

City Center Earthquake Memorial Center Review Committee Report, Overview Version

In publishing this report

1. Introduction

(1) Characteristics of the Great East Japan Earthquake

- Damages from the massive earthquake exceeded all assumptions
- People's efforts to return to their normal day-to-day lives
- Damage in Sendai City and the city's relationship with surrounding municipalities

(2) The difficulty and importance to communicate our experience from the Great East Japan Earthquake

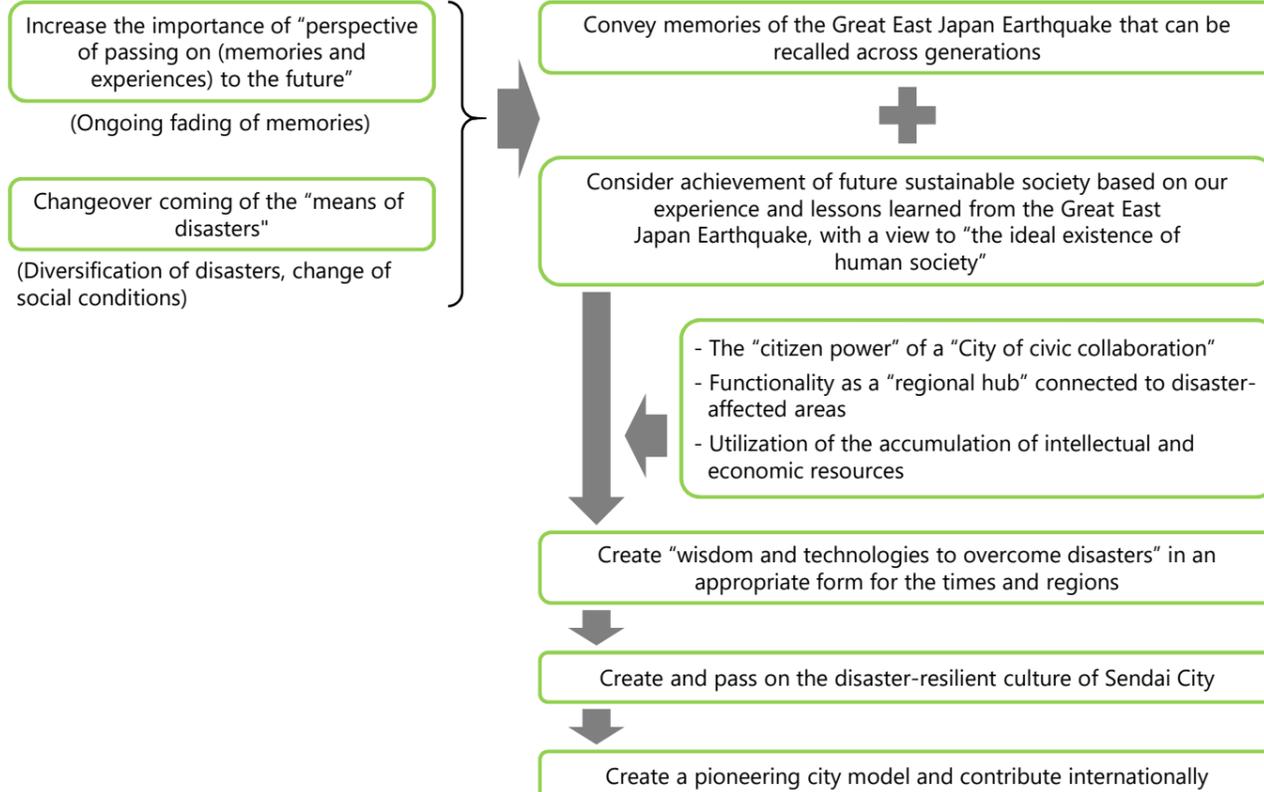
- The difficulty and importance of communicating our memories across generations and putting our experiences to good use
- The difficulty and importance of having a comprehensive understanding of the realities of the Great East Japan Earthquake

2. Vision for the Center

(1) Center's positioning in the city's Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Memorial Project

In the "Report by the Sendai City Review Committee for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Memorials and so forth" (Dec 2014), it was proposed that a center will be needed to pass on the memories and experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and "it would be effective for Sendai City to implement the project along with utilizing each of the characteristics of the city center and coastline areas."

(2) Basic Philosophy of the Center - "Create a culture of coexisting with disasters"



3. Future Actions for the Center

(1) Accumulate, broadcast, and share experiences that vary by different regions and subjects

(2) Create opportunities for passing on memories across generations

(3) Create new wisdom and apply this in our society

(4) Become a gateway to disaster-affected regions over a wide-spread area

4. Structure for Running the Center's Activities - "Tree of memories, passing on and creating"

A mechanism that serves to stimulate people's imagination and creativity as the foundation for memories of people, just as a growing tree spreading its "roots" into the ground firmly, with outspread "branches" as if to warmly envelop people, and thicken its "trunk" over the years.

(1) The "Roots of our memories" preserve our memories of the disaster and provide a foundation for our imagination and creativity

Specific proposal: Archive function for accumulating experiences from disasters

(2) The "Trunk of passing on memories" connects the memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake to our day-to-day lives

Specific proposals: Functions to remind us of the memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake in our daily lives / Functions of exhibition expressing the disaster experience with a change for their viewpoints and compositions in parallel to individuals and the times

(3) The "Branches of creation" inspire the creation of wisdom needed for overcoming disasters

Specific proposals: A space where people from various walks of life, specialists, and those who are simply interested can gain awareness by interacting with each other through the use of the archive, and create and disseminate ideas through dialogue and discussion / Function as an open space for all people

5. Body Responsible for the Center's Activities

- An organizational structure, staffed by professional personnel, that is dedicated to efforts to create a culture of coexisting with disasters
- Extend the base of our efforts to a wide range of people, including city citizens, while liaising and cooperating with other already active centers and organizations
- A flexible and sustainable organizational frame where people from different generations can seamlessly collaborate with each other, and pass on experiences and memories

6. Basic Location Requirements

- [1] A place that symbolically represents the identity of the city
- [2] A place where large numbers of people can come and go, and interact with each other
- [3] A place where people can make connections with other communities

7. Points for Future Consideration

- [1] Reviews on the details of initiatives and mechanisms
- [2] Specific function-sharing and collaboration with other facilities
- [3] Vision for the body responsible for the project
- [4] Details on the format and scale of this Center
- [5] Effective methods and so forth for realizing the objectives of this report