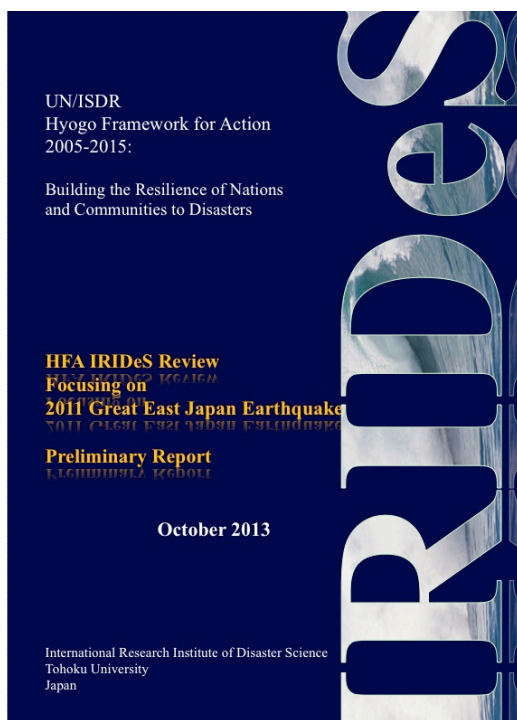


Hyogo Framework for Action  
2005-2015:

Building the Resilience of Nations  
and Communities to Disasters

**HFA IRIDeS Review  
Preliminary Report  
Focusing on  
2011 Great East Japan Earthquake**

**October 2013**



<http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/hfa>



International Research Institute of Disaster Science  
Tohoku University  
Japan

**Introduction**

Japan has one of the highest levels of urban risk of natural disaster in the world because all the three values determining the risk—hazard, vulnerability, and exposed value—are very high. Thus, Japanese society has struggled against natural disasters throughout history. In this context, the UN World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama in May 1994 as a part of a mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). However, the most tragically disastrous event in Japanese history since World War II, the 1995 Great Kobe Earthquake, occurred the next year.

The earthquake led the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) to select Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, as its location for demonstrating the city’s remarkable recovery from the earthquake. The Hyogo Declaration was adopted at the conference, and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 (HFA) was built as a 10-year plan to safeguard the world from natural hazards. The HFA consists of the following five priorities for action, which would serve as guidelines to reduce future disaster damage for every country or region.

During that decade, the Great East Japan Earthquake with Mw 9.0 occurred on March 11, 2011. We must learn from such devastating experiences for the sake of future societies. This report focuses on topics related to the earthquake and tsunami in terms of HFA guidelines from the academic viewpoints of professors at the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, to disseminate the event’s lessons learned.

Each topic deals with a specific case, contains *context*, the situation *before* and *after* the event, *good practices*, and *problems*, followed by *future recommendations* summarized at the end of each priority section.

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**HFA Priority for Action 1**

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

- Institutional Structure in Japan
- Dedicated and Adequate Resources for Disaster Management in Japan
- Community Participation in Japan
- Japan’s Multi-sectoral Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**HFA Priority for Action 2**

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

- Improvement in Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems with Real-time Monitoring: Lessons from the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

**HFA Priority for Action 3**

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

- Information Sharing, Cooperation, and Expert Training by Academic Research Institutes for Natural Disasters
- Education to Build a Culture of Safety and Resilience at All Levels around Academic Research Institutes

**HFA Priority for Action 4**

Reduce the underlying risk factors.

- Post-tsunami Recovery Strategies in Sanriku Coastal Areas after the 1933 Tsunami
- Measures for People Requiring Assistance during a Disaster
- Business Continuity Planning after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake
- Promotion of the Earthquake-proof Retrofit of Buildings after the 1995 Great Kobe Earthquake
- Post-tsunami Recovery for Risk Reduction after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
- Comprehensive Post-tsunami Recovery after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

**HFA Priority for Action 5**

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

- Measures and Agenda for Large-scale Disasters in Japan: from the Perspective of Personal Information and Disaster Prevention Education
- Three Coastal Districts in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture: Differences Resulting from the Local Residents Organization Disaster Response Activities
- Preparedness for Low-frequency and High-impact Disasters from a Medical Perspective
- Prospect of Future Information Exchange Methods in the Event of a Disaster by Using SNS

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