

Asian Ministerial Conference 2018
Ministerial Statement
Japan

Thank you very much, Chair, for your kind introduction.

I am Jiro Akama, State Minister of Cabinet Office from Japan in charge of disaster risk reduction.

It is my great honor to speak at this Ministerial Statements Session.

I would like to start my remark by expressing Japan's strong support for the "Sendai Framework" and our continuous commitment for its successful implementation.

While the reconstruction from the 2011 (two thousand-eleven) Great East Japan Earthquake is in the process, Japan encounters many types of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, volcano eruptions and heavy snow.

Four Priority Actions and seven Global Targets in the Sendai Framework provide good guidance to develop and implement DRR policies and actions in Japan.

Today, I would like to share Japan's recent policy progress regarding Priority 1 "Understanding Disaster Risk" and our experience regarding Global Target E "DRR Strategies".

The most critical issue of "Understanding Disaster Risk" is to assess the earthquake which has the epicenter in the Nankai Trough.

Nankai Trough is the subduction zone of the plate boundary in the

Pacific side of the Japanese Islands.

Historically, the Nankai Trough Earthquake occurred in a 100 (one hundred) to 150 (one hundred and fifty)-year cycle.

Now, it is estimated that a Magnitude 8 to 9 class earthquake may occur with a probability of 70 to 80% within the next 30 years. The worst-case scenario assesses that the number of casualties may exceed 320,000 (three hundred and twenty thousand) people.

Several different patterns of earthquakes were observed in the past in Nankai Trough.

In some cases, earthquakes occurred damaging the entire area of the trough, while in some cases, earthquakes occurred in some part of the trough, followed by earthquakes in the rest of the area after several hours or several years.

Due to the recent improvement of seismographs and strain gauge observation network, it became possible to pick up unusual phenomena related to earthquakes.

National Disaster Management Council, where the Prime Minister presides, and all the ministers sit, is developing a strategy to respond against the case when the possibility of an earthquake is to rise, according to the advanced observation network.

From our experience, I would like to emphasize two key elements which are indispensable for "Understanding Disaster Risk".

First, it is vital to use knowledge of science and technology.

Second, local circumstances, such as social, economic and topographical features, need to be incorporated in policy making process. They are available through collaboration with local

governments, companies and citizens.

My next point is regarding "DRR strategy".

Having a DRR strategy is the basic of DRR policy, as indicated in Priority 2 and Target E.

In Japan the first National DRR Strategy was established in 1963 (nineteen-sixty three) by the National Council, based on the Basic Act on Disaster Management.

It describes the framework and actions for preparation, emergency response, and recovery and reconstruction.

Based on this National Strategy, all 47 (forty seven) prefectures and over 1,700 (seventeen hundred) municipalities in Japan, have developed Local DRR Strategies.

National DRR Strategy is reviewed and revised every year, taking account of lessons from past disasters and changes in social and economic circumstances such as declining and aging population.

Last week, on June 29 (twenty ninth), the National Council revised the National DRR Strategy based on lessons from disasters occurred in 2017(two thousand-seventeen), including heavy rain disasters.

In particular, the revision focused on strengthening infrastructure investment for small and medium-sized rivers where risk of landslides and driftwoods are imminent in case of heavy rain.

I would also like to stress that the National DRR Strategy contributes to mainstreaming DRR in other policy fields.

Every year in June, the Government announces the basic policy framework of economic and fiscal management. Disaster risk reduction and national resilience are stipulated in the economic and fiscal framework as an important approach for strong economic growth.

Another example is that according to the articles in the Basic Act on Disaster Management, the infrastructure development plan and national land use plan shall be designed to be consistent with the National DRR Strategy.

I would like to conclude my remark by expressing Japan's strong determination to be the lead model of implementing Priority Actions and achieving Global Targets.

I wish the success of the 8th AMCDRR.
Thank you very much.