose focus on the importance of resilience of people within our community. A resilient community is our greatest asset during a disaster as they provide the backbone to recovery and are often the first and most effective responder. This holistic approach I witnessed in Japan empowers the community in an often helpless situation whilst reducing the social and psychological effects. The ability to help themselves and others maintains and strengthens the community and individuals’ spirit.

Significant elements learnt

1. Establishing the risk
Before we can build resilience in a community we must understand or establish exactly what the risk is. Communities will not/cannot plan or prepare effectively for disaster if they are not aware of the elements of risk present in their community. At the Asia Disaster Reduction Centre in Kobe we learnt about the “Town Watch” program. This hazard mapping system enables participants to effectively identify and illustrate hazards that existed in their communities utilising very little resources or technology. These maps are simplistic yet extremely effective in identifying and communicating the risk to the greater community.

Aside from the physical hazards that we need to recognise and identify it is imperative that we also examine the vulnerability of a community. As Professor Kondo explained “Risk = Hazard X Vulnerability”. In this application
vulnerability can be described as the characteristics of a person and their situation that influences their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural disaster. The key variables explaining difference in impact include class, occupation, caste, ethnicity, gender, disability, health status, as well as age and immigration status. Therefore we have people within the community who are physically and socially vulnerable whose needs must to be considered carefully when establishing risk.

ii. Communication

Effective communication is an essential requirement in the process of building resilience in the community and I witnessed a diverse variety of approaches during the Jenesys Program. The evolution of Government Departments and Agencies going from “talking to communities” (old approach) – “talking with communities” (new approach) was also evident in many of our visits. The power and passion of the Story Teller (Kobe Earthquake survivor) was a brilliant approach used at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe which engaged the audience and gave strong emotional links to the event. In the Takatori Neighbourhood in Kobe, volunteers disseminated information in eleven different languages via the community radio station. Other communities used newsletters and posters to educate and keep people informed. A static form of communication was witnessed in Tokyo where 2.5 million live below sea level. Low and high tide indicator marks on sign posts were used to promote awareness of the potential disaster in the event of a tsunami or the engineering measures such as flood levees / gates fail.

Although the communication mediums were diverse, the most effective approach was often informal. Facilitators working in the Yamakoshi area, Niigata during the recovery phase used informal methods of communication to break down the barriers and social hierarchy. Simply having drinks of tea with the families and allowing them to explain their experiences and concerns in their own time proved to be the best approach in many situations in comparison to structured meetings. One Facilitator who struggled to gain acceptance in the Yamakoshi area began playing a traditional Japanese ball game (gate ball) with the senior ladies in the community. Over time the trust established flowed on to their husbands and broke down the barriers leading to acceptance and fruitful discussion.

iii. Education

Educating the community forms the cornerstone of the building resilience process. There were many excellent examples during this Jenesys program however the most outstanding example of education was the Maiko High School Environmental Disaster Mitigation course in Kobe. This three year course was the first of its kind in the World and consumes one third of the student curriculum time during years 10, 11 and 12. Students learn from the Kobe Earthquake, natural and social environmental issues as well as a cooperative agreement with university researchers. Students go out into the community and teach fire drills, give lessons to elementary schools students about disaster prevention and travel overseas to work as volunteers in areas such as China and Nepal. Students who graduate often go on to further their study at university in disaster management or work for aid agencies. The benefits of this program are far reaching and diverse.

The challenge of motivating people who have not witnessed disaster was overcome by educating them about past events by many communities. The Biwa Neighbourhood erected memorial stones which commemorated those who lost their lives while reminding the community of the historic event. This community also developed a DVD to teach younger generations about the Kobe Earthquake and the heritage of the community.

iv. Leadership

The most effective way to introduce, foster and maintain resilience within a community is via strong, well respected
community leaders. Leaders who have an established level of trust and support are invaluable in bringing people together to work towards common goals. Mr Ikeda from Biwa Town in Kobe was an outstanding example of a community leader. He accepted the position just after the Kobe Earthquake whilst he was suffering from personal and financial hardship, yet managed to achieve wonderful outcomes for his community in partnership with local government departments. Mr Ikeda’s passion for Jazz music flowed onto the streets in an effort to lift the spirits of his community and he deliberately planned for attrition within the leadership group by recruiting three 40 year old members from the outset.

The ability to gel people together stand up for community values and needs is a common threat required for a successful community group or volunteer organisations during the resilience building process. This element of leadership is not only beneficial to community groups but is equally important within government organisations who are striving to establish resilience within their communities. If communities can see that this member / department have the communities well being s the priority and actions their intentions, they will become an equally accepted and valued partner in the endeavour. This was witnesses several times throughout our tour.

v. Heritage, culture and history
The Jenesys tour highlight the great importance placed on heritage and culture within the Japanese communities we visited. The bonds that this formed within the communities were remarkable in assisting people during the recovery phase of disasters affected areas and maintaining social interaction and therefore continuing the resilience pathway. Some of the transportable examples that Australia could adopt easily were found in the Yamakoshi area of Niigata. Peoples pride grew and forgotten stories were reborn when families and friends recovered old photographs of their local area and explained the heritage and culture to outsiders. These photographs formed a local gallery for all to enjoy but helped the community rebuild on a personal level.

Several senior ladies established a community restaurant with the assistance of the recovery fund. The idea was established while they were housed in emergency housing as the ladies reminisced about traditional recipes. Now they have developed an organic garden that supplies the produce for the restaurant and this meeting place harbours the community spirit. Other important cultural and heritage based activities included bull fighting, rice pounding festivals, portable shrines and bucket fire drills. Mr Ikeda explained “we know that more modern techniques will be use to put out the fire but this brings people together to meet each other and create a connection with what happened.”

vi. Social aspects
We now know that people who are socially linked to their community have greater resilience due to many factors. They’re often better informed, they share resources and information, and they are more confident / capable at the crucial the time of a disaster due to their preparation and usually help each other during a crisis, both physically and emotionally. As mentioned before we witnessed many examples of deliberate social interaction on numerous levels however the instance of social behaviour that holds firm in my mind was from Mr Ikeda in Biwa Town, Kobe. When asked what would you do / like to see done differently after the Great Hanshin Earthquake he explained that the emergency housing priority went to the elderly and disabled rather than whole communities moving together as one. Mr Ikeda went on to explain that for many elderly and disabled people this compounded their hardship as some could not function without their neighbours and friends assistance and support on an emotional or physical level. Many of these people lost the will to live and numerous died prematurely as a result. He explained that he felt proud that New Orleans (Hurricane Katrina) had learnt from this Kobe experience and as a result moved whole communities together into emergency housing.
vii. Working together with all stakeholders

The evolution of government departments going from “planning for communities” to “planning with communities” was evident in so many of our visits. Having your voice heard by others and sharing ideas helps to form a sense of ownership with the community. The 1980 act which states that Japanese communities and NPO’s must be consulted to work together in a partnership for change is a testimony to the great outcomes we experienced. The partnerships that were formed post disaster in Japan have continued and grow in many instances to achieved ongoing benefits for the community. Mr Ikeda explained that “the Government listened very carefully during the consulting process” to rebuild the houses in Kobe. He went on to describe that the government are now providing funding to strengthen those houses built prior to the 1980 building code.

In the Takatori Neighbourhood the residents were consulted and established themes for each alley or street. They created and agreed on designs and names for their streets and plaques were made which went into the ground. Many of the residents in this area of Kobe had to give up land during the redevelopment phase in order to widen the roads and create new public open spaces. Not only were there many examples of communities working with outside agencies but Kobe had a network of community groups which come together once a month since 2003 to hold workshops, share initiatives and resolve problems. The Kobe City Government helped start these community groups by providing assistance with administration and consulting needs when they first began.

viii. Rebuilding process

Giving a sense of ownership and involvement during the rebuilding process is imperative to restore the communities pride and enthusiasm after a disaster. This in turn helps with the healing process and the building of resilience as people come together to work towards common goals that they share. We viewed many excellent examples of engineering and technological processes that Japan has adapted however the socially linked courses of action were of greatest interest to me.

The creation of memorials not only recognises those who lost their lives but also teaches generation to come of the disaster and the need to remain vigilant about preparing for another occurrence. Residents of the Yamakoshi area held a closing ceremony of the emergency housing estate. I believe this gave them closure to this chapter of their lives as Mr Inoue explained “life in the refugee camps was very difficult”. The first thing the people of this are did when they returned home after the earthquake and flood was (a) recovered and restored the cemetery, (b) built a shrine and (c) started to rebuild their own homes. The culture and heritage in this area is very strong so this determined their level of importance when it came to the rebuilding phase.

My favourite community base recovery project that we learnt about was the construction of a stream through a neighbourhood in Kobe. The significance of this stream is diverse. It acts as reminder of the Great Hanshin Earthquake and the difficulty that people had to survive without any water. This steam will provide water in the event of a similar occurrence but what I find equally important is the social aspect of the stream. Twice a month the community comes together to help clean and maintain the stream – this is a recognised element of connectivity between the community that has helped build and maintain resilience.
Challenges within Australia

In Australia our greatest natural disaster is wildfire. I believe the people at greatest risk in our communities are those that live on what we call the urban fringe. This is the areas where housing estates or suburbs meet and integrate with the natural landscape / bush. Unlike rural communities, the people that live in these areas are often transient to some extent and therefore do not build the strong community bonds and ownership that are often found in rural communities. Many of these people work / commute in the city and have not experienced wildfire first hand. Due to their busy lives, few of these residents are involved in community base organisations and it is common to have no or little social links to their neighbours. It is well documented that people who are socially linked to their community have greater resilience, so how do we get these people involved?

Motivating the community to get involved, especially if they have not been affected by natural disaster before is a somewhat difficult task. Mr Kawai from the Takatori Community in Kobe explained his motivational phrase that he uses with a smile;

• “If you are like in your community you will be rescued first.”
• “If you are disliked, people will still remember you, so they will look for you.”
• “If you are invisible in your community you will not be noticed as missing.”

Finding willing leaders within said communities is another challenge. Utilising existing community groups, sporting groups or local government identities is possibly the most successful source as these people have an established level or trust and rapport in the district.

 Outsider’s being accepted is also another hurdle of this process. Creating the connectivity and partnerships between those people who want to assist in the building of resilience and the community can be difficult due to a number of factors. These can include social hierarchy, scepticism and predecessors failure to complete what they had promised.

Educating communities and government departments of the importance in fostering resilience is a task. I don’t believe that enough importance is placed on establishing resilience as part of our holistic approach to protecting our communities.

There is a divide within our Nation as to the correct balance of the environment and living in bushfire prone areas. In order to live safely in the bushfire prone habitat we must often modify the surroundings – reduce the amount of available fuel. This is achieved through controlled burning or the removal of trees etc... Striking the correct balance whilst keeping all stakeholders content is a large challenge we face when attempting to mitigate this risk.

Key initiative to adopt

It seems unjust to select one model however a transportable example I believe my agency and Australia could adopt is Japans Disaster Reduction Day / Week. This occurs on the September 1st each year and runs for a week. Activities include the Disaster Reduction Fair, seminars, disaster reduction drills and exercises and a national disaster reduction poster competition.

My vision is to introduce a similar program here in Australia with the focus on bushfire reduction initially. It could be
aligned with International Day for Disaster Reduction in mid October as this is close to the start of our Fire Season. I envisage incentives for the best prepared communities similar to our current “Tidy Towns” awards, local government giving free entry to waste disposal areas so people are encouraged to remove fuel from around their homes, equipment hire companies giving discounts for the hire of machinery and trailers to reduce hazards and emergency services / agencies participating in education programs, exercises and drills.

What is the key to success?
We cannot prevent all natural disasters but we can build resilience in our communities. One size does not fit all when we are examining our ability to foster resilience however the elements that continue to surface with immense importance, both in Japan and Australia have become clearer to me. They include close knit communities or community groups, community involvement, strong leadership, clearly identified risks and goals, collaboration between all stakeholders, effective and continual communication, embracing the heritage, culture and history of the community and the building of trust between outsiders and the community.

From what I experienced and encountered during this Jenesys Program, Japan does and extremely good job at fostering resilience within their communities. I have learnt a great deal from this wonderful opportunity and hope to implement many elements. I am truly grateful to the Japanese Government, the Japan Foundation and the Jenesys Program. Thank you.

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Building a Culture of Safety and Resilience: lessons learned from Japan

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, lists ‘building a culture of safety and resilience’ as one of five priorities for action in order to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 (UNISDR, 2005). This idea of a ‘culture of safety’ resonated with me during the JENESYS program, which saw us learning about Disaster Prevention and People: Working toward the Creation of a Strong Society in Kobe, Tokyo and Niigata. The program highlighted that while Japan is renowned for its scientific and technical expertise in disaster risk reduction, equally as impressive, and perhaps even more distinctive to Japanese society is the way that it has effectively fostered a culture of safety and resilience.

Since returning to Australia I have been reflecting on factors that make communities resilient to disasters. While I recognise that there are a multitude of factors that increase resilience to natural disasters, three key actions struck me as contributing to a culture of safety in the communities that we visited in Japan: strong community ties; effective disaster risk reduction education; and learning and remembering lessons from the past.

Fostering Strong Community Ties

Mr Kawai from Takatori community in Kobe summed up the importance of strong community ties post-disaster when he stated that, ‘if you’re popular in your neighbourhood you can get rescued first. If you are disliked, people will still remember you and look for you. If you are invisible in the community, people will not know you are missing and will not come looking for you’. While this statement is humorous, it underscores the importance of being socially linked with your neighbours and the broader community. Reinforcing this point, the Kobe City Office outlined that after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 1995, 77 percent of all people rescued were rescued by their neighbours.

Close communities can identify those among them who are most vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards, such as the elderly, the very young and people with disability, and ensure that they receive the attention they need before, during and after a disaster. I was fortunate to live in a close-knit community when the Canberra bushfires occurred in 2003. Because my neighbours knew that I was at home alone, and so was my elderly neighbour Len, they helped us prepare our houses for the on-coming fires, and helped us extinguish spot fires around our houses which saved our homes. Our visit to the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre in Kobe showed us a useful tool - Town Watching - for identifying local vulnerabilities to hazards present in an area. Town watching is essentially community-based hazard mapping, but importantly involves
collaboration between local residents, local government and natural hazard experts, to build a holistic picture of hazards and communities’ vulnerabilities and also capacities to resist disasters.

An important aspect of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery is ensuring that a community ‘builds back better’: that is, it identifies the social and structural causes of damage, and ensures these vulnerabilities are not rebuilt (UNISDR 2009). Building back better is not just about rebuilding stronger physical infrastructure, but also about rebuilding stronger communities. This was a recurring theme in all of the communities we visited in Kobe and Niigata that had experienced a disaster. In post-disaster recovery in all of these communities, there has been a strong focus on promoting and maintaining community relationships through conducting festivals, creating public spaces and strengthening community organisations.

I was particularly impressed by the way the community in Yamakoshi in Niigata Prefecture had rebuilt a stronger community in the aftermath of the 2004 earthquake. Through the use of ‘facilitators’ - external volunteers who spent time in the community helping with the recovery effort and listening to the experiences of survivors – residents of Yamakoshi developed a stronger sense of pride in local traditions and customs. Local residents stated that the ‘facilitators’ helped them realise the value of the strong community ties in Yamakoshi, and how this had helped lessen the impact of the earthquake. They also stated that they were able to see the disaster as an opportunity to further strengthen the community so that it is more resilient in the face of natural hazards. The strong community ties of the residents of Yamakoshi are evidenced by the order in which they rebuilt the area; of priority was recovering the community graveyard, then rebuilding the community shrine before they rebuilt their own individual houses.

Sometimes ‘building back better’ after a disaster is only realistic if communities work together to do so. After the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake and ensuing fires devastated the communities of Takatori and Biwa in Kobe, both areas gathered wide-spread community commitment to ‘build back better’. Residents of Takatori sacrificed their personal interests for the safety of the greater community when they voted to reduce the size of their individual blocks of land to make way for wider streets and open community spaces. As a result of this agreement, roads in Takatori have been widened from three to six metres, ensuring the community is more resilient to fire and earthquake risk.

**Education for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Safe communities are those that know their disaster risk profile, and also know options and strategies for reducing disaster risk. Formal and informal education thus plays an important role in building resilient communities and fostering a culture of safety.

The example of formal education that impressed me the most during the JENESYS program was the Environment and Disaster Mitigation Course offered by Maiko High School in Kobe. This program sees students undertaking disaster mitigation classes for their three senior years at high school, where they cover a diverse range of subjects including: geology, geography, community empowerment, disaster management law, disaster preparedness and importantly, lessons learned from the Kobe earthquake. There are also practical aspects of the course such as training with the Kobe Fire Service, volunteer and cultural exchange opportunities (including to China and Nepal) and ‘Town Watching’ in hazard prone areas. The students not only share their knowledge with their local communities, but also teach lessons on disaster resilience at nearby elementary schools, and share lessons from Japan internationally while on overseas exchanges. It was inspiring seeing young people who were so passionate about sharing their knowledge on disaster reduction within...
The ‘story teller’ program at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution's Disaster Reduction Museum was one of the most impressive forms of ‘informal’ disaster reduction education I have ever seen. While the museum had very impressive multimedia displays about the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, hearing one man’s experiences of the earthquake and the impact it had on his life, was much more powerful. When I returned to Australia, the first experience from the JENESYS program that I shared with my family and friends was listening to the story teller in Kobe. I am sure that the numerous children that have visited the museum have also shared this experience within their communities.

Learning and Remembering Lessons from the Past

There have been many lessons learnt from the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and it was very positive to see that these lessons are being shared across Japan and across the world. Professor Kondo outlined to the group the lessons that had been learnt in Japan about planning for recovery as an important aspect of risk reduction. One such lesson she outlined was the importance of keeping communities together in the aftermath of a disaster in order to avoid ‘recovery disasters’ such as solitary deaths and a breakdown in community ties. These lessons were applied after the 2004 earthquake in Niigata, where whole communities were moved to temporary housing together, rather than separating communities and concentrating the most vulnerable (such as the elderly and the disabled) in one place.

Many of the communities we visited underscored the importance of ensuring the experiences from past disasters are not forgotten. In my opinion, this is a major factor that has created a culture of safety in Japan. Every level of Japanese society, from the National Government to local communities, is involved in these efforts. Indeed, 1 September is celebrated as ‘Disaster Reduction Day’ in Japan in which many schools and businesses practice disaster preparedness.
drills and raise awareness about disaster reduction.

The community leaders in Takatori and Biwa in Kobe outlined that as young children growing up in Kobe today did not experience the earthquake in 1995, it is the responsibility of the community to ensure that they are taught about the event, and do not feel complacent about natural hazards. Both communities have earthquake memorials to honour those who lost their lives in the tragedy, and to remain as reminders to generations to come.

It is a testament to the resilience of the local people and communities in Kobe that they have rebuilt their city into a safer place to live, and that the city has become a world leader in disaster risk reduction. It was truly an honour to meet the people of Biwa and Takatori in Kobe, and Yamakoshi and Nagaoka in Niigata and to hear their stories of resilience in the face of Japan’s many natural hazards.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Japan Foundation and the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program for this opportunity. This report contains only a few of the valuable lessons I have learnt from the program, and have been able to share with my family, friends and colleagues. The opportunity to meet like-minded young people from across the region, and to learn and share lessons with them has been invaluable, and one that I will never forget. Thank you!
DISASTER AND PREVENTION: "STAKEHOLDER..WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD UP A STRONGER SOCIETY"

Brunei Darussalam is an independent sultanate on the northwest coast of the island of Borneo in the South China Sea, wedged between the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. It is Constitutional sultanate rule by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadulah Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam since 1967.

Brunei Darussalam geographical Land area: 2,035 sq mi (5,271 sq km); total area: 2,228 sq mi (5,770 sq km) with a population of approximately 374,57 people. Brunei Population includes people from various ethnic groups such as Chinese (15%), Malay (67%), Indigenous (6%) and other groups (12%). Though primarily Brunei is a Muslim country, people who belong to some religion also inhabit this place. People follow several religions such as Muslim (67%), Christian (10%) and Buddhist (13%).

Brunei Darussalam same with the other countries all over the world are prone to such disaster such as flood, landslide, bush fire, haze and wind gust. With the National Disaster Centre (DMC) being set up hopefully will help Brunei Darussalam to be prepared for the worst to come, but yet in terms of technology, knowledge, expertise etc still a lot of things need to be done, improve and learn. This is not only the government but the society and the community themselves has to play their role in preparing themselves in building up resilience, strong society in disaster prevention, management and mitigation.

Being chosen to be part of the 12 days JENESYS program where I get to visit Tokyo, Kobe and Niigata had taught me very well with regards to Disaster; how it happen, to experience the effect of the earthquake, how the community are coping, the strong bond made by the community, the initiative taken by the government as well as the community in Japan, all the research being done and being share to the world and to visit the area as well as the effect of the several earthquake and to be in Japan has broaden my knowledge, open my eye and awaken me as a whole about Disaster.

KNOWLEGDE GAIN FROM THE PROGRAM:

1. THE GOVERNMENT

In Japan, the Central Government, the Local Government and the Prefectural Government each play their role in establishing, implementing and conducting disaster countermeasures in disaster risk prevention, disaster management and mitigation, disaster reduction and etc. Various actions have been taken by the central and local governments to
mitigate earthquake disasters such as issuing of regulations by the central government for promoting seismic retrofit of old buildings and many local governments provide free seismic evaluation to the citizens and prepare subsidy for retrofit of old wooden houses, widening the road etc.

2. EDUCATION:
Disaster Education is important as it the “first Aid” for every individual and community. Through education, it could help us not only to be prepared but damage and the effect will also be minimized and fast recovery of the society and community as a whole. In Japan what I had learn the government and the community are helping each other in educating its population on Disaster Education. These are being done through:

Formal Education:
Formal educations on disaster in Japan are being carried out in Maiko High School. The school starts in April 2002, 7 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Disaster. The purpose to start the environment and disaster mitigation course is to send the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Disaster to the world and make the citizens aware and prepared to cope with the disasters. Throughout the course hopefully makes the students think of the importance of life, cultivates the students’ power against disasters, and brings up the human beings who can contribute to the society. Through this program as well will help students to understand deeply about the various environments.

Linking themselves with other universities, research institutes and organizations improve their knowledge on the environment and disaster mitigation and with their main ”Think Globally, Act Locally” will help the student bring up the individuals who can take actions independently.

Sharing and Caring session:
Student take their initiative in sharing out their knowledge on disaster with other school in Japan. They also conduct evacuation drill, fire drill and survival skill outside their school.

Volunteer work:
This fascinates me the most, where student are willing to spend their summer vacation doing volunteer work. Many young generations should take example of this. Not only with regards to disaster, but this student sometimes goes to unfortunate home just to help to clean up their home by doing gardening and as well to check on their situation.

Informal Education:
Educations on Disaster are not only done formally but as well as informally for the public. The NPO plays it role in education the public, they help to facilitate the community to cope and to learn about disaster. Not only that the NPO help to deliver information to community such as new ways on disaster risk reduction as well as facilitate hazard, vulnerability, risk and capacity assessment to the public. Research Centre help to educate the public and the community by providing a centre that are open daily for public visit, as well as teaching community in making Hazard Mapping.

3. COMMUNITY:
Since Great Hanshin-Awaji Disaster, many voluntary disaster management organizations have been established in the community level and voluntary activities for disaster mitigation have been conducted widely. It really touches me to see how community in Japan able to recover and hence build up a stronger, prepared, education and well aware community.
Not only that community are making it initiative to improve their environment and society by using their own budget and at the same time invite government employee to give talk. In Biwa Town, I learn that the society are not waiting for their government but yet they make their own initiative by allocating their budget in order to educate their younger generation which one is being done by producing documented stories of the earthquake on DVD. In Yamakoshi Area, where the effect of the earthquake and heavy flood was really devastating, I learn how the community recover up from their experience, how the younger generation try to get them to be accepted in the community, to make the resident open to changes in order to make a better and secure living are. The most important part, is where even the community are forcing themselves to stand up and move ahead and at the same time respect the other that live who live in the past by building up of community memorial park and community festival are being carried out yearly to remember those who had died during the great earthquake.

4. Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ARDC) and Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. The Center works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges. Here they also teach and share with the public and community how to do Hazard mapping technique. This gain my interest as through this mapping, community will be able to point out places that are safe, which place or road need to be renovated, what are the thing need to be improve and etc within their area.

The DRI is a unique earthquake museum aim at preserving and transferring live experiences and lesson of the local people in order to create a better future for all. Exposure to such exhibits and information was very impressive and motivating for me. It tough me how important it is to educate the public especially the younger generation so that they would forget how important it is to always be prepared. The facilities, the information given during this visit was a mind blowing experience, especially to see the history of the earthquake, to experience the shake, to see ad to hear the experience of the people who had survive the earthquake and the damage that had been done during that time.

I realized how this centre are trying hard in order to educate and to tell their young generation on the danger and the important of being prepared all the time for any disaster to come and hence not to forget the past experience that they had and how they can learn and adopt lesson from it.

5. CULTURE AND TRADITION:

For the past 12 days visit to Tokyo, Kobe and Niigata, I get to visit historical places, to feel, to experience to live in the Japanese way of living. In Palace of the royal families, to see the whole process before and after the earthquake that hit Kobe City in 1995, we also got the chance to eat the best rice in Japan at the Yamakoshi area and try the Hot Spring bath in Niigata. I appreciated the effort of Japan foundation to conduct the educational 12 days visit to us as within those 12 days we get to learn Japanese word, eat Japanese food and sleep in Japanese style.

Conclusion:

Natural Disaster is the effect of natural hazard such s flood, typhoon, etc that effect the environment and leads to financial and human losses as well. But however through programs like this the losses could be minimised, prevention can be made and lots could be done and at the same time prepare us for the worst to come.

Reports from Participants
Through this fruitful program, I could share back all the informative ideas and new information on disaster management, disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation etc to the relevant agencies especially to the National Disaster Management Centre (DMC) Brunei Darussalam. Lots I had learn on disaster education, some of the ideas that I am really interested to learn more is on the early warning system, flood control system and the Hazard mapping. All these three technique is very suitable with the situation in Brunei Darussalam where we frequently experience flood.

APPRECIATION:

I would like to thank the Japan foundation, JENESYS for giving me the chance to be part of this fruitful and educative program. It was a real pleasure to be part of the group learning from different countries situation and hence learn from the first hand experience in Japan. It was a well organized, very informative program with warm hospitality given along the program being conducted.

Last but not least, always remember that when it comes to disaster it is always going to be everyone business.
JAPAN- Disaster Prevention and People: Fostering Strong Society

“The formula for achieving a successful relationship is simple: you should treat all disasters as if they were trivialities but never treat a triviality as if it were a disaster” – Quentin Crisp, British Author.

Japan is alive with its culture heritage, traditions and beautiful scenery. Despite of the beauty, Japan is located in the circum-Pacific mobile zone where seismic and volcanic activities occur constantly. Thus frequent natural disasters such as earthquake, heavy rains and heavy snow occur quite high.

Memorial Year 1995.1.17 5:46AM, fifteen years has passed since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Massive vertical-thrust earthquake registered of magnitude of 7.3 high, about 6,437 of the population dead or missing. The result to that gives a number of positive incentives from the community, society and as well as the government to build-up their strategies, expertise, lesson learnt to promote towards disaster management and prevention, disaster recovery, as well as to be prepared for future upcoming.

Taking the positive incentives, those engage me as one of the JENESYS participant in this program. Being as educator, involvement throughout the programs thus gives outstanding knowledge and eye opener. In my current position as an educator with the Ministry of Education, I have gained insight into a broad range of issues and challenges to build up resilience/ strong society and disaster prevention in Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam growing population is creating the needs for such developing more expertise, practices and more things to be carry out for Brunei and society development and preparedness. Thus, it gives me more enthusiastic to take these incentives and be an important role as Brunei citizen.

What does the concept of this program: Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society? How we can effectively carry it out?

From three major cities visited; Tokyo, Kobe and Niigata in Japan, we witnessed the beneficial in gaining an insight into the past problem encounter. My motivation for participating in the JENESYS future leaders study tour were to exchange ideas, discuss practice, strategies and challenges, gather solutions and lesson learnt from Japan, as well as with other countries.
Lesson learnt from the program

Lesson One: Government Support and role.
To protect the national land, property and citizens lives from the natural disaster is the top priority for any country including Japan and Brunei. Lesson learnt from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and other disaster happened such as massive flooding and severe fire, thus further strengthen the government in disaster management system and countermeasures. Within the system, every organization of the National government has their clear roles and responsibilities in implementing various disaster countermeasures in all phases of prevention, mitigation and preparedness, emergency response as well as recovery and rehabilitation.

Lesson Two: Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)
These DRI is founded by Hyogo Prefecture with the support from Japanese government. The research Institution is one of the institution aims to cultivate a disaster culture, mitigating the social vulnerability and to develop policies for disaster reduction. These hereby contributing to educate, and to realize a safer and more secure society.

Furthermore, what fascinates about DRI institution is that these institution act as international research based which also disseminating information on effective measures and strategies for all types of disasters through:

1. Museum exhibits: where collaboration with the disaster victims, local citizens and volunteers exhibits live experiences and lessons of the Earthquake to people. One of the activities is the re-experience from the earthquake. Theater rooms showing the tragic moment happen. Visitors can experience of the tremendous destructive power of the earthquake through the big screen and sound. The exhibit of realistic street display where visitor walk at the street just after the earthquake. Then entering the Movie hall where documentary film showing the town, the people and hazard. Movie showed just before hazard happened, during the recovery and reconstruction process after the earthquake to present day.

2. Exhibits the memories of the earthquake. Pictures of people lives, reconstruction process of the town after the earthquake are also displayed with graphics. Storytellers’ corner are another interest activities where volunteer victim from the earthquake talk about their stories and experience. I personally not just remember this experience, but as well as felt the impact from this learning experience more effective.

3. Other than exhibition, DRI also carry out action research on disaster reduction and development of disaster reduction professionals. One of the researches that has been display is the building construction materials interventions.

Lesson Three: Maiko High School
Maiko High School is the only one school in Japan who carry out Environment and Disaster Mitigation course in their curriculum. The main purpose of these course is to grow, educate the citizens with disaster mitigation literacy which consists of three factors: fundamental knowledge and fundamental skills to cope with the upcoming disasters, and building up the strong will to contribute to the society.

What is interesting with this education?
Here the students have to know the community they live in and think what they can do in the community. Activities
learn, educate and the benefits not just the students themselves but as well as the community nearby.

The education activities are also wide and various. Guests as teachers are invited to class to talk about the lessons and recovery of Kobe Earthquake. The learning is not limited in the campus itself. They also learn from off-campus activities such as training experience at the Kobe Fire Academy, interview and town watching at disaster affected area, visits disaster related place and museums and so on. Moreover, the students are also being taught to teach young pupils in elementary school nearby. They teach Kobe earthquake, disaster preparedness, scientific experiments and making Hazard or safety map together with the pupils. The students also actively involve to carry out community disaster drills, to attend workshop and conferences where they present their experience and practices at school and in disaster areas.

When disaster happen in other area, not just local but outside Japan, students also take part in volunteer activities such as interview to the affected people, mud cleaning activity at the flooded area, donations raising campaign. Student exchange program on disaster also carry out every year such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Sichuan in China to exchange the experience and culture.

Through the learning experience both the experience of the disaster, building up the disaster mitigation, pacing the challenges and strategies carry out by experience of practical study thus is the result of this Maiko High School: The environment and disaster mitigation course. It is not just to raise experts but as well as to foster better leader of the society and the country.

**How this program will help you in the future career?**

Brunei Darussalam is not spared from the effect of climate change, even though our experience on natural disaster has been limited to flash flood, landslide, strong wind, forest fires and haze. However, we found their occurrences become more frequent and leaving behind more serious damages. Brunei National Disaster Management (NDMC) had learnt from previous hazards and floods, the need to enhance our forecasting system, flood prediction and as well as flood mitigation efforts. Our meteorological radar will be improved for better resolution, accurate and timely weather information.

As an educator and administrative, I have put my commitment to myself to educate, involve and talk not only with my students and school but as well as to the nearby community about the important of disaster prevention, countermeasures to foster strong society and country against upcoming hazard. In order to mobile this idea, I am planning to take part and share the ideas to relevant stakeholders such as Drainage and Sewage Department program, village community and NGOs to promote and carry out the preparedness and mitigation programs.

**Overall evaluation of the program**

There is a great concern over the disaster prevention, mitigation, and working to build and foster strong society against disaster. Education and awareness also take an important role. Building networking with other country and its culture, lesson learnt from their experiences, strategies and practices that countries including Japan carry out have given the most fruitful knowledge for us.

There is no doubt that the program have well planned and thoroughly thought, where various lectures and site visits of relevant areas make the overall objectives of the program is outstandingly accomplished. The program has greatly
enhanced my understanding both positives and negatives examples of managing the challenges and approaches of the Japanese government, other organizations, NGOs and NPOs toward the disaster prevention and management. Not only was the program bursting with dedicated and motivational speakers, valuable knowledge and information, amazing and incredibly worthwhile experience. It is something I will remember forever, as I will continue discussions with the International friends and colleagues, which will have a great impact on my career.

Last but not least, I would like to express my utmost appreciation to Japan Foundation for the generosity, well organized and insightful program. Not forgetting the warm hospitality of the Japan Foundation’s staffs and representatives. Thank you.
Within the total area is 181,035 km² Cambodia situated in the Indochinese peninsula, Cambodia is bordered by Thailand and Laos on the north and Vietnam on the east and south. The Gulf of Thailand is off the western coast. The country consists chiefly of a large alluvial plain ringed by mountains, and on the east is the Mekong River. The plain is center around Lake Tonle Sap, which is natural storage basic of the Mekong.

Cambodia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Southeast Asia. The main disasters faced in Cambodia are linked to the annual cycle of flooding of the river systems which takes place during the rainy season (mid-May to mid-November). Whilst agricultural production is dependent on this annual flooding cycle, particularly severe floods in recent years (notably 2000, 2001 and 2002), together with prolonged periods of dry weather, have caused considerable economic damage, losses in rice production and a number of fatalities. Another type of disaster is flash floods which may occur during the rainy season. Further hazards are storms, as well as annual cycles of insect/pest infestation which may affect agricultural production.

A large segment of the population lives in the flood plains of the Mekong and Tonle Sap Watersheds. Natural disasters have had significant impacts on the country’s people and economy. For example, floods accounted for 70 percent of rice production losses between 1998 and 2002, while drought accounted for 20 percent. Cambodia is one of the countries at a relatively high economic risk from multiple natural hazards. About one tenth of the total area of the country is estimated to be at risk from two or more hazards. Moreover, 31.3 percent of the population and 34.5 percent of GDP are estimated to live in areas of risk from two or more hazards (Dilley et al. 2005).

What I have learn from this study tour
- Integration of disaster mitigation into Maiko High School which is very importance to promote young generation in disaster management. The disaster mitigation education is based on the great Hanshin Awaji disaster. It also make the students think the importance of life, cultivate the student’s power against disaster and bring up the human being who can contribute to the society. In Maiko High School which relate to disaster mitigation they have real practiced such as drill, evacuation, survival exercises, etc. among school community, parents / families, guest teacher by invite teacher from outside who have experience with disaster, international exchange and contribution, volunteer activity like help other community who affected by disaster, study with primary school pupils.
- Community network in Japan is very strong. From the visit of Noda north community and Biwa town in Kobe, and the community in Niigata those community usually have a weekly meeting which discuss on how to make their community getting better, they have produce the DVD on the great Hanshin Awaji disaster to educate young generation so they will not forget about this experience. Worked closely with others widen streets, public
- Strong land use planning based on the great Hanshin Awaji disaster to avoid serious affected by disaster especially earthquake.
- Disaster prevention like landslide through constructs the dam to reduce the power of landslide. Reforest the tree on the mountain to prevent landslide or flood.
- Using Democratic system in community: after the great Hanshin Awaji disaster most of their residents were affected. In that time the community members had conduct the meeting to discuss about solution to develop their community. Some among of all community members did not agree with each other because the develop plan can decrease their land but finally they agreed together through voting by use majority, explanation the important of community development, etc.
- Story teller who experience with the great Hanshin Awaji disaster in Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI). It is very interesting because the story teller had described about the real situation that happen in that time. Example: before earthquake he never think that the flashlight was importance, during earthquake the first thing that he need was flashlight in order to find his members in the house so after the earthquake he realize that it is very importance and until now the flashlight always near him in the night.
- Community documentation: it is very important to make the young generation remember the real situation when the first hand people who in disaster situation pass away. They produce like a DVD, leaflet, documentation, museum, make memory place, etc.
- Exchange of experience sharing from the various country participants on disaster risk reduction.
- Constant awareness of disaster (Town watching system) is a tool whereby all stakeholders in the community work together through the process of developing a hazard map. They have to know their town/field survey by walk around the street in local community, looking to identify and study advantageous points (useful facilities, evacuation routes, etc.), disadvantage points (too steep slope for evacuation, etc.) and other importance aspect relevant to disaster reduction. They make note and take photographs. After that they have to create a community based hazard map, manually integrating their observation and finding on a large scale based map by using colors differentiation to facilitate visual understanding and attached photo to note on the map. Then they discuss problems that they have identified and consider possible solution for effective disaster reduction in the community.

**Challenges/barrier to my country**

- **Financial constraints**: because of my country is developing country so the financial is really an importance constraint to disaster prevention like construct dam, or other high technology like GPS to overlook all cities.
- Educational barriers and resources
- Finding willing leaders
- Gaining support from communities that are yet be effected
- Motivating people to be involved
New technology
- Reaching isolated communities

Conclusion
It was a well organized workshop, it reach the schedule proposed. The most interesting learning was that the promotion of disaster risk reduction concept – and how to do it. Exchange of experience from various countries in the workshop, cultural, food and people of Japan.

I am Yin Bunsopheaktra, I graduated the Bachelor degree in Business Management in University of Cambodia in 2007. I started work as Administrator in Medical Engineering team project in Cambodian Red Cross in early 1999. After this project finished, I applied as trainer in Community Based Disaster Preparedness project in Cambodian Red Cross until now. I was so happy for study tour to Japan on Disaster Prevention because I learned a lot of things from Japan like culture, food, people, the way of their work, disaster management from various countries participants and Japan people, community network, etc. I would like to say thank you to JENESYS Future Leaders Programme “Disaster Prevention and People: Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society” that give this opportunity to me and I will apply and share what I learned from the study tour to my real work and my people.
What do the Community-Based Organizations do? 
--The role of the CBO after the Disaster

Background: According to the data, in the first half of 2010, the disaster rate has been reached 10 times more than previous years. Large-scale natural disasters repeatedly occur in China. These natural disasters threatened our life and safety and destroyed our valuable infrastructure and cultural environments. In particular, how to recover from severe damages and lower the pains we have suffered, we are paying great efforts in the field of disaster reduction. Japan’s advanced technologies in this field are now gathering worldwide attention. To share those technologies and practices, Japan Foundation has organized a program named Disaster Prevention and People-Working toward the Creation of a Strong Society.

Since June 22 to July 1, 20 young people in the East Asian countries from various fields such as administrators, teachers, NGO members, journalists, researchers, artists, community leaders have gathered in Japan and took part in JENESYS program which had organized by Japan Foundation. We have visited the local government, academics as well as local communities in Japan. We have learned large amount of cases about the emergency and reduction management system and experiences from Japan, and we also have understood the importance of good cooperation among government, academics, NGOs and communities.

As one of an NGO staff, I really appreciated the chance to join the program. Our organization have built a participatory pilot in Sichuan disaster areas for reduction since 2008 until 2009. I have worked as a Project Coordinator and offered Participatory Reduction trains to government stuffs, community leaders and members as well as volunteers in Sichuan disaster areas. We also have built a community-based organization that could focus to the needs of community, and serve the residents in the period of reduction. Although we have succeeded in the pilot project, we are still confusing and facing many challenges. I went to Japan with those confusions and questions, and I got some of the answers during JENESYS program.

No matter in Sichuan disaster areas where we have worked or in Osaka and Kobe disaster areas in Japan, the reduction after disaster usually experience three steps- three-month emergency relief, three-years infrastructure construction and period of recovery. Community organizations and NGO have great effect on each step. Since I had the work experience in Sichuan disaster areas, I have paid great attention to the recovery of disaster areas when I visited Japan. I have learned a lot from their practices.
1 The Case about the Public Participatory for The Housing Construction

The north community of YECHUAN city has impressed me a lot. Soon after the 1995 earthquake, the community have established the construction committee, gathered the residents to talk about the reduction plan. At the very beginning, the residents from north community advised that they should rebuild and expand the central park so that the park could benefit them better. New park have not only sustained the old style, but also kept the flag to symbolize the strong spirit of local community. In addition, the residents from all over the world made a community convention which had 13 different languages on it and put it in the most visible position. Most interesting thing in the community is that they have particular different street signs which are designed by some of the local residents. “They love the signs because they made it by themselves”, the leader of the community said proudly.

But some of the residents have showed their different idea towards the plan they had already made. Fewer people should not follow more people’s idea. But it is not enough to solve all the problems. So they had organized a meeting and showed the reconstruction plans to everyone, let them voted and made a decision again. People who have the different idea could tell their ideas and the housing committee showed it in public and got more information and ideas until most people agree all the plans.

The residents totally involved in the plan of the community reduction. It was not only showed in the housing construction and road building, but also created strong sense of belonging. They witnessed the dream of new homeland so they could get out of the shadows soon after the disaster.

2 Yamakoshi Daining: Capacity-based community rebuilding

Niigata has witnessed 7 Richter degree earthquake at 2004. Different from Kobe, there are lots of people live as farmers in Niigata. They moved into the temporary houses and lived there for 2 to 3 years. Those people who had not know each other before the disaster; have been good friends after they live together in temporary houses. After the reduction, those good neighbors have established lots of local organizations Yamakoshi Daining is one of them.

It was established by the local women. They had always planted and enjoyed their country life before the earthquake. After the disaster, they wanted to do something together. Since they all are good at cook, they decided to run a small restaurant. They plant the vegetables together and cook it together for the guests. They get lots of registration in spring and summer. Many urban people drive several hours here to enjoy the food in Yamakoshi Daining.

Usually, women are regarded as vulnerable groups and they need many help. When they being asked what they could do, they are not very confident. But the ladies of Yamakoshi created a famous tourist place for local area. I really knew the strong abilities of community residents.

The running model of the organization, made me thinking a lot about the community services nowadays. We did lots of community projects just to meet the problems and need that exist in the community. The results are not good because those projects need too much money or, they are hard to manage by community independently. We should think about what the residents could do and what they like to do, so that they could fell happy when they
work. These project could not only innovative the type of community services, but also offer great many new ideas of community development.

Moreover, I have visited some other communities in Kobe and Niigata, talked with the community research centre which focused in study the anti-flood approach and also experienced the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute. I noticed that when I talked with the organizations that are focusing on the reduction after the disaster, being asked how you decide your working approaches, they all answered work together and ownership. We have known our working target through the conclusions from the JENESYS. We will find out the need of our donors and benefitors, search for the inside resources of community, cultivate and develop the community organizations and establish a reasonable system to make the core of community works.
A Report on Common goal for a Strong Disaster Resilient Society

Dr Prerna Sharma has received her Ph D degree in Geography on Groundwater Resources and Artificial Recharge Methods at University of Rajasthan, Jaipur in 2006. She is currently working as a Unit Head of Economic Justice at Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Jaipur (Rajasthan). CECOEDECON is a Non Government Organization established in 1982 with a mission to facilitate the processes of empowerment of partner communities through both direct and indirect interventions, thus they can take action independently and effectively to sheltered their continuing well being.

At the outset, I would like to thanks CECOEDECON in person to show their trust and confidence in nominating my name for the 12 days JENESYS East Asia Future Leader Programme 2010 on “Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society” in Japan. I would also like to thanks the JENESYS and Japan Foundation in personal for giving us this great and wonderful opportunity to learn and share our experiences on disaster. The job of our programme coordinator and programme advisor can not be ignored because of her sincere efforts we were able to get a holistic view by arranging our meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet Officers and other Government officials, Senior Researchers, NPOs/NGOs, Museum, Prefectures visit of Kobe and Niigata, Community visits, and others. I feel much honored to be one among those 20 participants from 15 countries who participated in this programme and had a great exposure on a variety of issues like natural hazards/tragedies, disaster mitigation, cultural aspect, and other aspects. In a short span of twelve days we were able to understand the hazard its intensity, frequency and its effects and after such severe disasters how the community respond, how NGOs and NPOs work and facilitate them and the steps taken by local and national Government.

The programme was started with the orientation and key note lecture on “Disaster Prevention and Experiences of Restoration in Japan” by Dr Kondo, Professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University, in which she make us aware about the earthquakes occurred in Kobe Prefecture and floods and landslides in Niigata Prefectures and the steps taken by the government officials, NPOs/NGOs and community, which was followed by the country presentation by the participants. It was really nice to know about the other 14 other countries (Korea, China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Australia, and New Zealand) and their understanding in dealing with the disasters they are facing in their respective countries. All the presentations were highly inspiring and
knowledgeable.

The visits to the Prefecture offices, other Government offices, NGOs/NPOs and communities help in understanding the reconstruction process after the earthquake that struck Kobe and Niigata in 1995 and 2004, respectively. I would like to summarize, what I perceive from the visits and the study material provided, such as how the community, government, and NPOs/NGOs work together for a common goal of disaster reconstruction from three perspectives viz., (1) consensus building among stakeholders; (ii) pace of reconstruction; and (iii) comprehensive reconstruction including NPOs/NGOs.

**Consensus building among stakeholders**

**Resident participation in physical reconstruction of each community:** it is a two step process, the first, step was to decide the outline of the projects, such as the target areas of city planning programmes, main streets, and large parks, and then the second step was to decide on plans for streets, small parks, accessible storage for the emergency kits, constructing narrow streams at the center of the alleys, etc while ensuring the resident’s intentions.

*Storage with emergencies kit*  
*Hazard risk mapping by community*

**Participation of residents at macro level:** there was an ideal mechanism in which residents living in the target areas participated in designing their community. They were part of the daily town watch and hazard mapping. The local residents participated in reconstruction workshops and training programmes for their own areas, so that, their opinions could be reflected in the reconstruction plan of the city. As an aftermath, many community centers were established, where they meet and conduct their regular meetings and discussions.

*Hazard risk mapping by community*  
*Widening the alleys*
Disaster Process

The restoration and reconstruction process: after the earthquake everyone had a common goal that they are not bringing back the devastated areas to their pre-disaster state but making the devastated areas much safer, more comfortable and better than what they were in the pre-disaster days. This is a very important perspective in planning community renovation after a disaster.

Restoration process: restoration efforts were conducted swiftly, lifelines such as, electricity, telecommunications, gas, and water supply, were fully restored in 6 days, 2 weeks, and 3 months, respectively. It took more time to restore railroads and highways. Temporary houses units were built by the eighth month after the disaster. The number of inhabitants in the temporary houses peaked in the following 3-4 months and it takes five years to reach zero. Some of the temporary houses used after the disasters were moved to the other disaster areas, where they were rebuilt and reused.

Reconstruction process: after the 10 days of the earthquake, Headquarters for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction was established, which was headed by the then Mayor. Within a period of one month the targets for land readjustment projects and urban development projects were decided upon. The first reconstruction plan was distributed to the city residents within fourteen days after the disaster, under which building restrictions orders by a gap of two months after the disaster were executed pursuant to building standards law. This was a measure to prohibit construction of new buildings in designated areas in order to build more comfortable and safer communities by systematically carrying out land readjustment and urban development projects.

Promotion of the reconstruction projects: the main issues in the reconstruction projects included the city reconstruction
plan, reconstruction housing, measures for small and medium-size enterprises and revitalization of the economy. The draft of the city reconstruction plan was presented to the public within two months, and then it was implemented after hearing feedback from the local people.

**Comprehensive reconstruction**

The final goal of the reconstruction efforts is to build back the daily lives of the people. The fundamental restoration of lifelines, reconstruction of housing, city planning, job security, and revitalization of the economy were accomplished. The inclusion of disaster management as a subject at school level is highly appreciable (Maiko High School), where young children are learning about disasters and sharing as well as helping other people suffering from such disasters.

**Government**

The government there is quite active and very responsive. They try to reach and support the first responders during the most crucial period. The government promotes public houses rather than the private housing. Generally government reduces their rate of interest for self-help housing rebuilding.

There are many government departments especially to deal with disasters like Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), Asian Disaster Risk Center (ADRC), other departments at Prefecture offices. ADRC is a hub of the Regional Cooperation with 27 member countries and 5 Advisor countries viz., Australia, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, and United States of America. The major activities of this center are *firstly*, to share the information for this there is a provision of disaster information on its website: http://www.adrc.or.jp/. There is promotion of GLobal Unique IDEntifier (GLIDE) Number, which globally common unique identification scheme for disaster events, as tool for facilitating the sharing of disaster information and organizing International meetings. *Secondly*, is the development of the human resource and building the communities capabilities through organizing seminars, workshops and trainings on disaster reduction. They have programs for inviting visiting researchers from the member countries. *Thirdly*, is to build the community capabilities for which they develop and disseminate tools for encouraging their (community) participation and provide assistance for the activities of Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). To bridge the risk perception gap Community Based Hazard Mapping has been used as a tool for raising public awareness and improving disaster preparedness among the community. The Early Warning System is also practiced and the information related to it is forwarded among the communities and others.
**NPOs/NGOs**
The NPOs/NGOs are quite active and are engaged in facilitating the community and building their capacity on disaster issues. They conduct workshops, training programmes to educate them on the issues.

**Community & Individuals**
After the earthquake struck the areas, the communities and individuals were severely affected by the great damage of lives and economy, that destruction bring them closer during helping each other and they started organizing get-togethers and celebrating the festivals together, which develops strong bonding among them. Just like it happens in Yamakoshi area, the community came back to the area after 4-5 years of disaster. As at individual level it was difficult for them to come back and begin from the initial level but they altogether decided it and work hard for that and now they are living happily in Yamakoshi. The women group started their own restaurant; and their own small business of making soft toys.

**Reports from Participants**

**India**

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The outline of our activities
- 1st stage: FY2006
  - Understanding the risk and considering a scheme of countermeasures we should take.
- 2nd stage: FY2007 – 2008
  - Considering countermeasures we can do.
- 3rd stage: FY2008 – present
  - Implementing some countermeasures by communities
- 4th stage: FY2010 –
  - Focusing on long-term measures such as making safe area in neighborhood and considering methods.

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NPOs/NGOs planning their activities

NPOs/NGOs conducting workshops with communities
In the end, I would like to say that this programme was very informative, which helped me in knowing about how to deal with disasters, not for a short-term but for a long-time perspective, which can lead to the sustainable development of the society.
Personal Observations and Reflections from the Trip

Disaster has many faces and it always put eternal shadow on the life of the people. Not only the short term effect but it also leaves a long term effect in the areas in which it occurred in terms of financial, natural and human resources. The magnitude of the impact of the consequences from disaster depends upon the ability of the various affected stakeholders to cope up with its aftermath.

India is a country with vast diversity in geography and climate. Ranging from the snow capped Himalayas, coastal plains, deserts and mountains, the country faces disaster in the form of periodic floods, droughts, earthquakes, land slides, cyclone etc. The country has the Disaster Management Act (2005) under which there is a Disaster Management Cell at state level and Disaster Management Plan at district level. But the focus has been on relief work rather than preparedness.

The organization which I represent (CECOEDECON) is rooted in the state of Rajasthan which faces frequent droughts. The organization has fair experience in the disaster preparedness and was actively involved in awareness campaigns, capacity building of local communities on disaster on preparedness, village level hazard vulnerability analysis, early warning systems and establishment of safety nets like grain bank and fodder bank.

Since the organization is working in disaster prone areas that too with the community who are vulnerable to the consequences, it was relevant for me to attend this training programme organized by Japan Foundation on “Disaster Prevention and People: working Towards the Creation of a strong Society”

Japan is very prone to natural disaster. Earthquake, flood and land slides are common disasters in Japan and the experience of the nation in dealing with those disasters has created a strong image of the country among other nations. Due to its firm endeavor in the disaster coping mechanism, participants from other nations regularly plan their visit to Japan to enhance their learning on the disaster and this sharing of the experiences enabled in establishing a network with the other countries.

During my trip to Japan, from 21st of June 2010 to 2nd of July 2010, I had got the opportunity to meet several stakeholders who included the victims of disaster and also those who had vital role to deal with it. My observation in this report is based on the visits and the meetings held with those stakeholders.
Government/Prefecture

Government has major role before and after the disaster. In Japan, during my visit, I had got the opportunity to meet different government officials, at national level as well as regional level. At all the places it was quite overt that government has very strong policy to deal with the disaster. Their building codes and seismic codes for building constructions and the rehabilitation policy manifested the commitment of government in dealing these issues. Also, during our meeting with the ministry of foreign affairs, it clearly came out that Japan was committed to contribute effort against disaster management in East Asia. The government pays a major attention in sharing of information on disaster with various stakeholders and also in framing a strong early warning system. The coordination between various government departments is strong and each department plays their role to tackle with disaster issues.

Community

Community in Japan is the foremost sufferer from disaster as whatever happens after disaster gives a long term effect on them especially on the elders and children. As it is said that community can best plan the coping mechanism of any disaster, it was well manifested in Japan too. But the zeal to do for their well being was something unique that was observed during the visit. Community was very strong there and they didn’t wait for the government to provide services in the essential hours. The relationship among the regional community is very strong and awareness level of the community is high as media is also alert in this regard. There was several observance during the trip in which it was evident that the community initiatives in the disaster affected areas, has led to drastic changes in different facets of life. The community initiative to create their own early warning system and disaster risk reduction through community based FM radio and visit of the community from Japan (Nagaoka) to China to share their experiences on disaster was very distinctive feature of community. The town & street planning, community owned workshop on developing beautiful town, management in parking, water management, project on creating livelihood town, women entrepreneurship, community effort for creating livelihood and vibrant society were some of the qualities which can be tried in all the nations.

NPO/NGO

NPO/NGOs in Japan play a vital role in establishing liasoning between regional government and community. During the trip, the group of participants got the opportunity to visit in urban as well as rural areas. Two different perspectives came out after the visit; in urban area the NPOs work with three prong strategies viz, research for planning, building a strong community through community association and training for encouraging safety and amenity. But in rural areas, the NPOs focus more on building strong relationships within the community and also providing a platform where community can share their concern with the regional government. At both the places one thing common was the effort to foster good relationship between communities through various modes e.g. organizing festivals etc.
**Education sector**
Whatever happens in the society gives a long lasting impact on the children and youths. Japan gives a major thrust in building awareness of children on disaster management. One of the examples of this is the Maiko High school in Kobe city. The school was the perfect example of how disaster management related courses have been incorporated in the education curriculum by seeing its importance. Apart from this, regular exposure to the various agencies dealing with disaster and international exposure to the students gives a unique opportunity to them to build practical experience on the issue as well as to share their understanding with the children of other countries and in the way building a cordial relationship with other countries. In many occasions the students of the schools become lecturers and act as a resource person in seminars.

**Research Agency**
Japan has a strong research base to predict the disaster as well as its aftermath. The experience of many disasters has provoked the nation to build a strong base on early warning system and disaster risk reduction. Through our visit of 12 days, we got the opportunity to visit some of the research agencies such as ADRC (Asian Disaster Reduction Center) and DRHRI (Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute). The research agencies not only focuses upon the capacity building of local government on disaster and information sharing with the various stakeholders but also gives emphasis on community based hazard mapping. The agencies also organize training programmes for the researcher and official of the other nations and committed towards building a strong society in other countries too. Not only this, the agencies like DRHRI showed the importance of keeping the memories and its sharing with the people through films and dummy.

**Private Agencies**
Private agencies play their own role to tackle the situation like disaster. They conduct evacuation drills for their employees and encourage them for the disaster preparedness. During the earthquake many voluntary centers were established in the region and they don’t only emphasizes on the recovery support services but also establish important connection between public office and victims. They also support the exposure of the community in their agencies and demonstrate their mechanism to deal with disaster.

**Acknowledgement**
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Japan Foundation who provided me the chance to get the experience on disaster and to sharpen my acumen in the disaster risk reduction and its management. My sincere thanks are also due to the management of Cecoideon who had faith in me and gave me the opportunity to be a part of the programme. I would also like to thank all the stakeholders whom I met in Japan and my fellow participants who enriched me with their valuable experiences and created a joyful learning environment.
My name is Avianto Amri and I am participant from the JENESYS Program in 2010. I am working in Plan Indonesia in the Disaster Risk Management department and I am also an active member of MPBI (Indonesian Disaster Management Society). I knew about this program from the mailing list and then apply for the program. After submitting the application, I was nominated by MPBI and then selected by The Japan Foundation. The program itself consist of a 2 weeks learning visit in Japan participated by 20 people from 15 countries throughout Asia – Pacific. We got the chance to visit the communities in Tokyo, Kobe, and Niigata who has survived from major disaster or facing an increase risk of natural hazards.

**Sharing experience and common challenges**

In the beginning of the program, each participant was assigned to share their “country report” which is an overview of each country situation and updates in the area of Disaster Management. It is a very informative session, since every participant coming from different country context, culture, and socio-economic status. However, one thing that unites us is that all country facing an increase of disaster risk (even though at different rate and level). What struck me also from the country presentation session is that how countries can benefit the most with regional collaboration. For instance is how a country like Vietnam will be able to prepare from typhoons with early warning from the Philippines.

**Good governance leading community resilience**

From the three cities that we visited and many people that I had the chance to discuss with, it is clear that there is a high resiliency among the people of Japan. Their spirit and culture of hard working people is one of the contributing factors in the recovery process. Most people in the community say that the first responder in any disasters is your self and the neighbors. This make an excellent case to see that disaster is everybody business. A good quote from one of the community leaders:

“if you are popular in the community, you will be rescued first ..

  If you are not popular in the community, you might be rescued last …

  If you are not visible in the community, people will not know you, and nobody will rescue you”

We can see that people in Kobe, earthquake survivors from the Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake, was active in making recovery plans and also provide suggestions to the local government in the recovery process. Ideas from the community are well appreciated and supported by the government. This also comes with high awareness in building back better to prevent similar event occurs again.
In Niigata, we visited a town called Yamakoshi where the area just recovering from the earthquake in 2007. We see a lot of young volunteers who play the role as a facilitator and motivator for the survivors of the earthquake. As a facilitator, they are trying to change the mindset of the community so that the people started learning for the recovery process. Young people ideas, power, and network are essential and continue to be a significant force in the recovery process. These young people are part of the Non Profit Organization (NPO) who is bridging the gaps between the community and the local government. Their value is seeing that community has power to do the recovery work and their task is to encourage people to do this. Most recovery work is highly dependent with the Government providing the service delivery, however their value is that it is not just about service delivery but also making the community empowered. It is not an easy task for them, especially in building the rapport and relationship with the community, one volunteer told us that it took him one year to approach one family.

In this same community, we also see relocation work where the people in the village move voluntarily because they live in a landslide prone area. They now moved to the top to avoid the risk of landslide in the future. This initiative can not happened if the community did not have high awareness and also good support from government and other stakeholders.

**Learning from experiences for a better future**

One thing that amazed me from the visit is how the people of Japan value their experience. From memorials, museums, commemorative events, to video documentaries made by the community are many ways from high cost to low cost technology that the community and the Government strive to ensure to keep the experiences. From advance technologies in the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake museum where young generations can learn on what happened on that historic day from the 3D cinema inside the museum and also from storytellers to a documentary DVD that were made by the elderly from Biwa town so that the invaluable lessons are not to be forgotten by the future generation. This is also to address one of the dire challenges that Japan face, the aging population. With the population continue to decrease and also the aging population, there is a need to keep that inter-generational knowledge transfer so that the memories were not lost and forgotten.

Disaster education also plays an important part in Japan education system. Maiko High School in Kobe shows us that disaster education is not just in class training but also can be further expanded to visiting the fire department office and learns on how to put out fire, regular disaster drills, peer learning with younger children, volunteering activity, participation to workshops and seminars, and to international exchange and contribution. Innovative approaches combined with strong motivation will make disaster education to be a fun part in the education system and expected to save lives in the future.

From the excerpt of Prof. Tamiyo Kondo from Kobe University, our program advisor, presentation in the last day captured a precious statement mentioning that “Preparing for long term recovery phase is also disaster reduction and we have to prepare for recovery before the disaster. Thinking recovery after disaster is too late.”

**Culture of Japan society**

From the 2 weeks trip in Japan, I also learn their culture and ways of working. How they value time that leads to punctual and efficient time management and also the strong ties in the society. We can see how they value time on how they are currently developing earthquake early warning system. The lead time for this is probably just seconds. For most people perhaps seconds is not really significant, however perhaps for surgeon who is operating a patient or for building managers perhaps that lead time can be a matter of life and death. The strong ties in the society, like most eastern culture,
is one of the important ingredient in building a strong society, a resilient society that able to withstand shocks or bounce back quickly from it.

Conclusions
The 2 weeks trip was an invaluable learning experience from me which I appreciate very much. The trip was very well organized where we had the chance to learn the experiences and culture from the people of Japan. It is a good mix from innovative approaches and high end technologies in Kobe city to strong communities from people in Tokyo and Yamakoshi. The trip also had resulted new community, the JENESYS 2010 community, a group of 20 youngsters from 15 countries that will lasts and ensures exchange of learning at present time and in the future. A new circle of friends.

There is no doubt that the program greatly enhanced my understanding of the challenges and approaches of the Japanese government toward disaster prevention. Not only the program was intelligently designed, well structured, efficiently organized with balance speakers from the government, community, experts, and academics, but it was also a good opportunity to see challenges outside my daily routine, including first hand life experience in three major cities/prefectures in Japan. On top of that, the opportunity to interact and discuss with participants from different countries of different backgrounds was immensely rewarding. However the greatest benefit that I have gained from the program so far has been a greater awareness of the importance of a strong society. Last but not least, I am very grateful for the generosity of the Japan Foundation and I truly appreciated the warm hospitality of the Japan foundation’s staffs and representatives in this program.

Thank you very much. Arigatou gozaimasu!
Reports from Participants

Appreciation to Maiko High School Students

Storytellers from Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake Museum

Presentation in Niigata Emergency Management Center

Presentation from Noda North Community Leader

Presentation in Hyogo Prefecture

Presentation on Japan’s Contribution to DRR

With the wonderful ladies from Yamakoshi

Community leader shows flood risk signs in Tokyo
Reports from Participants

Indonesia

JENESYS 2010 PARTICIPANTS

JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme 2010
"Disaster Prevention and People: Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society"
STRONG SOCIETY: IS IT A MYTH?

When strong earthquake hit Kobe, Japan, in 1995, the community played major role in raising from the ashes of burden and burned city. The sign of the community's spirit to stand up against the disaster was everywhere. Not to mention the new modern city of Kobe. At glance, there is no such a big difference of the new city from the old one. The tall and massive building down the hill to the harbour is still there. But this is truly a different town. In the new town, its internal structure have been built with careful examination from many experts in the country. The same powerful earthquake will never bring them down again.

Beyond the new building code in Kobe city, the community decide to transform themselves into a new society after the Kobe earthquake. They are not the same community again after the disaster. A deep reflection of their situation when the disaster stroke had turned them into a new society. The destroyed city, the image of many victims, and the hurting feeling of loosing relatives and neighbours made them think of one common thing: Strong community!

Strong to stand up again! Strong to rebuild again! Strong to face the future hazard again!

This spirit is spreading everywhere. The senior citizens who had first hand experience on the disaster are there to tell everyone about what had happened before, during, and shortly after the disaster. Their vivid story will always send us back to the day of earthquake. Everyone will feel their situation and follow the darkness of the night before the dawn, when you will need a torch, to find the way out and to save other family members. You will be there at the point where the fresh water supply and the first aid kit in your home will save lives. At the same time, we will wonder about our own family at home feeling guilty that we did not prepare all those simple things, and even worse we will think “oh my goodness! At the moment of story telling, probably the hazard strike our home country, our family cannot survive simply because we never prepare these simple things.”

Not to forget...not to forget....

Every sign in the community will be echoing this message. In the pave block of every isle, we will find their commitment on the beautiful decoration (pictures of flowers, fruit, butterfly, etc). We will also find historical story of the power to stand up again in every community center through many historical records of community meeting shortly after earthquake up to now. We can also find community declaration to be aware of the disaster in the public space in many communities.

Moreover, a film was made by the community as a long lasting media to remind younger generation about the disaster and to be aware.
The bond between every member of community is the real power to stand up again if an earthquake strikes again in the future. Therefore, the effort to strengthen the relation between each member of community is paramount. Community meeting is held on a weekly basis. Community festival is held for every member of the community (children, youth, and adult).

**What is the difference between communities in Japan and Indonesia?**

Many powerful hazards stroke Indonesia, a hazard prone country. In television, we will keep on watching that earthquake, flood, landslide, are occurring everywhere. We get accustomed to vast numbers of victims. In some disasters, the death toll was very high. But why is it difficult for the community there to stand up again? Even in the same hazard with lesser scale?

Looking closely to the internal structure of the community, we will find that this structure is very fragile. Behind the warm smile of the people, many Indonesians are busy fulfilling their basic needs. This prevents community to think deeply of their surrounding as a community. Low income of the community affects education, and in some cases the combination of poverty and low level of education is really a total submission. The community is there along with the hazard without the courage to think about their right and to speak up their voices. They are trying to survive with very limited condition and try to cope up with the risk with their own survival ways - not as a solid community.

In Japan, it is very easy to find initiators from the community to make improvement in their own community. In Indonesia, community is in a state of total surrender that is looking for help from outsider. Poverty is never to be blamed, because people itself has their own capacity. Natural resources are there for improvement. The stone, the trees, the soil, the water, everything. But what blocks their capacity is a very big question since community characters and values lies in a very strong historical background of the people itself. What is it that making them difficult to come up with an idea of improvement? Why are they silent even if they are in a miserable condition? Why can't anyone come up to initiate something? Why do they prefer to be invisible?

The result of this situation looks like a never ending cycle. There is something strong that sucks the glue of community. Learning from Japan society, there is a foundation that can build stronger community, long before the hazard stroke. Its about value, the daily life system including socio-economic and political system, and last but not least “RESPECT”. It means opening up circumstance that treat every member of community as visible entitle. Thus, when the hazard strikes, they have self confidence that they can be resilient and foster change.

It is just the same psychological condition like a kid, if you raise a kid in a respectful situation, they will become a kid who is eager to face many situation and using all his/her talent to cope up the challenging situation.

Like raising a strong kid, establishing stronger society is not made in a night. It is in very complex circumstances, internationally, nationally, locally, individually. It takes time and patience to build it. The good news is, IT IS POSSIBLE. IT IS NOT MERELY A MYTH.
Subject : The most efficient way for safety is Person.

1. Safety first

U.S. Steel Corporation early understood the importance of safety and inserted the importance, the first safety, second quality and the third production. Today safety is an important issue that everybody understands. It is an easy found motto. But back in 1901, when only the improvement of production was cherished, the safety was only ignored with score with the thought that it is only waste of time and money. But, with the President Gary who has the philosophy that the safety is the most important thing provided safety environment and the workers in the safe situation, uproared the company as the best in the same industry with a big improvement of quality and the productivity.

It has been already 110 years that we have dealt with the idea “Safety first”. The “Safety first” that has become a motto for today, but are we really safe today?

2. The trend that the disaster become bigger.

Recently, the big earthquake in Haiti and China, a cold wave in Cuba, an abrupt flood in Mexico and so on. There is been many disasters around world and sacrifices of people. Disaster specialists say that these types of disaster will become more frequent and bigger in size.

When a disaster arrives, it often leads a serious damage in the local economy, and sometimes, it gets to the point where the economy can never be restored.

I witnessed this time in the center land area of Japan that a big landslide occur and damage the local economy into rupture.

‘Yamakoshi’(Provisional city in Japan). In the beautiful city, after the disaster, one half of the population of the city departed the city for life and the other half showed efforts to react the economy of the city.

The disasters that fall our lives into the hell in a flash, are we really ready for a remedy for this?

3. Looking for the core of Japan’s way of protecting from disasters.

The 7th JENESYS program was held surrounding the East Asia and pacific area countries with the theme of “for the society that are strong for disasters”.

I visited Japan’s past disaster area such as Tokyo, Kobe and Niigata and could see the damages occurred and I could also found and touched by the efforts of the local community to restore the economy and the vision of it.

Especially, participating in this program, I have a few things that remains in my mind, but the most rememorable one is the local community’s (NPO) efforts of prevention of disaster.

Efforts to prevent disasters before they happen, and the efforts to restore economy when it happens, and the efforts to
set up a restoration plan by NPO along with the vision of supporting all this was the system.

“Oh, Safety” in Tokyo (Sea level in Tokyo) NPO is an organization of local citizen level of prevention of disaster around Nakagawa River where big water disaster could occur easily, advertise the local possibility of danger by water and implement the reaction training itself.

The special thing that this organization has is that it cooperates with the local society and work together with it for the local prevention of disaster. It has a meaning that it proposes about how the civilian and the industry will co-exist and presents that the local community can work well with and as a combined and cooperative system.

The NPO in Kobe has worked a core institution to restore the area when after the earthquake, there was all the damages in the local facilities and residential supplies.

Through a meeting of NPO, they have established the local restoration plan that everybody will be satisfied with, and during the restoration period, they continuously worked for a community that will be strong for disasters.

For the case of “Noda North” Hometime Network in Kobe, the victims themselves tried for 2 years for the restoration and worked a core role to restore the area successfully.

Another NPO organization in Kobe also played a core role for restoration of the area, and after the restoration, with the local protection activity, they tried to find dangerous factors and improved them. They are performing the prevention activity for civilians.

This civilian local community activity is important because the local community understands the best the dangerous factors, and when occurred a disaster, the local community that has the direct interest can autonomously act for the prevention of disaster to deal positively the disaster elements and the elements that magnifies the damage.

A person concerned in Japan said “Japan is the department store for disaster”. 20.8% (190 cases) of earthquakes occurred in Japan between 1996-2005. And when the “Hanshin-Awaji” the big earthquake occurred and the damage was non-manageable we doubted much if the restoration will be possible.

But, as though it is called “the department store for disaster” such as for earthquake, typhoon, flood and heavy snow, it is one of the development nation that prepare the 2nd, 3rd leap, is one of the countries that are prepared for big disasters, and whenever any disaster occurs, it makes even more efforts for stronger community of prevention of disaster.

What will be the moving source for the prevention of disasters? It lies in the division of the work and the people’s positive participating for the restoration from disasters. Collecting the community’s ideas in one place using an institution like NPO, transfer the idea to the office, and also they work too with the office. On the other hand, from the office’s part, they not only listens the people’s idea, but further accepts all the community’s idea.

The words that are not being missed in the Japan’s restoration work is “Spontaneous, autonomous”. They spontaneously work for the restoration from disaster, prevent disasters and lessen damages. Along with the participation at this current program, we could conclude that the action system is centered with the civilian’s cooperative system with the NPO. It will guard our safety in the center.

Especially, NPO works on the history of the district, teach to siblings what happened in the past and make the history success so that they can prepare for disasters This type of work can not be done at the office level, but should be done in the civilian level.
4. Conclusion

As disasters get bigger and frequent, it is not only the government that can solve the problem. To prevent disasters and minimize damages, offices of civilians should work together.

At the participation at this program, I was astonished about the successful power of the restoration for the disaster in “Hanshin-Awaji” and rather than the government, the local NPO’s role was much direct real.

In a word, the methodology for the “Safety first” for our daily life will be the efforts to prevention disasters through NPO.

By participating in this program and looking at the Japan’s prevention activity for disasters, I feel like I have been given one more homework.

I bow and thank to the civil workers that helped me in this program, the Japan international exchange JENESYS fund that gave us this one more homework, and all the community citizens.
Community Involvement in Natural disasters

What does South Korea have in common with the Japan? Simply, it is easy to find many things in some parts such as culture, history, race, climate, geographical position etc. we can even find same words although we use different languages. For the reason, I was really happy to get with JENESYS program and expected it in Japan.

When I participated in JENESYS program for 2 weeks I had no doubt I could learn advanced knowledge and experience of disaster management and enhance my career. There were various and helpful activities in this program. Specially, I was so impressed with community involvement and their efforts to cope with natural disasters.

Natural Disasters in South Korea

South Korea has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons, Part of the East Asian monsoonal region. But Climate is gradually changing from temperate to sub-tropic like some countries by abnormal climate changes. The movement of air masses from the Asian continent exerts greater influence on South Korea's weather than does air movement from the Pacific Ocean.

Rainfall is concentrated in the summer months of June through September. The southern coast is subject to late summer typhoons that bring strong winds and heavy rains. There are occasional typhoons that bring high winds and floods.

Fortunately, South Korea is rather safe when it comes to natural disasters. South Korea is in a region of the globe that does experience a summer typhoon season. During the typhoon season, it is not uncommon to see some flooding due to an increase in rainfall. The effect is much milder than in Southeast or Western Asia, Japan, Taiwan, the east coast of China, or the Philippines. From one to four typhoons can be expected per year. Typhoons usually pass over South Korea in late summer, especially between August and September.

Once in a while South Korea rarely experiences a ‘low seismic’ earthquake. These earthquakes are usually located in the southwest and rarely cause any damages.

Natural Disasters in Japan and Disaster Response

There are constantly occurring seismic and volcanic activities because Japan is located in the circum-pacific mobile zone and Japan is subject to frequent natural disaster such as typhoons, heavy rains and snow. It is really similar to our country’s circumstance. Frequently, South Korea and Japan are expected by same typhoons and a seasonal rain front.
Japan's government built a remarkable disaster management system to protect national lands as well as citizens' lives, livelihood, and properties from natural disasters. The disaster management system has been further strengthened following the lessons learned from large-scale disasters such as Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. This advanced disaster management system has a strong influence on other countries' disaster management as well. It is particularly related to my assignment. As I participated in this JENESYS program, I was able to build extensive knowledge about how to respond to disasters in Japan. Based on the experience of KNRC, I realized that there were similarities between Japan’s disaster management system and our country’s one. Especially, the interrelation between the Central Government system and local government system, which is how to prepare and respond to natural disasters, is quite similar.

Community in Japan

One of the most impressive things in Japan's disaster management is the community activities to cope with the natural disasters. The area of Biwa town and Yamakoshi, where I visited, was hit by a severe natural disaster like an earthquake and a landslide, and the area was totally devastated at that time. To recover from the natural disaster, the government put a lot of hard work into this area, and now they have done an amazing job to replace all of what they lost during the disaster. Although it was mainly supported and done by government but I would like to focus on the activity and outcomes of the community.

Of course, the disaster management system of Japan’s government is out of the ordinary. Maybe, its disaster management system is the best one around the world. Although I had the chance to witness advanced disaster management system and outcomes, I found it was quite similar to our system. It depends on technical issues but personally, its whole system of exterior like disaster prevention measures and procedures of responding to disasters is quite similar. But the community activities and their efforts are so impressive and outstanding.

Firstly, the members of community who I met in Yamakoshi lost everything in the disaster even their families. It was very difficult for them to stay in the area again, and some villagers moved even into another town. In spite of frustrating situations, they tried to keep their cultures and deep-rooted traditions. When they reconstructed their village, they not only rebuilt their properties like houses but also restored their culture and tradition. It is very important. It will be able to make the people who left be easy to come back and transmit their own traditions to posterity.

Secondly, Community (members) is so independent and autonomous. The victims in disaster
are usually frustrated and have a tendency to rely on others or government. But they took an active part in reconstruction and compromised with government and neighboring village to restore their own village quickly.

Finally, the community kept the record of their experience, memories, and what they lesson in that disaster for posterity. And it actually did, they emphasized importance of it. If the disaster like it they coped with in the past occurs again. This records which included what they learned by trial and error will be helpful and useful for posterity to prepare and response and restore from Natural disasters.

**Conclusion**

A relatively new approach to community involvement in disaster management deserves much attention in South Korea. Also we know that the community can be the first responder in disasters and some experts say the roll of community is essential to restore from natural disaster. Although we have the similar disaster management system like Japan’s we do not have the community involvement which is able to response to natural disasters. Might be Community in Japan was be able to get the experience and they are able to be independent and autonomous after severe disasters. But it doesn’t matter. Our community is not prepared enough for natural disaster and it is the fact that it’s so different between communities in Japan and those in South Korea to handle a crisis in disasters.

It’s almost impossible that we prepare for recovery before the disaster. But we can make the preparedness for disaster near perfect through community involvement. Its role model is the community in Japan.

**“Natural Disasters will hit us by the Time people have forgotten about it”**

Dr. Torahiko TERADA (1878-1935)
Country Background of Lao PDR

The Lao PDR is a landlocked country, situated in the center of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, sharing borders with China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. The country covers an area of 236,800 sq. km. of which 70% is mountainous and 46% is covered by forest. According to statistics, from 2010 the Lao PDR has a population of 6.8 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.3% and an average population density of only 20 persons per sq km. The majority of the population lives in lowland areas along the Mekong River. There are at least 240 different ethnic groups in Laos, classified into four different language groups: Lao Tai, Mon-Khmer, Chinese-Tibetan, and Hmong-Mien. (In formally Government accepted 47 ethnic and Lao languages) and have religions: Buddhism 65%; Christianity 1.3%; others (principalily animism, etc) 33.7%. Around 90% of the rural population practice agriculture using rainwater for cultivation. Laos is classified as one of the least developed countries in the world. In Laos, the climate is divided into two seasons: the rainy (or wet) season and the drought (or dry) season.

In terms of its geographical location, Lao PDR seems to be well protected from typhoons and wind storms. Nevertheless, besides poverty, the country still suffers from the widespread effects of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, infestations and fire.

According to information from the last 30 years, Laos is faced with serious floods and droughts with an average re-occurrence of every 1.5 years. Sometimes flood and drought occur in the same year, but in different provinces. Floods happen in the monsoon season from May to September, when the rain increases the amount of water in the upper Mekong basin, as well as the water level of the tributary rivers. Drought mainly occurs in mountainous areas and affects agricultural production. In some districts, people also may suffer from a lack of water.

There are also other hazards in Laos. Between 1997 and 2000, more than 500 cases of fires occurred. This is quite high when compared with previous years. The major disasters which have occurred in Laos have had a significantly negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the country contributing to poverty.

The Relief and Mitigation Efforts of Government and NGOs in Laos

From 1975, since the inauguration of the Lao PDR, Government policy on Social Welfare was 1) to help the migratory post-war population to permanently resettle, 2) to assist the disadvantaged groups of the population, many of whom were affected by natural disasters, with food, shelter and other basic needs. These activities were carried out by the Department of Public Welfare within the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Lao PDR.

To mitigate drought and flood, the MOI mobilized Government and public resources to upgrade and build water
gates at the Mekong, water reservoirs, and drainage systems in cities. “A Free Labor Campaign” of Government for building those facilities was very popular with the public sector and communities.

In 1980, the Committee on Social Welfare and War Veterans was established. This Committee was dissolved in 1987, when the Department of Public Welfare was transferred to the Ministry of Public Health, which carried out the same activities. The Committee on Social Welfare and War Veterans was re-established in 1990-93 and expanded to include Relief and Mitigation Programs. The joint Government/NGO project on “Mitigation of Harmful Effects of Natural Disasters” also started in this period. The Government annually allocated funds equivalent to US$ 700,000 to help disadvantaged persons and victims of disasters.

In 1993, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW) was established. Since then, relief and mitigation activities have had a clearer status. The Social Welfare Department within the MLSW is responsible for running projects on relief and mitigation with NGOs partners in areas which are either vulnerable to or which have been affected by disaster. The activities of these programs have focused on mitigation and post flood or drought rehabilitation, such as repairing roads, canals, and irrigation schemes as well as mobilizing resources for replanting second crops. The Social Welfare Department has, at the same time, cooperated with its Provincial Departments to implement these activities by using government and donor funds and other available resources for the relief of victims of fire.

Until 1997, actions taken by the Government of the Lao PDR with assistance from international organizations, donor countries and NGOs had focused very little on disaster preparedness. During that time, the perception of the Government and communities about natural disasters such as flood and drought was associated with the idea of natural phenomenon, which cannot be managed.

In Lao culture, it is very common that people use superstition or spirit beliefs to explain natural disasters they are faced with. However, Government and local communities are now considering a new way of thinking. This is due to many factors such as climate change, increases in the frequency of flooding and drought, increases in cases of fire, environmental degradation, devastation of forest, land erosion as well as the economic loss and damage suffered as a result of disasters (in particular the two big floods of 1995, 1996 and 2009).

In June 1996, when floods occurred in several provinces, more than 450,000 people were affected and economic loss was very high. The Prime Minister established an ad-hoc committee, which enables ministries to deal with the effects of the flood. However, the main mandate of this ad-hoc committee was limited to relief and the organization of replanting vegetable crops and second season paddy rice cultivation. With the aim of raising awareness on the importance of Disaster Preparedness, the project on “Capacity Building for Lao Government officials on Disaster Management” (Lao/97/013) was signed between the Government and the UNDP on 21st August 1997.

On the disaster currently, care and concern of the Party and Government with the plights of Ketsana storm victims in Sekong, Attapeu and Saravane province, they set up an assisting emergency agency by coordinating with central and local levels to give first aid to victims via massive relief operation.

The Cabinet Secretariat issued on October 2, 2009 a fund-raising notice to all ministries, all state relevant agencies in Vientiane Capital and private sectors to make donations for flood victims and recover the affected areas to normal as soon as possible. These action show the government or other private sectors always taking care of people any time although in country do not have high technology, high quality human resource to help the disaster victims immediately.

**Brief Field Observation of Disaster Issue in Japan**

Japan is good place for leaning the disaster prevention and community resilience because this country has been facing many massive disasters but Japan always can survived by their own organization so it is good opportunity that Japan opens South East Asia countries could gain their knowledge and experience on disaster issues. Some observation that I have been seen on this program has many topics especially in Kobe, Niigata which has clearly operation of disaster.
management.

**Damage recovery process:** After Japan faced massive disaster in many places so they have clearly process such as evacuation site, local governments has provided shelter, food, drinking and others supplies immediately in order to make this act be full achievement, government cooperated with relevant sectors, community committee, NGOs/NPOs etc, and many volunteers were created in countries to helped and supported the evacuees and elder people living in temporary housing, they are all now has high experienced and has trained an important role in various field and they are ready any time to act on their field. Japan government used high budget to rebuild houses and every tall building have to constructed on local government’s designed which called “Isolator System” but this measure is belong to different areas as we see the public housing at Yamakoshi village, houses have strong concrete and roof which can cope with heavy snow and this village has strong society and in village has NPO implementing of all disaster prevention activities.

**Government, NGOs/NPOs and Community Act on Disaster Issue:**
- **Government:** Japan government was strong recognized on disaster process, example city of Kobe government have _community_ planning system and partnership between community organization, private consultants, local government since 1980 which mad immediately recovery because there is good preparing before disaster. There is little menu of recovery indicated in disaster reduction plan by local government. In Kobe, there is the great Hashin-Awji Earth quake memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute with the support of the national government, as providing the knowledge and information of disaster for Kobe citizen and others visitors, of all visitors will more recognized disaster hazard as their own problem not only knowledge. In Kobe, there is Environment and Disaster Mitigation Course at Maiko high school (First High School in the world) which has focus on disaster issue on high school.
- **NPOs:** As my observation on tour, I met not many NPOs which engaged on disaster activities but NPO in Biwa town (Kobe) and in Yamakoshi village (Niigata), they are very strong organization, many activities were implemented in community such as awareness raising, media and capacity building and they also arranged the cultural and local festival exchange activity with other communities. This activity makes good relationship between communities to exchange their experiences each other on disaster issue and others.
- **Community:** In Japan, community is very strong because people of Japan has high education and easy communicate each other so after disaster, the community have to manage or resolve their problem by themselves first before asking the others sector to help them, as known they will have one representative of community who has main responsible on this activity such as arrange meeting to make future plan for problem solving together (They make it many time). Example the community development of Noda-North district, they have very clear plan to develop their own community such as the method of community development through district planning and streetscape environment improvement was success. This idea was created by people in community that show us they have high ability and has good solidarity. When I compared with the community in Laos where I have been working, I can see the different very much. The people in Laos has low education and some time very difficult to communicate with minority people group so this is one challenge for NPO work in Laos.

**Experience, Knowledge from tour and Tentative Future Action Plan**

Actually, I was born at poor family in countryside and completed my bachelor degree with small allowance which supported NGO and government and I am happily to get a job as social development field so I was lucky man to have a good opportunity of chance visiting modern city like Japan which organized by Japan Foundation on JENESYS Future Leaders Programme “Disaster Prevention and people: Working Toward the creation of a strong society”. At my first arrived Japan country, I surprised the high technology, it took me many time to explore how to use it. I saw the city is very clean, crowded people with busying their work. Thus, I known the daily life of Japanese people, they have to run

**Laos**
their work on time seriously and work very good job on their responsibility. Besides that, I have learnt cultural and of Japan I also gained knowledge from lecturer and visiting places which relevant to disaster issue. Japan has strong society, many communities have committee by themselves but some committee was cooperated with NPOs or government to handle the natural disaster any time. So, it is easy recovery and resilience after affected disaster because they have good plan about disaster prevention before. Japan government has a lot of fund and high quality human resource to provide helping for disaster victims such as created volunteer, rebuild houses-infrastructures on design which can cope with what kind of disaster they were faced, as see at Niigata and Kobe, they have different and similar disaster so before they build the houses should follow the local government or community design. The knowledge of disaster was transferred old people to young people through memorial disaster teller (DRI, Kobe) and there is a course of disaster management at high school, so this field work is never end in Japan.

All of knowledge that I have gained from JENESYS program, it is very useful for me and my work areas because this program tough me a lot of things that I never know before such as modern technology, Japanese life style, implementation of disaster issue process in Japan. Even though Laos is faced not many massive disaster when compared in Japan but I strong believe everything always change, I do not know how to describe if Laos have the same situation like Japan which face various disasters, how could Laos survive with their undeveloped country and the majority of people has low quality knowledge about handling the disaster so I think, it is the time for Lao people together preparing plan before disaster happen and this work also recognize more entirely where disaster always happen for saving people life immediately. So this work should be start work with the vulnerable people at local community first which establish community committee to be strong society for disaster prevention and this committee should be supported by local NPO, including fund, technical and advisor to make this action be fulfill achievement. I am representative of Lao participant of JENESYE East Asia Leaders Programme on Disaster Prevention and People: Working toward the Creation of a Strong Society, pleasure to share my experience what I learned in Japan to my colleague and other organization who interested on this issue even though I have change my job but I also still have strong dream to contribute my all knowledge at my work areas because I think this knowledge is useful for every sectors have to recognize more.

And very thanks again to JENESYS that selected me join this program, in my feeling I am very happy that I am the first one of my ethnic group (Taoi minority) who have opportunity visiting Japan so this tour will be wonderful memory with me forever and hopefully this program will be living with South East Asia people, especially Laos who is requesting to improve the human resource particularly at rural areas, they are lack of opportunity to studying higher level or improve their knowledge how to survive the life with changing of world globalization nowadays.
People-Driven Disaster Recovery and Resilience

While many were preparing to un-box presents and goodies under the Christmas Trees, a giant wave swept across Indian Ocean. This incidence took place 6 years ago on 26 December 2004. People and countries across Asia were shaken up by a disaster called tsunami. But then in the minds of many people, the word ‘tsunami’ what is that? Must be some kind of major flood that hit Aceh, Indonesia, my first thought, perhaps. During my high school, Geography dictated me that Malaysia has no earthquake, no volcano for being away of Rings of Fires and tsunami or those sort of disasters. My parents only warned me of beach hazards by jelly fish, ‘sea monster’, and of course my childhood phobias - venomous sea snakes and sharks as showcased in National Geographic and the movie Jaws. However the so-called impossible disaster tsunami reached Malaysia, ironically and unfortunately! The very tail-end of tsunami wave has perished 68 lives in Malaysia that mostly were holiday goers spending time at the beach.

Japan, located in the circum-Pacific mobile zone where seismic and volcanic activities occur frequently, is geographically and geomorphologically susceptible to natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis and the latter landslides and floods. Japan and her people have been living with natural disasters and overcome them for the past 100s years. Japan shared their experience with 19 participants from East Asian and Oceania region. Disasters strike people regardless their countries, economy and politic, virtually without boundary or exception.

In most cases, it is highly unlikely to prevent natural disasters or force of nature from occurring because of being located in unfavourable geomorphological, geological or climatic region. But with proper preparedness and well-informed society, viz. knowledge and resilience in the people, supported by effective emergency response and mitigation infrastructure in place, it is possible minimised the risk ultimately could prevent greater loss of life or properties and a swift recovery.

The privilege of Japan sharing their experience on how to manage natural hazards and also valuable ‘lesson learned’ throughout past natural disasters had occurred with special emphasis on the human aspect, was made possible during the excursion from 21 June 2010 to 2 July 2010 to Japan under the auspices of Japan Foundation’s JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program 2010 themed “Disaster Prevention and People: Working toward the Creation of a Strong Society”. The program pays particular attention to ‘People’s Linkages’ as a social and cultural side of disaster prevention. It offers opportunities to make relationships with people who understand the importance of life, environment, history, and culture. People in Japan and participants of the program who have experienced and suffered from disaster or who have a strong desire to construct disaster prevention measures in their own countries, will talk and learn together by sharing ideas and realities across countries, regions, and fields. The program promotes strong community and society awareness.
to disasters in the East Asia region by paying special attention to the relationship of people.

The participants were exposed to spectrum of disaster management in Japan, the three-pronged visit traversed government departments and facilities, NGO/NPO and people, on disasters at various altitudes from below the sea (level) to metropolitans to mountains, namely low lying areas in Tokyo, Tokyo city centre, rebuilt Kobe city and Niigata highlands. The disaster settings of each area were different and unique, namely flood, earthquake and landslide. Flooding is a threat to the low-lying area attributed by land subsidence in some part of Tokyo Prefecture that is currently below mean sea level. The second was the Kobe city, which was almost flattened in earthquakes and fire after the earthquake. Lastly the Niigata, earthquakes were major natural disaster, its highland areas were also prone to landslide especially vulnerable to triggering by earthquakes.

The People in Disaster Response and Recovery
Effective recovery depends on how well we respond the first few hours or days. The first response is the capability of oneself, family and the neighbourhood or the community to render help. During a disaster, every minute and hour determines life and death of the people at stake. The first three minutes, three hours and three days decide the survival of victims or community (Kobe Fire Authority). The ability of an individual to react within 3 minutes, when disasters strike will ensure own and family safety. The ability of community to react and self rescue before external rescues arrive (normally within 3 hours) gives highest survival rates. While the first three days, are the most promising period in finding victims alive. The People’s self-help and preparedness in the first three minutes in avoiding severe injury and storing of sufficient water/food until rescues arrives is vital. Effective emergency response comes from well organised preparedness. The first three hours is also critical period for the country to assess its condition and decide on the necessity for international assistance.

During landslide after earthquake in Niigata highlands, many roads were cut off. Assistance might only come after several hours or even days later. Rescue and help relied on the nearest community and local government agencies. Even in the cities, after an earthquake for example Kobe and Niigata, communication and transport network were paralysed thus hindered sending help to the affected area. It also took several hours. To worsen the problem, prior to 1990’s over-densed housing prevented fire-engine to access into the fire area because of narrow alley between houses. Hence, self-prepared and the neighbourhood are always the most instant available assistants ‘first help’ during any emergency.

The Aftermath and Community Solidarity
Many natural disasters occurred with minimal predictability on its impact on magnitude and possibility. Even in Japan, the Great Hanshin Earthquake (M6.8) on 17th January 1995 earthquake shocked the country unprepared. The epicentre was 20 km away from Kobe. It was the costliest natural disaster to befall any one country (Guinness Book of Records) and an economic disaster to the victim and the so-called developed country.

In Kobe, many houses were destroyed by the giant shockwave and/or burned down by the fire- aftermath. The earthquake with its epicentre so near to this metropolitan was never expected to have happened by the government nor the people. Not many to none of the houses were insured for hazard fire after earthquake.

Surviving the earthquake was a blessing, but many had to start from zero in rebuilding life after losing everything in this catastrophe. For most people, what was left an empty house plot to start of. Without insurance, to be exact not being insured for earthquake-fire, the option for them to rebuild was using their own saving or through loan. But not everybody...
was financially capable to rebuild their house! For Niigata highlanders, the recovery for farmers was slightly somehow a relief. They had insurance for their cattles, at least to cover some losses and loan from farmer association for them to move on.

The earthquake brought changes; a renewal in housing planning was needed. Previously housings were over-densely built into each other without adequate space for alley especially for bigger vehicle to access. In many occasions, the high losses during a disaster was due to help unable to reach the burning houses, the alley were too narrow for fire engine and fire hose was located too far away. In rebuilding new housing, these were the consideration needed to be implemented - widen alley and increase fire hose, free space/park for housing area and a centre for community to interact. And financial matter was still a top agenda!

It was a surprise to find the readjustment of land cadastral for each house, to allow wider alley and planning of rebuilding, was a collectively consensus within the community, non-profit organisation (NPO), private sectors and volunteers. Owners that could not afford to rebuild their own houses were helped in rebuilding and moved in on renting basis. From the government side, a one-stop liaise officer from local government was placed to facilitate the community in dealing with government authorities and agencies. The government also supported in mitigation works and public infrastructures as well as the community centre and parks. Public government-owned apartment was only offered for limited cases and on yearly-incremental rental basis. Contrary to belief and assumption, the Japanese government would take an overall role in restoring the chaos; the community tendered what they want for their own neighbourhood and navigated the reconstruction. Some community would resolve for a bigger park or more man-made stream in their neighbourhood instead of a wider highway!

The community admitted they were more closely knitted after the disaster with more festival and community activities being celebrated together. In fact, community activities brought colour and life into the neighbourhood. Some also found new opportunity and started business together after being allies during the hardship in helping each other during disaster.

The Other Dimension of Disaster Recovery

In responding to any emergency, several stages of rescue and relief changed rapidly by the time. It started with relieving pains and relocation to a safer place/transition housings. Physical relocation was seemingly not difficult, compared to physical pains. Attributed the nature of readily available free open spaces, halls or parks to accommodate gathering and emergencies, despite scarcity of land in Japan they managed to allocate space for these facilities, but more important that they were relatively safe from disaster.

Disaster response and recovery is a dynamic process and there is no straight forward recipe or formulae for dealing with the victim after a disaster. A lot of co-existing elements needed to be addressed hand-in-hand in making disaster recovery a success. Beside the physical dimension lie greater challenges. To share a few notes based on Japan experience, the people and their welfare. The victim; the elders, children and women need special attention.

In a disaster, many lives and properties were lost. In addition to psychological consolation to traumatised victims, spiritual facet sometime could be a form of relief in these situations. Rituals or religious (ceremonial) attention sometimes would alleviate distressed victims. It was believed to provide tranquillity, hopes and ease for individual and families who lost their family member or friends in the disaster, also ‘person’ who passed on.
Culture and customs of victims must not be neglected. Expectation and requirement of the victim changed by stages and time; on food, bath, personal space, and children playground. For example, the expectation of food might increase as time goes, from ‘exigent’ dry food to regular staple hot meals, to what they usual eat. In Japan, hot and frequent baths was a custom and it would eventually become a requirement to provide at the later stage.

Not all victims wanted to be treated like victim or help receiver, they need to be occupied and doing something through activities organised for them. Involving and empowering them to contribute or help each other make the atmosphere less stressful for themselves. One of the instances, the victims helps to cook for the help workers or help other victims.

It was also important to note that there must be a time limit when to stop relief and recovery process, and start moving on! Although many things will not be the same as before disaster, but life goes on!

It is common for people to move out or flee an area after natural disasters, gradually turning the place lifeless and sterilising its local socioeconomic activities. This was the case in highlands or villages. To woe people back; the olds, the young and families back to the area need more than just making sure the place is safe or protected against the hazards that had occurred previous. The setting up mitigation infrastructure by government was the first step. There were many supplementary and complimenting elements must not be neglected.

In Niigata, one of the villagers depicted the importance of conserving environment holistically and respecting the “Gaia” of the land. After the disaster, the villagers (old and young) gradually come back when the land was restored (i.e. the slopes being rebuilt, trees being replanted, road was repaired), and also the other elements; shrines, cemeteries, memorial, symbolic statues and signage were in-place.

The land should be protected and not manipulated. In Tokyo, an exploited land during industrial era since 1900 by over extraction of groundwater caused the land to cumulatively sustained land-subsidence and now it was almost 5 metres below its original level! In the Katsushika City, the 200-square-kilometre Below-Sea-Level city of at Shin-Koiwa Kita area, with population 20,000,000 people was under virtually under sea level; about 15% of the area was under low-tide sea level while almost 60% of the area was under high-tide sea level. Only dikes along the river that separated them from being flooded.

**Passing on the Lessons**

In Kobe, one of the volunteer story-teller in Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution told of his constant talks to his (grand) children on the earthquake (Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995), because he wanted them to always remember it, so to be reminded and prepared for the hazards of earthquake. Simple yet always neglected, a torchlight, emergency first-aid kit, stored water that enough for your family for several days and some dry food, initially would sound exaggerated but I am definitely sure you would succumb to the logic after listening to his real-life experience.

Education on disasters was an integral part for all ages in Japan. Through formal and informal education they were exposed to information on disaster in own country. Fire drill and education on disaster such as earthquakes, tsunamis and flood were among the basic being taught since primary school. Some high schools even had own-designed courses on disaster in their curriculum as a subject.

Parts of debris of destruction during earthquake were left in-situ; these can be found in several part of the city. Some of the debris were moved and preserved in its original state in exhibition and training centres. One of the centre, Disaster
Reduction and Human Renovation Institution housed part of ruins of a housing area after an earthquake (houses, cars), as well as videos and photographs of disasters. The centre also held exhibition, demonstration for visitors, one of the sessions was the story telling of earthquake where story-teller recounted their own experience during an earthquake. Many were supported by volunteers such as scientists, university lecturers, victims of disasters and students. They had a consistent of crowd from school children delegate, adults and also foreign visitors.

Community centre at city level on housing neighbourhood not only acted a place to people to interact but also operation centre for managing disaster at the area and a place to disseminate disaster information to the people. Information, learning materials and seminar on the hazards in the local area was made available here. The centres also provide facilities such as playground for children that attract parents and them. The centres normally were supported by volunteers, NPO and private sectors. From here, children were exposed to disaster information since early stage of their life.

**Government in Disaster Risk Reduction**

Japanese Government roles in disaster management and risk reduction are still pivotal despite many instances of society initiatives. The government supported in infrastructures and facilities to empower the people, basic and public infrastructure such as centres and museum for community, education and mitigation.

Generally, the government roles in disaster risk reduction (DRR) can be seen from three levels, international/regional, national and prefecture levels. The scientific, technical and training/capacity building arms could be seen from universities and inter-nation universities as well as inter-government. Japan Foundation’s JENESYS is also a form of capacity building for regional future leaders. Internationally and regional the Japan’s DRR effort were prominent through Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and United Nation agencies (UNISDR etc). Nationally, the coordination of DRR was centralised in Prime Minister Office, while implementation were channelled through prefecture such as city hall and specific agencies. At prefecture level, the DRR and response were more tailored and hazard-specific on the hazards (disasters) that the city was vulnerable to, where in Kobe was earthquake and landslide, and Niigata was earthquake and flood.

**Concluding Remarks**

To recover from this disaster mishap requires resilience. Resilience, or in blunt to be able stands up again after a fall, is a preparedness for in people that can only be inculcated through education and empowerment of the society. Only with a resilient society, a tool should be able to equip its society to combat natural disaster risk.

Therefore this trip to the land of Hyogo enlightened me on the importance of community in disaster risk reduction. The main lessons I practically learned and brought home are the two actions focused on people-driven disaster relief and recovery (Hyogo Framework for Action 2005) to my country:

- **HFA No. 3:** Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels. Disasters can be substantially reduced if people are well informed and motivated towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, which in turn requires the collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities.

- **HFA No. 5:** Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. At times of disaster, impacts and losses can be substantially reduced if authorities, individuals and communities in hazard-prone areas are well prepared and ready to act and are equipped with the knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management.
I had the great opportunity to participate in the JENESYS East Asia Future Leader Programme: “Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society” organized by the Japan Foundation. Although a month has passed, my memory is still very fresh of the experiences and friendship with all participants from fifteen countries. Since disaster risk reduction effort in my country is in fetus stage, the programme was very useful for me to be able to formulate the disaster risk reduction strategy based on best practices and success stories of Japan. In this brief report I would like to share the background of disaster risks in my country and the draft strategy that I have developed based on the experience from Japan and knowledge sharing of participants from fifteen countries.

Myanmar is exposed to a range of frequently occurring hydro-meteorological and less frequent geophysical hazards. Its coastal region is exposed to cyclones, tropical storms, and tsunamis. Rainfall included flooding is a recurring phenomenon across the country. The whole country is at risk from earthquakes, droughts, and fire, while the country’s hilly regions are exposed to landslide risks. Less frequent include tornadoes, thunderstorms and heat waves. The coastal communities are even more vulnerable because cyclones are more frequent and intense than other hazards. Although most of the disaster risk in the country is characterized by small and medium scale disasters, there were 15 major storms, 6 earthquakes and 12 major floods in the last 100 years.

Among all the major disasters, the Cyclone Nargis of May 2008 has been the most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country, which has brought into focus the extremely high vulnerability to natural hazards. The Cyclone Nargis hit the Delta with wind speeds reached 240 km/h, and a 3-4 meter high storm surge. It caused extensive loss of life and physical damage: an estimated 140,000 people died and went missing, and 33,754 suffered injuries. One-third of the estimated total population of 7.35 million people in the area impacted by the cyclone suffered severe losses.

In Myanmar the risk to natural hazard is added by poverty. People who are in a depressed state are less able to recover; therefore the level of risk is higher for poor communities. After two years of cyclone Nargis, there are still a limited number of International and National institutions working on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Although there is a mechanism for emergency response at the national level, there is still lacking disaster preparedness and counter measures on disaster risk.
The disaster preparation in Japan showed a number of good practices: (a) Existence of strong institutions related to disasters, (b) inputs from researches on disaster risk reduction activities, (c) effective early warning system, supported by high technology and, could transmit the warning to all communities in a timely manner; (d) full awareness and preparedness of natural hazards in all level of the government, (e) proper guidelines and protocols on safe planning, building and re-building, (f) evacuation facilities and protocols were understood by all stakeholders and (h) strong infrastructure, even the community infrastructures are earthquake-proof and it could withstand the high levels of natural hazards and (i) concerted effort towards disaster risk reduction especially at the community level focusing not only on preparedness and response but also on prevention and mitigation measures.

Based on the above best practices from the Japan and with knowledge sharing with all participants, five areas of actions can be identified in order to implement a comprehensive and integrated Disaster Risk Reduction strategy in my country.

**Action 1: Communities to be more engaged in DRR measures**

Communities are not only first responders to disasters but also understand local hazards and resources, and are in the best position to execute immediate rescue and relief actions. Community based disaster preparedness will be built on the existing traditional knowledge and skill for building a disaster resilient community. Communities also need to be linked to local systems - themselves linked to national systems - as part of comprehensive DRR.

**Action 2: Communities and institutions better able to disseminate and act on early warnings**

An assessment and upgrading of the existing warning system, including forecasting capabilities, will strengthen “end-to-end” early warning system. This includes putting in place standard operating procedures and protocols for different administrative levels so that appropriate and timely warning are received and acted on by communities. Local level early warning systems will be strengthened with multi-communication systems (radio, local administration’s communication systems).

**Action 3: Focus on physical mitigation measures in vulnerable areas**

Disaster mitigation and reduction needs to be more explicitly brought into urban and rural land use planning. This will increase the resilience of the poor and the most vulnerable, who generally live in the most unprotected circumstances. Officials will need training, which should be done within the framework of the Government’s initiatives for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the ‘hardware’ of DRR. A small grant scheme can be established to promote and support local level mitigation measures including sluice gates and ditch rehabilitation.

**Action 4: Integration of Disaster mitigation into construction, education, livelihood and health sectors**

Disaster risk reduction is a stand alone sector as well as a cross cutting theme, and need to be integrated into all sectoral interventions for long term sustainability. For example, in construction sector, existing building codes and safety norms could be reviewed to ensure compliance with multi-hazard risk reduction. For education sector, it will be required to include Disaster Risk Management in the educational curricula and institutionalization of school safety drills. For health sector, it needs to ensure the accessibilities to services especially in times of emergency and increased capacity to prepare for disaster events and the outbreak of infectious diseases. For livelihood, insurance scheme can be introduced to help affected communities recover quickly from a disaster.
Action 5: National and local institutions develop disaster preparedness and mitigation policies, and response mechanisms

The experience from Japan showed that effective disaster risk management requires a strong governance framework with clear policies, accountable institutional, organizational arrangements and connections across, and within levels of government, researchers, private sectors and communities in a holistic, coordinated and programmatic manner. Disaster Risk Management is a sustainable development issue and therefore disaster risk considerations should be fully integrated into the policies, plans, budgets and decision making process at all levels of government and communities.

In summary, Disaster Risk Reduction needs cooperation of many actors operating at different levels and in various sectors. In general, it is clear that DRR needs to be participated by all actors in order to be effective. Since Myanmar is the developing country, disaster reduction is impossible to place on the national agenda in front of so many other concerns. However, Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, reminded that “No country can afford to ignore disasters since the disaster prevention actually save governments money in the long run.” The example of Japan has shown us that we can dramatically reduce disaster impact, if the right disaster risk reduction measures are taken in advance.
Community Resilience and its Role in Disaster Prevention and the Creation of a Strong Society

Community resilience is an integral component of a community’s ability to recover from an event and to mitigate or reduce the effects a disaster can have. Resilience can be used to describe a community before and after an event to differing degrees. The level of resilience is likely to be very different depending on the experiences of the community, their level of knowledge of hazards in the area, and the way in which they may have, or have not, personally prepared.

Catalyst for Resilience

In today’s world each and every one of us can become removed from the community in which we live. People come and go, we work long hours, have families, play sports, and along with the myriad of other activities which form each day, this can leave little time to connect with neighbours and the wider community. Pre-event, individuals in communities can become disengaged from those around them. This changes during an event whereby individuals in the community become ‘involved’, often through no choice of their own. The results of an event can be considered a catalyst to creating a ‘strong community’ or society. A common cause to face the disaster together through tragic circumstances such as the loss of friends and family, injury, loss of property and belongings, the loss of homes, streets, and life as it was participated in previously, can result in the creation of stronger ties to one another.

People who had no previous connection, and did not previously associate now have a strong common bond and they now relate to each other. Firstly, it is helping each other in the initial aftermath, first aid, comfort for the loss of a loved one, providing some food or a place to sleep, then it moves on to rebuilding the community. Where a strong sense of community exists with social linkage, this provides for very strong community relationships which can assist with returning to life similar to that pre-event. Perhaps even a better way of life, richer for the experience and the rebuilding.

In New Zealand recovery is defined as the coordinated efforts and processes to effect the immediate, medium, and long-term holistic regeneration of a community following a disaster. The level and scale of recovery after an emergency will depend largely on the level of the disaster. Furthermore, unlike response activities, this phase of the process is not directed by legislation and relies predominantly on the collaboration of the agencies, communities, and individuals involved. Depending on the nature and extent of the disaster, the recovery phase may last from days to months, with some physical restoration activities possibly for years. The aim of recovery is to efficiently apply the available resources to the task of restoring an affected community to the point where normal social and economic activity may resume. For this to occur close interaction and involvement of the affected communities is required.

Costley Nichola Ann

Emergency Management Officer / Regional Planner, West Coast Civil Defense Emergency Management Group / West Coast Regional Council, New Zealand

New Zealand
It may be more likely that it is through events community resilience develops. Communities may have a level of resilience prior to an event occurring but this unlikely to be significant. Instead, I believe that community resilience is instead a concept or occurrence that happens following an event, and is in fact a direct result of the impacts of the event. The infrastructure of the community may have a level of ‘built in’ resilience through building standards and flood protection mechanisms already, but ‘social resilience’ is arguably much lower pre-event and is formed or enhanced through the experience of the event and the social and physical rebuilding which occurs afterwards.

Is Resilience Elastic?
A concept of interest is the elasticity of resilience communities have when they face an event. How resilient is a community? Does it have a breaking point during or immediately following an event? Every event has a different series of impacts and outcomes on the community relative to the scale of the event. A small event that may affect a handful of houses due to flooding may be horrendous at the time for those involved, but similar feelings may be experienced by a greater number of people in a more substantial disaster. While the scale of the event may change, the experiences of those involved do not. If communities have a breaking point what would this be? Do they continue to stretch and bend, and adjust to the circumstances around them as required? Generally there is no other choice, and there is no other option but to pick up the pieces of the community and try and re-establish what was lost. This is seen time and again following disaster events around the world and shows the societies strength of mind and willingness to get back to normal. Most often this is driven by leaders within communities.

Role of Leaders
On the field trips, there were numerous displays of post disaster community resilience and some key methods of bringing communities together. This is often facilitated by community leaders. Mr Ikeda in Biwa neighborhood, helped to raise the spirits of those in his community by playing jazz in the streets. This was one person’s way of fostering a lift in the community attitude following disaster. In the village of Yamakoshi, the ladies there wanted to give back to their community and thank them following their disaster. They created a restaurant to feed the people in their village eventually turning it into an organic restaurant with the assistance of government funding. This is a positive example of government support as the provision of funding created an economic opportunity not only for the ladies, with an average age of 62 running the restaurant, but for the village and the community as a whole.

While the Government has a role in the hard construction works or legislation around prevention of hazards, it is the community that brings the resilience factor into effect and helps to create that strong society. There needs to be a synergy between government and other assisting organisations with the communities that they deal with, to assist the community to get back on their feet. Strong interaction between community leaders and government officials is required to ensure that the needs of communities are met and the assistance that is provided is the assistance that is needed. Not surprisingly, the objectives of government and community can be very different. It is important that this is recognised and the community is supported to realise their aspirations and desires in recovery. In one village, the community decided that they would recreate the graveyard, followed by their shrine, and then their own houses. This was a community who lived with their ancestors and history, not just other people, and therefore had very different priorities from the government.
The community leaders we met showed that while recovery can be a very hard and drawn out process at times, the results can be very positive for all involved.

**Applying lessons learned**

Discussions with government officials showed that lessons learned in one event are translated to assist in better response and recovery in the next, further enhancing the concept of a strong society through responsive action. Mr Ikaeda from Biwa the neighborhood explained what he would want to see done differently should an event like this strike again. Following the Kobe earthquake, communities were split up and relocated to temporary housing. Many elderly found this very difficult and the tragedy worsened with deaths in this group of evacuees. Lessons have been learned from this event and now communities are moved in situ to retain the linkages developed. People, who may not know each other that well, can still share the burdens of the event together as a community showing the importance of community togetherness.

It is important for officials to realise that no matter how successful a response to an event is there will always be better ways of doing things. The challenge is recognising these opportunities and implementing them in the future. Applying lessons learned from one event to other areas is a very effective tool to create new options for response with hopefully better outcomes for all involved.

**Retaining Resilience through Community Memory**

Maintaining the community bonds following an event needs ongoing assistance to preserve ongoing resilience. Examples seen in Japan included festivals and remembrances, times for the community to celebrate together, and times to remember friends, family, and neighbours who were lost in disasters. Memorials for those who had lost their lives provide a central gathering point for these occasions and are important for holding close the memories of the disasters and their consequences.

In the Disaster Reduction Museum, live storytellers provide an opportunity to continue the memories of the Kobe earthquake and the first-hand account of what happened. The major theme of the various memorial projects on the earthquake was to ensure the passing on of information to younger generations so as not to forget the lessons learned from the disaster. The enthusiasm and ability to recreate the experiences of the earthquake like Mr Yamada, a storyteller was another sure way to ensure these memories are passed on.

In Biwa neighborhood, community exercises such as fire drills with bucket passing provide the opportunity to get together and form relationships before an emergency happens. It is recognised that bucket passing is unlikely to be used in an actual event but it is more about the interaction of community that is more important. In North Noda, a major rebuilding effort was undertaken following the great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake to recreate a new community. Prior to the earthquake, there were issues with the aesthetics of the area and the narrowness of the streets. The community came together to decide how to improve the area to be rebuilt. What we saw was that in a country where space is of a premium, people were willing, some perhaps less than others, to give up parts of their personal sections in order to create wider streets. While this is a beautification,
aesthetic, and urban planning initiative, it also provides for quicker and more effective emergency response compared to that previously. This was a prime example of a community working together toward the greater good. Whether this would happen in New Zealand or other western countries is questionable however it is a credit to this community and its leaders. Flower plaques are placed in the middle of the streets indicating the required setback distances, along with the date that particular neighbourhood was restored.

**Disasters Creating Resilience**

After seeing the results of the recovery from disasters in a number of communities in Japan, and the way people and leaders had dealt with the events inflicted on them it was obvious that there had been towns and villages that had not only been rebuilt physically, but had also been rebuilt as a ‘community’. Following events with serious consequences, many of these areas are now much better prepared should another event occur. Examples include better building standards, flood mitigation, landslide prevention, and also their own personal preparedness. Is it possible to create and foster these community relationships and create a stronger society better able to respond and recover before a disaster? How do we do this? Is this actually possible, or does a community need a catalyst, such as disaster, to prompt them into action?

The level of community involvement in initial response and recovery actions does appear to add to the speed and success of recovery. Can communities recover to a similar position pre-event if they do not rally together? Support mechanisms such as government funding can provide a way back for the community impacted but this needs to be managed carefully and to align with the desires of the community affected.

Disasters will continue to occur and affect our communities. We can learn from the examples provided of successful recovery and community resilience approaches, take advice from others in the field who have been there and assisted, and applying it to our own field of expertise. Most importantly however, is engaging communities pre-event to try and increase their level of ‘community’, their resilience, and to help them create a strong society in order to lessen future potential impacts.

Individuals also needed to be reminded of their role in the community, particularly pre-event. It may save their lives. As Mr Kawai from North Noda postulated, if you are actively involved in the community and disaster strikes, you will be looked for first. If you are involved in the community, but not particularly liked, people will still remember you and will look for you second. But if you are not involved at all, no one will remember you, and no one will look for you.
Asia is the most hazard stricken regions in the world. Most of the tropical cyclones originate in the Western North Pacific Ocean which eventually hit Asia, wreaking destruction as they pass. At the same time the tectonically active setting produce volcanoes and generate earthquakes that can potentially cause disasters. In terms of vulnerability, Asia also houses highly vulnerable regions. These hazards along with vulnerability and other factors produce disasters. Needless to say, most disasters happen in Asia. These disasters, among other things can greatly hamper the economic growth of the region. With these challenging conditions at hand, this JENESYS program focused on disaster prevention and people and involving representatives from different Asian countries with various professions is very timely and highly significant.

We were destined to three cities in Japan—Tokyo, Kobe, and Niigata. We visited different government offices of these three cities, as well as other disaster-related institutions such as the Asian Disaster Reduction Center and Kobe fire department, a school that offers disaster course, as well as communities.

Government Offices

There are differences on the way the prefectural governments deal with disasters, but all of them is similarly furnished with technologically advanced methods and equipments. In Tokyo, we were given a discussion by the engineering department on how they implement the new building design and code to minimize the damage of an earthquake. The engineering methods and materials in designing these earthquake-resistant buildings are really impressive! There is also ample budget for the disaster management related endeavors such as land use conservation and research.

The prefectural government office in Kobe City partially collapsed during the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995. Now it is standing majestically above the flower avenue and houses some relics and memorabilia that serve as reminder of the earthquake. Every day, hundreds of visitors of all ages visit the office, not only to take a great view of the cityscape but to learn and remember the great earthquake that once shook the spirit of the entire city. Fifteen years after the earthquake, you can hardly see any traces of the devastation. The rebuilding and recovery of the entire city in terms of infrastructure is remarkable!

Niigata is a cold and lovely growing city. At first glance, it does not seem to have problems with natural hazards. However, a brief discussion with their vice-governor made me realize that they too suffer from natural hazards such as floods and earthquakes. Their prefectural government office houses the disaster management department that employs...
engineers and scientists specializing in new methods to prevent flooding and design earthquake proof buildings.

**Disaster Management Institutions**

Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe is one of the most high-tech disaster institutions I have been. They have satellite images for monitoring typhoons and floods. The facilities they have in reconstructing the Great Kobe earthquake is something I have never seen before. It is a very good and I believe an effective way of educating the youngsters how dangerous an earthquake can be. Their vast collection of photographs gives lasting impact and remains a timeless reminder of the earthquake. The volunteers are aged and those who survived the great earthquake. They serve as the living testament of the earthquake and they relate their stories based from their own experiences.

The Nagaoka office in Niigata that has a playground for the children showcasing disasters is very creative. They can have fun while learning about disasters. They even have a vending machine that can give early warning for earthquake vibrations and a hero against disaster which they call Bosaider!

The office that we visited in Yamakoshi in Niigata is quite different from other institutions in the cities we have previously visited. They do not have advanced equipments and their volunteers are relatively younger souls. It is more focused on people-centered methods and the volunteers are young people who are determined to live with the locals and help lift their spirits in the face of adversity.

**Communities**

Although the communities that we visited face different natural hazards and that their methods are different in dealing with them, there is one striking common factor in all of them—collective effort. In Tokyo, we went to Shin Koiwa Kita area, Katsushika City, a community situated below sea level. This condition is caused by ground subsidence due to the over-extraction of groundwater. This is a very serious problem, because below sea level condition is very vulnerable to flooding. But the community seems to manage well. Each and everyone are taking a part—preparation from disaster, information dissemination and even research. A resident of the community made his own software to model the subsidence. Each of them also participate in trainings what to do during floods.

The discussions in communities in Kobe are probably the most emotional ones. For one, they suffered from one of the deadliest earthquakes in the history of man. From this, they do not only lost properties, but more sorrowfully, their loved ones. But slowly they begin to stand on their feet again. They took the initiative to rebuild on their own. They persevered to meet regularly and plan for their recovery. Eventually, they become closer to each other, celebrate together, work together, lift each other’s spirits, and offer what they have for the common good, to take care of one another…to live together as a group!

The community in Niigata has faced one unique challenge amidst disaster from the rest—isooltion. It is situated in the rural portion of Niigata where aid from the government cannot be given at once. Therefore, they have to rely for sometime on their own. The help from the outside also takes time to be welcomed by the people because of various reservations. Still, I guess even the hardest spirits can be conquered by perseverance and love. So slowly, the people in the community accepted those people from the outside. They started accommodating them in their homes, started working with them in the fields, introduced them to their other neighbors, and eventually the divide vanished and they become one of them.
Concluding Remarks

This learning did not only include learning from the Japanese experiences but also learning from the participants from other countries. The active discussions revealed that there is indeed variety of perception on disasters from different people. The challenges that we have encountered were also different.

One of the most striking lessons I have learned in the JENESYS program is that, although technologically advanced materials and methods are extremely essential for disaster prevention and mitigation, community involvement in building disaster resilient communities is very essential.

The overall learning and the active sharing of ideas during the discussions showed that there is no absolute formula in building disaster resilient communities. A certain method may be applicable to one or two community but will be completely ineffective in another place. The diversity of communities such as culture, practices, history, as well as the people dynamics and relations should all be taken into account in formulating the appropriate method for the build-up of resiliency. The challenge of how to adapt these methods to our home countries still remains to be thought of and addressed carefully. Nevertheless, the vast and new ideas that we have learned from this program will be able to substantially help us surpass these challenges.

Indeed, there is still much to learn when it comes to disasters: from hazard prevention, to recovery and resiliency. And this study tour did not only add our knowledge, but more importantly inspired us to work more and harder towards building resiliency of communities to hazards. I am more than thankful for having the chance to be in this program. With these experiences, I become more inspired! Together, onwards to building disaster resilient society!
First of all, We would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank you very much” to “Arigatou Gozaimasu” of Japan Foundation for organizing good activities and providing us a chance to exchange ideas and experience in Natural Disaster Management under “JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme “Disaster Prevention and People : Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society” Project. It is considered to be great honor for us and I also would like to thank the Sustainable Development Foundation and Save Andaman Network Foundation, private development organization, who I worked with in recovering the community which was affected by disasters in Thailand. Both organizations taught me to learn about development task together with building awareness of the importance of how to handle potential disasters in the future.

Introduction

Thailand was one of many countries in South East Asia which was often affected by many natural disasters from the past until now. The examples of these disasters are typhoons around gulf of Thailand, floods in the south, landslides, flash flood in lower north, droughts in many areas of north eastern part which also spread throughout the country at the moment and also the storm surge which occurred in upper part of gulf of Thailand. The silent harm which many people still not aware of is the fault of earthquake that can happen any time in the west, north and south of Thailand respectively.

From the previous disasters, there are some observations of the causes. Some were caused from lack of planning such as road construction without planning the city structure. That causes the block of water way and undirected expansion of communities including changes in ways of local life. These were main reason of major flood in Hat Yai District, Songkhla in 2000. Apart from that, development of irrigation system and underground salt industry in north eastern encouraged the spread of salty soil which affected agriculture sector and caused subsided holes in some areas. As Thai people lack of awareness in the drastic of natural disasters, it caused unnecessarily loss to lives and assets such as flash flood which happened at Sairoong Waterfall, Trang.

From development job to discovery of communities effected by disasters

For more than 7 years of experience in work field with seashore communities in order to build community capacity to form a group to manage natural resources and environment and to establish the sustainability in careers and income. Until tsunami in 2004, we established a cooperative network in recovering seashore communities called “Save Andaman Network” which later registered as “Andaman Foundation” nowadays. The aim of foundation focuses on lives recoveries after tsunami which covered 121 villages from 418 damaged villages in 6 provinces along Andaman coast. The community base techniques has been used in recovering process both in short and long term under the concept and process as follow :
Concept, Process and the purpose of recovering the community

The key concept for planning, initiating program and developing community base on building capacity of community in terms of self-ruling and self management for the future of the community.

Process

Our process will focus on the participation of the community, supporting forming community organization and building capacity in community development as well as solving problem rising in community logistically. All processes adhere to the principles of religion and local traditions.

Purpose

The sustainable development aims at the strength of community, encouraging democracy, good governance and having funds and business to solve economic issues and build up the financial discipline. Sustainable community also uses and keeps coastal resources sustainably.

Lessons learned from tsunami disaster in 2004, floods in every region in 2006 and 2007 and flash flood in Sairoong Waterfall, Trang has influenced Thailand to realize the importance of preparing to handle with various disasters. There were a lot of new set up organization such as National Disaster Warning Center and also upgrading the disaster prevention and mitigation agencies to Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. However as the time passed by, the level of readiness has reduced. The National Disaster Warning Center is later less effective due to lack of human resource, knowledge and budget.

Many tsunamis from continuous earthquakes affected people along coastal area. They live in fear and unable to make a living as normal because they are not confident with the official warning system. Theorically every related agencies agrees that we should use community as a base for disaster preparation but on the other hand, the coordination and operating system did not go straight forward to community level. The coordination appeared in only district areas due to many official agencies are under the control of district. One district consists of many communities and different communities have different risks of facing disasters. For example, Ban Namkem, Bangmuang district, Phang nga has the risk of tsunami because it is coastal area whereas other communities in the same district facing the risk of landslide due to the difference in geography. The handling of all these risks became unspecific. There were only 2 volunteers each community working which was not enough for effective handling the risks of the community.

From the experience of Save Andaman Network Foundation and Sustainability Development Foundation for in working with communities, we need to reorganize by using the community as a base especially in the highest risk area such as Ban Koh Mook, Kantang, Trang province, Ban Namkem, Bangmuang district, Phang nga province and Ban Khonklan, Thungwa, Satun province. There should be at least 70 volunteers per community. Andaman Foundation focuses on the disasters preparation by community. We not only focus on the capacity of community to handle the disaster but also the readiness of the community. Having reliable disaster handling system will help community to get back their lives on track.

How is Thailand ready for disaster?

It seems that Thailand is still not ready for handling with disasters because we get used to live in a safe and fertile area without severe disasters fro a long time. Nowadays, we can not deny that we are currently in risk of disasters everywhere such as huge earthquakes, new tsunamis and epidemics which spread in many areas and coming to our country soon.
From Dr. Bancha Pongpanich’s 7 principles of being ready for disasters can best reflect Thailand’s readiness as follow:

- **Myths and Perceptions about Natural Disasters**

  It has been recognized and aware of disasters widely in Thai society after feeling that we now live in safe place from severe disasters like earthquake, tsunami, flood and epidemics. This awareness can be categorized in 2 patterns. First pattern is group of people who alert with consciousness, experience, and memory and background knowledge. Second pattern is a group of people who are alert with panic, chaos, being benighted and lead to having fun without learning anything.

  The most aware and recovering memory is fisherman group. “Morgan” villagers have been passed on the story of the changes of sea level from generation to generation. After tsunami, natural warnings have been measured and observed seriously either ants, pigs, dogs, cattle or sea animals. Fishermen found something in similar of what happened on December 26th 2004 and September 2007. There were some changes in sea water that caused hands became easily tender and too many fish and crabs in the fishnet to catch. One week before September 12th, many fishermen along Andaman coast were aware of tsunami. In Ban Namkem, fishermen hurried pulling back their fishnets or even buried their fishnet with the fish they caught under the sand and waited until all fish rotten and they came back to pick up their fishnets and reused.

  Many academic institutes and many international organizations are currently conducting the research on this matter but have not completed yet. Scientific learning kits, new technologies and materials have been used widely. The first group of people can benefit and gain lot of knowledge on this. The problem is “what can we do for second group”?

- **Natural Disaster Preparedness**

  As we paid attention to manage the system, technology and preparation in receiving, analyzing and sending warning signals of National Disaster Warning Center which haven been completed yet, meanwhile government released Civil Protection Plan 2005. This plan upgraded National Disaster Warning Center to Department of National Disaster Warning Center and also upgraded some organizations in local administrative levels. Some plans of some areas may not suit with the areas but every local administrative agency realizes that it is their responsibilities to conduct the plan for each area. The plans were widely conducted in almost every local agency as well as evacuation practices. It seems that the evacuation practice look like demonstration rather than real practice. Except from Ban Namkem area, community and villagers assembled and practice under the support of local administrative agency. Apart from that, the fishermen network created “Black Ant” radio system to communicate and warn the villagers.

- **Natural Disaster Mitigation**

  Due to the insistence of majority to live in the same area, managing area for natural disaster mitigation is quite difficult. There were new settlements of communities in the safe area such as Chaipattana community in Thungrak, Chaipattana community in Thungwa, ITV Ruamjai, Mook Island, Ruamsooktaweesapmankong community and Mittaparbpattana in Ban Namkem. While original area of Ban Namkem lost opportunity to adapt routing conditions as well as most of the areas where evacuation signs exist only along the beach.
• **Emergency Response**

There were interests in studying and adjusting systems in many agencies include both Department of National Disaster Warning Center and Narehntorn Rescue Center which used to be main supporter. The commanding system, medical care, forensic and the safety of volunteers did not reach the standard. For example, there were high risks of volunteers in rescuing the One-To-Go air crash in Phuket including 2 different standards in forensic tasks. Thai forensic principles bases on witness, proof and discretion while foreigner forensic bases on DVI standard.

From the perspective of volunteers, even though there are more learning process and supports but there still separation in working as they tried both cooperative area and cooperative topics.

• **Medical Response**

This is the most develop and continuous practice in both local and national level. Operating and academic study about healing tsunami victims were accepted and applaud in international level as referred by many case studies in both Bangkok-Phuket hospital and Phuket province.

• **Support and Assistance &Recovery**

This work field was most continue and expended in terms of providing food, clothes, medical care, shelters and occupations for children and local people (Morgan, Morglan and Uraklawoy) and even being a law consultant for victims. Other side of this work field is to continue and fulfill what other organizations had remained such as Sirinthorn Special Unit completing the remaining tasks of other agencies.

• **Good Experience and Memory from Japan**

From the experience of visiting Japan under the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme “Disaster Prevention and People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society project, it broads my vision and I learn various ways of handling with natural disasters. I also had great time sharing and exchange experience with many new friends from different countries. It was a good chance to work and analyze S.W.O.T of the solutions from many countries. It also created a network of support and recovery countries affected by disasters which may happen in the future.

The most important thing from this participation is the disaster handling system in Japan from both government sector and private sectors. The academics and citizens are also part of the finding solutions. The more I had talked with people in community, the more I learn that they are really concern of the natural disasters. It is not different from what I thought before visiting Japan. Japan is the richest country with experience, knowledge and modern technology in the region and always willing to pass on these experience and knowledge to other countries. I will bring my experience and knowledge gained from this visit to my organization, colleagues and people in my work field in order to provide the most suitable disaster recovery plan for my country in the future.

Apart from that, I observed the continuous solution of Japanese government. Effected people had a chance to take part in planning the recovery plan for community. Japanese government is not only keen on solving problems rising by disasters but also support academic studies in educational institutions and related agencies. Due to many earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and landslides in Japan, this reflects readiness to handle natural disasters at all time. Along with experienced expert on this and systematic plan, Japan is ready for any natural
disasters. Japanese government also focuses on providing knowledge for children about what happened to
other countries in order to build awareness of natural disasters to the children. The budget for building disasters
learning center for children and adults was granted. This is what every country should take as good example.
As the government providing JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme “Disaster Prevention and
People: Working Towards the Creation of a Strong Society”, this was considered to be physical, mental and
monetary sacrifice for equal level of knowledge in Asian region. I believe that this would lead Asian region to
be truly strong interaction network in analyzing solutions to peace and security in lives, economic and society.

Biography
Ms. Dawan Sanlee graduated Bachelor Degree of Marine and Coastal Resource Management, Walailak
University in 2006. She is currently studying on her final year of master degree on Aqua Study, Faculty of
Natural Resources, Prince Songkhlunakarin University, Hat Yai, Songkhla. She has been working with Andaman
Foundation since graduation of bachelor degree.
Background
My name is Nguyen Trong Ninh and I was selected as one of the 20 young members to participate in the JENESYS Program in 2010. I am now working for Plan International in Vietnam as a Disaster Risk Management Specialist and currently I am the chairman of the Disaster Management Working Group consisting of a number of INGOs and UN agencies. Plan International in Vietnam is child-centered INGO where the child rights are strengthened and promoted throughout its program in remote, poor and mountainous areas in Vietnam.

Viet Nam is a disaster prone country recurrently affected by different types of hazards, with typhoons, storms, floods, droughts, mudslides, forest fires and salt-water intrusion presenting recurring risks, especially for children, women, and the elderly. The poorest people in society are the most vulnerable to natural disasters. Every year, the country suffers directly from six to ten storms and tropical depressions causing heavy rains and flooding. In the last ten years more than 15 million people have been severely affected by natural disasters and more than one million people require emergency relief each year. Vietnam will be one of the five countries worst affected by sea level rise and more intense and frequent extreme weather (World Bank, 2008). Disasters not only cause poverty, social, economic, political and environmental problems but also contribute to harm the poverty fighting process. Every year, close to 750 people die or go missing due to natural disasters in Viet Nam. Natural disasters cause an economic loss of approximately 1.5% of Vietnam’s GDP annually.

Personal observation from Japan
Disaster prevention – people-centered actions
One of the great factors in Japan’s effort in disaster management is the people itself. It is observed that the people who suffered and recovered from the earthquake in Kobe and Niigata have learnt from their own experience, brought up with their own resilient plans and discussed for their lives to cope with disasters. The students actively took the course on disaster management as they believed that it would be the best way to become a young agent of changes. I was impressed by the initiatives led by the students, such as their lead in development of disaster drills, desing of communication and awareness raising activities with community people and exchange and sharing with other students in Nepal. Local people who participated in NPOs and CBOs show their active engagement in community consultation, participatory discussion, production of memorized video for awareness raising, etc. It should be noted that the strong participation, ownership and self-experience of people – from the students to the community people in the villages, as well as the social groups play a key role in promoting a stronger society. It is good to share that in developing countries, we also can see how actively the vulnerable people participate actively in assessment, planning and decision making process so that they can identify their own issues, share their own concerns and move forward with the collective actions.
**Advanced technology in disaster prevention**

Japan’s disaster prevention technology is now among the most advanced in the world. It is clearly seen during the program that the Japanese have invested billions of dollars on research and identification of disaster mitigation measures. Drawing from the lesson learns of the Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake, the revised Building Standard Law and the Act for Promotion of the Earthquake Proof Retrofitting of Buildings has taken into account of technology aspect to ensure the safety of construction and people. The five flood-measures is another example of how people can use their scientific knowledge and expertise in disaster prevention to ensure that the disaster risks can be mitigated thanks to advanced technology. It is revealed that in Japan, early warning system is put as high priority with huge investment in term of technology. The tsunami and earthquake forecast system help to inform local people, including children about the size of an earthquake and its epicenter can be estimated instantly from its preliminary tremors, enabling alerts to be sent out several seconds for evacuation and preparation. The warning system also helps the governments and firefighting headquarters to decide any sound and necessary actions. Japan also takes use of GIS system to identify the rainfall volume, water-level volume and river information for flood prone areas where the authorities and people can access through internet or mobile phone. This system also is being used to develop the hazard map and identification of disaster risks. By mentioning the advanced technology application for disaster prevention, it should be noted that the Government of Japan has invested a lot of resource and efforts in preparedness as a strategic priority to cope with larges-scaled disasters in the future. I would like to quote the following statement to remind us on the importance of disaster preparedness: **One dollar invested in disaster preparedness can save seven dollars’ worth of disaster-related economic losses.**

**Conclusion**

The program has enhanced my understanding, knowledge and view on the initiatives and efforts of Japan toward disaster prevention. It is very exciting about the diversifying of different backgrounds, nationalities and expertise among the 20 members during the trip. Everyone has shared, discussed and worked together to study and draw out their own experience to contribute for the success of the program. By touring to 3 cities, including Tokyo, Kobe and Niigata to visit communities, people, students, institutions and Government offices, it was a significant learning experience to get to know the culture and society of Japan which obviously contribute to the strong and resilient country such as Japan. The design of this program was excellent when it created a wide range of methods – from discussion, observation to open sharing and lectures. I am sure that each participant can equip themselves with best experience, knowledge and more importantly with increased awareness of a stronger society in disaster prevention so that they can bring back to their work for sharing and further learning.

Thank you very much!
Changing society and Community empowerment

Though this program we could see step of Disaster Risk Reduction: DRR process in Japan from National government reveal to local community reveal. The multiple of actors, local community, NGO, research institution, educational institution, local government, national government, gave us valuable lectures. From these I would like to write in this report about community empowerment.

I am doing study and research of Disaster Risk Reduction and International Corporation at graduate school of Kobe university. Through these studies I already knew that how local communities were important at the time of The Grate Hanshin Awaji Earthquake and recovered from that. But also the current statuses of community are concerned. Mass migration and less communication, aging and under population, these are weakening and destroying communities in urban and rural areas.

Natural disasters hit societies regularly or irregularly and we response those. We can not response again in the same way when our societies are getting change. Those differences would be vulnerability. For example, earthquake or heavy rain trigger landslide if the forest lands are divested of depopulation and people live in the area of potential flooding by rapid urbanization. How will we address those social and community vulnerabilities?

We saw one case in Yamakoshi village Niigata prefecture. They tried overcome together those, local government, community and facilitator. Yamakoshi village is mountainous village and suffered much damage from the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004 as the destruction of buildings, reduction of crops, and landslides. That had been problem in the village ageing and less population before the earthquake hit, and that accelerated after the quake. Local government tried rebuilt community and adopted the facilitators for community empowerment.

The facilitator came from outside of the village and a facilitator told us the local community did not accept him at the beginning. Then he tried some way and start learning from them. For local people that he tried to learn was not particular things, they just know from there life and experiences in the village. They remind that not only their knowledge would be worth for others and that work for local revitalization, but also the facilitator make known to them. The facilitator was not specialist just he was interested in the village and inhabitants. He told us that he tried growing up with community. What are important for empowerment are different viewpoint and lay heads together.

This case is not effect directory to DRR, but effected to empowerment community. There are lots of way of against disaster and overcome vulnerability. I could know through this program that the member of this program have same problems. We understand the community empowerment is on of common way of reduces vulnerability, because our
society and your society are getting change. Our societies have lots of differences, but also we have commons. I would like to visit your countries and communities to learn more.

I am glad that I had this opportunity and I appreciate to every one, the organizers and coordinators of the program, the professors who introduced this program to me and give me permit to join this program, and my friends who made up for my lost classes.

Thank you very much.
Group Presentation
What we have learnt from this Program? or What I have realized again through JENESYS

"Disaster Prevention and People
: Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society

JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program
July 1st, 2010
Tamiyo KONDO, Associate Professor, Ph.D
Kobe University Graduate School of Engineering Department of Architecture

What you expected in JENESYS program
- Disaster Reduction in Japan: How to cope with vulnerability
- Community-based disaster reduction and management

[Today's presentation from each groups]
Holistic and Integrated approach to Disaster Reduction
- Group A: Education
- Group B: Community Involvement and Resilience
- Group C: Integrated Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction
- Group D: Disaster Prevention and People

What we learned from Recovery (1)
「復興」現場で学んだこと①
- Preparing for long-term recovery phase is also disaster reduction.
復興には、災害となる前の「予防」が重要である
  - If you are not prepared for disaster, it is difficult to reduce the damage of the society by emergency response.
  - If you conduct enough mitigation and preparedness, the speed of recovery would be short, people can get normal life.

What we learned from Recovery (2)
「復興」現場で学んだこと②
- We recognized the power of social resilience in recovery phase (Kobe and Niigata).
「復興」の現場で地域の回復力のすごさを知った
  - Community organizing and community development before the earthquake hits.
  - The strong society is where they have things to protect, such as pride and local culture.

What we have to prepare for recovery before the disaster.
Thinking recovery after disaster is too late.
- Planning for strategy, process and partnership between government, private and non-profit sector for recovery.
  - City of Kobe government have community planning system and partnership between community organization, private consultants, local government since 1980.
- Stop “Recovery Disaster” No solitary death, not destroying community.
  - The strong society is where they have things to protect, such as pride and local culture.
  - Heritage and culture form strong bonds of resilience.

“Utilizing” the social resiliency
- Non-profit sector was trying to utilize the social resilience.
- Providing disaster recovery public housing in Kobe.

Closed Session
Programme Advisor

Tamiyo Kondo
Transfer the experience and lesson from devastated area to other communities and countries


- The lesson in response and recovery phases
  - Preserve the community when entering temporary housing
  - Care for women in emergency shelter: ex) breast feeding
  - The wisdom and intelligence that they learned from disaster to other communities and countries 被災で生まれた知恵を被災地内で伝え、他地域へ広げていく

- The lesson in response and recovery phases
  - Story teller in DRI：Listening story tellers’ experience 直接: think disaster not as knowledge but as their own problem (Mr. Myint)

- The lesson in response and recovery phases
  - Avoidance and Fast Recovery by Mr. Sian (Malaysia)  \( \text{Avoidance and Fast Recovery by Mr. Sian (Malaysia)} \)

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**Group A**

Today's presentation

- Informal education such as communities interact and learn from each other about disaster
- Exchange of disaster experience by community
- Why disaster education so important?
  - Avoidance and Fast Recovery by Mr. Sian (Malaysia)

**Group B**

Today’s presentation

- Building resiliency and community involvement
- How to approach the community as an outsider
- Strengthening students and youth capability
  - Survival exercises in school community
- Promote younger generation to have greater involvement in disaster mitigation
- Listening story tellers’ experience directly: think disaster not as knowledge but as their own problem

Q. What is resiliency for your home country ?

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**Group C**

Today’s presentation

For safer community

1. Social Action: education, training and capacity building by community and academics level
2. Physical Action: flood control, building regulation
3. Political/Legislative Action: Law against pumping water for industry use to prevent land subsidence
4. Technological Action: GIS
5. Environmental Action:
6. Economic Action: many people did not have insurance covered fire from earthquake (Kobe), The famer’s association insurance (Niigata)

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**Group D**

Today’s presentation

- Driver for disaster reduction and recovery is community.
  - Good driver of Bad driver
- Education and awareness creating resilience
- Community’s self motivation
- Preserving memory and dissemination for youth (Biwa town)
- What is the glue that holds the community together?
  \( \text{community relationships, a common goal} \)
- Consensus building and priority for recovery among community might be difficult

Q. How can we get youth involved in disaster reduction?
- cultural awareness, story tellers ,international cooperation
THE ROLES OF DISASTER EDUCATION IN BUILDING STRONG SOCIETY IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Group Members:
Manish Prasad – India
Lim Choun Sian – Malaysia
Ida Ansharyani – Indonesia
Sang Hyun Park – South Korea
Dk Siti Ummi Kalthum Pg Hj Muhammad – Brunei Darussalam

HAZARD AND DISASTER IN EAST ASIA
We share the almost same natural hazards:
• Earthquake
• Tsunami
• Flood
• Landslide
• Typhoon
• Volcano
• Extreme weather

INTERCONNECTED TO EACH OTHER
• We are not alone or excluded
• Catastrophic disasters are regional wide and cross- countries / continent

STAKEHOLDERS IN DISASTER

Why Disaster Education is Important?
• The first “First Aid” for every individual and community
• Avoidance and Fast Recovery
• Early warning (prior-warning)
DISASTER EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT

The Linkages

• The Government is always an important part of Education
• The Government ‘obligates’ to educate the people and in forming an informed citizen on disaster
• Government is the main actor in planning and giving direction in education and curriculum

GOVERNMENT

• In Japan, Government plays vital roles in DRR as well as in its education aspect – Top Down
• At the same time, Prefecture/ Local Government and Communities give feedback and advocacy (influence) or inputs

EDUCATION

Formal
• University
• High School
• Elementary
• Kindergarten

Informal
• General Citizen/ Communities
• Community at risk

INFORMAL EDUCATION

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Government ↔ Community
• Early warning information
• Hazard mapping (community – based)

Community ↔ Community
• Small communities exchange and learn from each other about disaster
• Story telling from the first hand experience to others

Private Sector ↔ Workers
• Practice early warning
• Eg. System evacuation drill

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Research Center ↔ Community
• Research Mapping
• Community visits/research centre
• Information sharing by research centre
• All the research data shared to public (brochure)

GOVERNMENT ↔ Community
• Early warning information
• Hazard mapping (community – based)

Challenges and Recommendation

• The disaster curricula have to be designed in all level of education and are being implemented
• Accessible disaster information centre
• To make an informative and easy to understand language of disaster information for all groups of people
• Synergy between all stakeholders
• To make disaster as a popular issue
• Human resources and facility in delivering disaster information must be improved
Challenges and Recommendation (cont’)

• Certified courses/training in disaster
• To localized the disaster issues
• Special attention to rural and isolated area
• Promotion of more community based organization
• Promotion of corporate social responsibility in disaster education and management
• Exchange of disaster experience by community (ex. Field trip in to other disaster area)
Fostering Community Involvement to Build Resilience and Enhance Recovery

By Heath Bracey (Australia), Mas Diana Binti Abdul Samat (Brunei), Yin BunSopheaktra (Cambodia), Young Bin Kim (Korea), Tay Zar Moe Myint (Myanmar)

Foreword
- This presentation is a collaboration of what each of us have learnt and believe we could possible implement into to our own communities in order to foster resilience.
- Some of the information contained in this presentation maybe slightly incorrect due to individuals interpretation and English being the 2nd language for most participants.

Outline
- What is resilience?
- What we know already.
- Why is there a need to build resilience.
- Lessons participants have learnt.
- Challenges in introducing them at home
- Summary

What is resilience
- The ability to deal with change – most often negative.
- Resilient people are able to utilize their skills and strengths to cope and recover from problems and challenges.
- Those who lack this resilience may instead become overwhelmed by such experiences. These individuals are slower to recover from setbacks and may experience more psychological distress as a result.

What we know
- Before we can build resilience in communities we must understand the risk.
- People who are socially link to their community are more resilient.
- They share resources and information
- They are generally better informed and prepared for disaster
- Recover quicker with less long term effects

Why is there a need
- To reduce the impact of disaster
- The community can be the first responder
- Empowers the community
- Maintain community / peoples spirit
LESSONS LEARNT
Biwa Town - Mr Ikeda
- DVD to educate the young.
- Worked closely with others to widen streets, public spaces.
- Played Jazz Music in the streets to lift peoples spirits.
- Emergency housing allocation - keeping communities together.
- Planned for attrition within his community group.

LESSONS LEARNT
Yamakoshi Area
- Community restaurant
- Bull Fighting returned
- Photo Gallery
- Explaining their history
- Volunteer facilitators
- Informal meetings
- Recovered Graveyard (1st)
- Built Shrine (2nd)
- Rebuilt Houses (3rd)

LESSONS LEARNT
HOW TO APPROACH THE COMMUNITY AS AN OUTSIDER (NGO / NPO)
- Remove the barriers between community and outsiders – focus on keeping equal relationship with the community.
- Offer education and proper explanation – focus on reasonable target (students, elder women, community leaders).
- Make a small organisation within the community – focus on keeping connected with the community.

LESSONS LEARNT
Maiko High School
- Fostering disaster management practices – drills, evacuation, survival exercises etc among school community, parents / families.
- Close network with other relevant organizations – for awareness, strengthening students capability.

LESSONS LEARNT
Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ARDC)
- Hazard Mapping

Nagasaki City, Niigata Prefectural
- Interactive informative learning environment.

LESSONS LEARNT
- Promote younger generation to have greater involvement in disaster mitigation
- Community networking to allow them to move forward
- NPO’s/ NGO’s working together with government organisations prior to disaster – which also allows speedy response
- Number of IEC material have been developed for raising awareness in each disaster.
LESSONS LEARNT

Community Initiatives  Voluntary spirit

LESSONS LEARNT

Story teller  Town Watching

LESSONS LEARNT

Community memory  Creating community festivals

LESSONS LEARNT

Community speaks out  Using Democratic system in community  Culture (very organized, detail, artistic, make memory)  Community business  Community before individual spirit  Constant awareness of disaster (Town watching system)

CHALLENGES INTRODUCING STRATEGIES

- Financial constraints
- Cultural differences – bridging the gaps
- Finding willing leaders
- Outsiders being excepted

CHALLENGES INTRODUCING STRATEGIES

- Educational barriers and resources
- Gaining support from communities that are yet be effected
- Motivating people to be involved
- New technology
- Reaching isolated communities
SUMMARY
- Communities are vulnerable on many dimensions
- Effective communication is essential
- Essential to reach all corners of the community and have them actively involved.
- Heritage and culture form strong bonds of resiliencies.
- Utilising past events helps motivate involvement.
- Strong leadership and direction is essential.

FINAL QUOTE - MR KAWAI (TAKATORI)
- "If you are liked in the community you will be rescued first"
- "If you are dislike people will still remember you and will coming looking for you".
- "If you are invisible in the community, people will not know you are missing and will not come looking for you".

ARIGATOO & SAYONARA
An Integrated Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction: lessons learned from Japan and East Asia

Group C
Zhao Xu – China
Khounkham Douangphachone – Laos
Jennifer Clancy – Australia
Dawan Sanlee – Thailand
Ninh Nguyen - Vietnam

An Integrated Approach to DRR

Environmental Action
(Plant shelter breaks, reforestation)

Technological Action
(Scientific understanding of hazards, early warning systems)

Physical Action
(Flood controls, safe building)

Economic Action
(Insurance, livelihood diversification)

Social Action
(Education, training, capacity building)

Safer Community

Reconstructions the community (about 3 years)

Rehabilitation from the disaster (about 1 year)

Emergency (about 3 months)

• Volunteers
• Government
• The foundations

Social Action

What we have learnt ...

• Disaster drill
• Take practices in community
• Train the children
• Deliver the idea for the family

Social Action

Education

Residents & Neighborhood
Take practices

CBO

Community discussion
Capacity building

NPO & Academics

Training
Workshop
Consulting

Social Action

Ownership & Work together
Come up with the community & from bottom to top
Cultivate & Develop the CBO

Social Action

Community-based Organizations (CBO) & NPOs

Community association in Kobe

Social Action

Social Action

Residents & Neighborhood
Take practices
Physical Action
What we have learnt …
- Isolator system for building to cope with earthquake
- Dam system to protect from flooding in heavy rain
- Temporary house for disaster victims after disaster (to prevent from heavy snow)
- 5 Flood Control Methods
- Concrete construction for landslide prevention
- ‘Water gate’ to protect Tokyo city downstream
- Road widening

Physical Action
From our countries …
Laos: Dyke system in weak condition
China: Houses and public buildings (incl. schools) in poor condition (after earthquake in Sichuan Qinghai province)
Vietnam + Laos: Stilt house without strengthening measures to cope with typhoon;
- Vietnam: schools and Government buildings strengthened for evacuation

Political / Legislative Action
What we have learnt …
- Building Standard Law (after earthquake)
- Policy framework for Emergency
- Law against pumping water for industry use to prevent land subsidence

Political / Legislative Action
From our countries …
- Australia: Total Fire Ban Day; Smoke Alarm set up in all houses
- Vietnam: National Framework on Disaster Risk Management; Law on Dyke and Reservoir Protection; Law on Primary Forest Protection
Technological Action

What we have learnt …
- GIS in relation to hazard map and risk identification
- Early warning and information system for Earthquake and Flood
- Scientific research in relation to awareness raising: size of earthquake, flood control dam

Environmental Action

What we have learnt …
- Japan study
  After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake 1995.1.17
  • Reforestation
  • Plant shelter brake
  • Awareness raising for young generation (the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial)

Environmental Action

From our countries …
- Thailand study
  After Tsunami 2004
  • Community based environmental resources management
  • Reforestation: Mangrove
  • Environmental Protection
  • Sustainable utilization of environmental resources

Economic Action

What we have learnt …
- Kobe: Many people did not have insurance that covered fire from an earthquake.
  - People thus lost their assets and savings.
  - Some areas did not receive reconstruction funds from the government, forcing people to move into public or shared housing.
- Yamakoshi: The Farmer’s Association provided insurance to members of the community.
  - This insurance was described as the ‘biggest factor that helped people rebuild their homes’, with an average payout of 14 million yen.
  - The insurance only covered cattle and did not cover destroyed koi or farmland, impacting on people’s financial security.
Economic Action

From our countries …

- Vietnam: Insurance is rare. As people save more money and invest in more permanent, concrete housing they increase their economic risk.
  - Concrete housing is costly. "Hazard proof." While former houses were made out of materials that can be collected, households must save money again to rebuild in concrete.

- Australia: ¼ of all affected homes by the Canberra bushfires were uninsured, and at least a further ¼ were underinsured.
  - People did not see the benefits of insurance as outweighing the costs.
  - People called insurance companies when they saw the fires approaching their houses!
**Group Presentation**

**Catherine Abon, Nichola Costley, Prerna Sharma, Yuko Ikenouchi, Avianto Amri**

**Disaster Prevention and People: How to create a strong society.**

Catherine Abon (Philippines)  
Nichola Costley (New Zealand)  
Prerna Sharma (India)  
Yuko Ikenouchi (Japan)  
Avianto Amri (Indonesia)

**Our Key Impressions**

- **Education and Awareness Creating Resilience**
  - Inclusion of the disaster education to the curriculum - a systematic way of bringing the knowledge to the members of the community especially to the younger generation (e.g. Maiko High school)  
  - Community’s self motivation (e.g. Takatori, Biwa, Yamakoshi community)  
  - Active participation of community in hazard mapping and internalizing it. (Asian Disaster Reduction Center)

- **People Centered Technology**
  - Developing technology FOR the people  
  - From traditional to high tech products  
    - Focus on the people  
    - Culturally appropriate and context sensitive  
    - Examples from what we have seen:  
      - Flood early warning systems → Niigata prefecture  
      - Hazard mapping with GIS → Tokyo community  
      - Storytelling from the elderly → DRI in Kobe  
  - Active collaboration between government – academics – NGOs/NPOs

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**Group D**
Relationships Creating Resilience

Elasticity of a community
- Size of event vs community spirit

Is there a breaking point?

What is the glue that holds the community together?
- Community relationships
- A common goal

Lessons Creating Resilience

- Accumulating information and learning from other people's experiences.
- For example... the housing of evacuees as 'whole communities' vs. housing singularly.

Challenges in Japan

- Japanese society changing – aging, less communication, fewer young people in communities.
- Impacts from disasters not necessarily changing.
- Burden on the elderly to recover without younger people in communities.
- Increase the vulnerability of the society.

How do we overcome our vulnerability?

Summary

- Diversity exist in different countries (culture, governance, socio-economic status, etc.) such that there is no absolute solution to dealing with disasters.

Therefore...

- These differences should be taken into account to be able to come up with the most appropriate solution

Any Questions?

You have 20 minutes! (and counting ....)

Thank you!
Terima Kasih!
Salamat po!
Arigatou Gozaimasu!
Dhanyawaad!
Photos