

**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
**Official statements**  
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Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to speak here today at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Let me extend my sincere gratitude towards the UNDRR, the Swiss government, as well as all of you who have taken part in organizing this significant event.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I also would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for everyone’s kind messages of sympathy and generous support during difficult times such as the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi earthquake, and the torrential rain in western Japan last year.

Disaster risk reduction is an issue that is not ‘somebody else’s problem.’ My constituency is Hyogo Prefecture, which was hit by the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995.

This devastating event claimed, at that time, the highest death toll from a natural disaster in the post-WWII history of Japan.

The lessons we’ve learnt from this calamity laid the foundation for emergency response and disaster risk reduction efforts of modern-day Japan.

When we look at the entire world, in the last 12 months alone, countless people lost their precious lives in disasters such as Sulawesi earthquake, Sunda Strait tsunami, and Cyclone Idai, to name a few.

I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to the victims and deepest sympathies to all who were affected.

Disasters affect people differently depending on their levels of vulnerability and exposure.

Women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities are especially susceptible to negative impacts, and require special attention.

The guiding principle of the SDGs, “no one will be left behind,” should be reflected upon all policies, strategies, plans, and actions concerning disaster risk reduction.

In this regard, we should not let any disaster-prone developing countries fall behind in such efforts.

One of the main targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Target E, aims to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

It is important for all countries to accelerate their efforts and cooperate with a view to achieving this target, and further on, beyond 2020, to promote investment in disaster risk reduction based on these strategies.

The experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake has led us to reaffirm the significance of passing on our expertise and experiences of disasters as well as ways to “build back better.”

To this end, Prime Minister Abe announced the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

I am pleased to announce that, under this initiative, Japan has provided approximately five billion US dollars in total and trained 70,000 government officials and local leaders by the end of 2018, *exceeding* our original commitment.

This year, Japan will initiate discussions to launch a new initiative, as we host both the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD 7, which also coincide with the first SDGs leaders’ meeting.

Another initiative taken by Japan is the promotion of “World Tsunami Awareness Day,” unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015.

Last autumn, Japan successfully hosted the Third World Tsunami Awareness Day High School Student Summit with participants from approximately 50 countries.

I sincerely hope that in the future, the students who participated in the Summit will play leading roles in their respective countries.

Finally, let me conclude my remarks by hoping that active discussions at this Platform will lead to the disaster risk reduction around the globe.

Thank you very much.