

Recommendations by the Civil Society Organizations of the Region hosting the G7 Ise-Shima Summit

We, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the local area hosting the G7 Ise-Shima Summit recognize the strong connections between local and global issues, and therefore make recommendations to the leaders of the G7 based on our agreements adopted at the “Japan Civil Society Platform on 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit” on May 24, 2016.

Disaster

Enhance activities to build a disaster resilient civil society with initiative of disaster survivors

(Keywords)

“Human Charter and minimum standards for humanitarian responses (the Sphere Standard)”, “participation of disaster victims”, “larger hazards and urbanization caused by global environmental change”, “volunteers, NPOs, and NGOs in diverse fields”, “intermediary organization”, “activity environment at times of disaster”, “corporate support, “science and technology”, “community building”, “advance reconstruction plan”, “district disaster prevention plan”, and “disaster prevention education”.

Current situation of local areas

Japan, particularly the Tokai Region, has suffered immense damage caused by Nankai Trough earthquakes/tsunamis throughout the years. The area has developed facing and overcoming these hardships. Disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, and many other approaches have been developed by citizens initiatives throughout its history, and we believe that many ideas can be shared with the world. However, there are still several problems in terms of supporting disaster survivors with minimum global standards, such as preventing disaster-related deaths. This issue gained particular attention during the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes. The country needs to work further to build organizational structures for intermediary support that link the disaster survivors and supporting organizations.

Need for a global approach

With the progress of globalization and technology advancement, residents of each region are becoming more diverse in terms of ethnicity, social class, physical or mental disability, values and more. At the same time, damage caused by climate change and social environment are also diversifying and becoming more severe. Especially during the mega disasters such as 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami affecting broad areas providing assistance is critical. After the Indian Ocean

earthquake/tsunami disaster, several organizations from all over the world responded simultaneously in dis-coordinated way. Mutual coordination among donors are required to avoid duplication of assistance and provide in needed support properly. In order to handle such kind of mega disasters, stakeholders must not only sustained their own activities but also build collaboration among various institutions both in terms of area and affiliation.

Given the above situation, we hereby call on the governments of the G7, and especially the Japanese government hosting the summit, to take the following measures.

- Disseminating and localizing the Humanitarian Charter and minimum standards in humanitarian relief activities .

As witnessed during the Great East Japan Earthquake, disaster affected people's could not receive sufficient support for psychological or physical health, respecting their human dignity, not only in developing nations, but also in developed nations. The governments of the G7 nations, and especially the Japanese government acting as the Chair, must actively implement the Humanitarian Charter and minimum standards throughout humanitarian response in accordance with each places's local/specific situation and reflect them to all disaster prevention, mitigation, and recovery policies and guidelines.

- Guarantee the participation of disaster survivors in decision making processes of disaster prevention, mitigation, and recovery policies.

After a disaster, it is fundamental that local government and citizens build up a system to ensure that every single survivor is assured of his/her psychological or physical health along with human dignity. To this end, the government in concern must, in line with the citizens of the affected area, guarantee the participation of stakeholders such as the disaster survivors, particularly the people who face difficulties such as the elderly, foreign citizens, people with disability, and women and children. These stakeholders must be involved in the decision making process for disaster prevention, mitigation, and recovery policies so that their voices will be directly reflected.

- Building a platform to address serious damage caused by bigger hazards.

As the scale of hazard grows and its frequency increases due to global environmental change and urbanization, damages following a disaster are becoming more serious. Governments of each country must promote platforms consisting of volunteers, NPOs, NGOs, companies, local governments, states and countries to cooperate beyond their regions and fields regardless of scale, on the basis of

enhancing mutual assistance by disaster survivors. To this end, the governments must help create an intermediary support organization that connects the regions, states and fields.

- Support mutual assistance and the activities by volunteers, NPOs and NGOs that work in different fields.

Mutual assistance and the activities by volunteers, NPOs and NGOs at local level play an important role to complement public assistance to reduce disaster impacts and promote recovery processes. Especially in terms of providing assistance to the socially vulnerable people including women, children, the elderly and people with disability, the role of volunteers, NPOs and NGOs that carry out support activities on a regular basis play significant roles at times of disaster. Governments of each state must further enhance the mutual assistance system at local level considering so that volunteers, NPOs and NGOs may carry out activities in diverse fields, and create an environment which enables prompt action at times of disaster.

- Improve mechanism and systems to enable the private sector to provide support to disaster survivors taking advantages on company's expertise and scale.

Provision of resources and aid with expertise play an essential role in life recovery of disaster survivors. Governments of each nation must improve the mechanism and system to integrate various companies to provide assistance to disaster survivors maximizing their business expertise on business.

- Provide support for science and technology development and disaster risk reduction studies and to promote resilient community by preparing pre-disaster recovery plan.

Although knowledge on disaster mechanism and science and technology advancement have enabled us to understand the disaster risks in advance to mitigate damage, that knowledge is often not properly applied in pre-disaster planning. We request the governments to provide further assistance to science and technology development and disaster risk reduction studies, to improve public access to related information and create a disaster resilient community. In addition, stakeholders must develop mechanisms and systems to plan out pre-disaster recovery plans to mitigate damages at times of disaster and to recover the community while maintaining the local culture and tradition, along with local residents' self-sustaining disaster prevention plans.

We make the following recommendations as basic activities to realize the above suggestions.

- Carry out disaster prevention activities to foster resilient community where all citizens participate to overcome hardship.

Disasters may lead us to lose our lives, psychological and physical health, human dignity, and valuable assets. Disaster risk reduction education enhances disaster awareness and strengthens people's abilities to overcome difficulties caused by disasters. Such education is the most effective disaster countermeasure, but it is not provided sufficiently. Governments of each country must visualize the hazards of each region and provide continuous education according to the regions' disaster characteristics from childhood, empowering residents so that they can avoid disaster risks and tackle difficulties. By these actions and through independent learning, disaster awareness will be embedded into the civil society as culture.

■ Respectfully

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- Nonprofit Organization Bousai Network UBE
- Work Style Design
- Nagoya NGO Center
- Hello Volunteer Network MIE
- hureai[enoki]
- SAKAMOTO NOBUHIRO
- UniversalDesign · Step
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- Anjyou bousai net
- General incorporated association Platform for regional cooperation
- Yokkaichi Pharmaceutical Association
- Kyoto Shiga Tsubominokai
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- International Firstaid & Rescue Research Institute
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- Association of Yokkaichi NPOs
- Civic Institute for Civil Society
- NPO) Japan First Aid Society
- Anti-war Network
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- Rescuenow Crisis Lab. / Keiichi Ichikawa
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- NAGOYA UNIVERSITY NAW THIRI MAY AYE
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