

Japan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development

100 days after Haiyan © UNDP Philippines



What are the bold actions being taken by the public-private partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

Natural disasters undermine hard-earned development gains and perpetuate poverty. Building resilience against natural disasters, exacerbated by climate change, is a global priority that calls for decisive and urgent action by multiple actors at the global, regional and national levels.

In Japan, [Tohoku University International Research Institute of Disaster Science \(IRIDeS\)](#), [Fujitsu Limited](#) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) agreed to form a partnership to build and

operate a new global database, in the **Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS)**, that aims to **reduce the damage caused by major natural disasters around the world.**

In this project, Fujitsu will not only use its overall capabilities in information and communication technology (ICT) to support pro-bono the construction of the global database, it will also support through donations its operation and the improvement of disaster prevention administrative capabilities in

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We experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and are in the process of reconstruction.

We hope to share with the world, the lessons learned and the reality, to decrease similar damages, not to repeat the same tragedy.

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Prof. Fumihiko Imamura
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Progress of national disaster loss database development in Asia (2015) © UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

developing nations. Through the activities of this partnership, the three organizations are contributing to the building of societies that are prepared for major natural disasters especially in Asia-Pacific developing countries.

Why do the above actions matter to people in Asia?

In recent years, major natural disasters have frequently occurred in Japan and other countries in Asia and the Pacific, becoming a major obstacle to developing nations' sustainable development and economic and social growth.

In particular, there is a fear that a concentration of populations in

urban centres is further increasing the risks of harm, demanding a reduction of that risk.

How does the partnership work among the three actors?

[UNDP](#) guides the collection of disaster data, information disclosure, and policy making in developing nations.

Tohoku University IRIDeS, a research institute of Tohoku University in Miyagi prefecture that was directly affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, stores the statistical disaster data collected by Member States in the GCDS, performs data analysis, and provides disaster prevention

advice to each State through UNDP.

Fujitsu will use ICT to support the improvement of disaster prevention capabilities in developing nations through the GCDS.

The three organizations will work together to achieve the goals laid out in the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

What SDGs have been particularly advanced in the project?

The project focuses on Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 17 on partnerships.



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