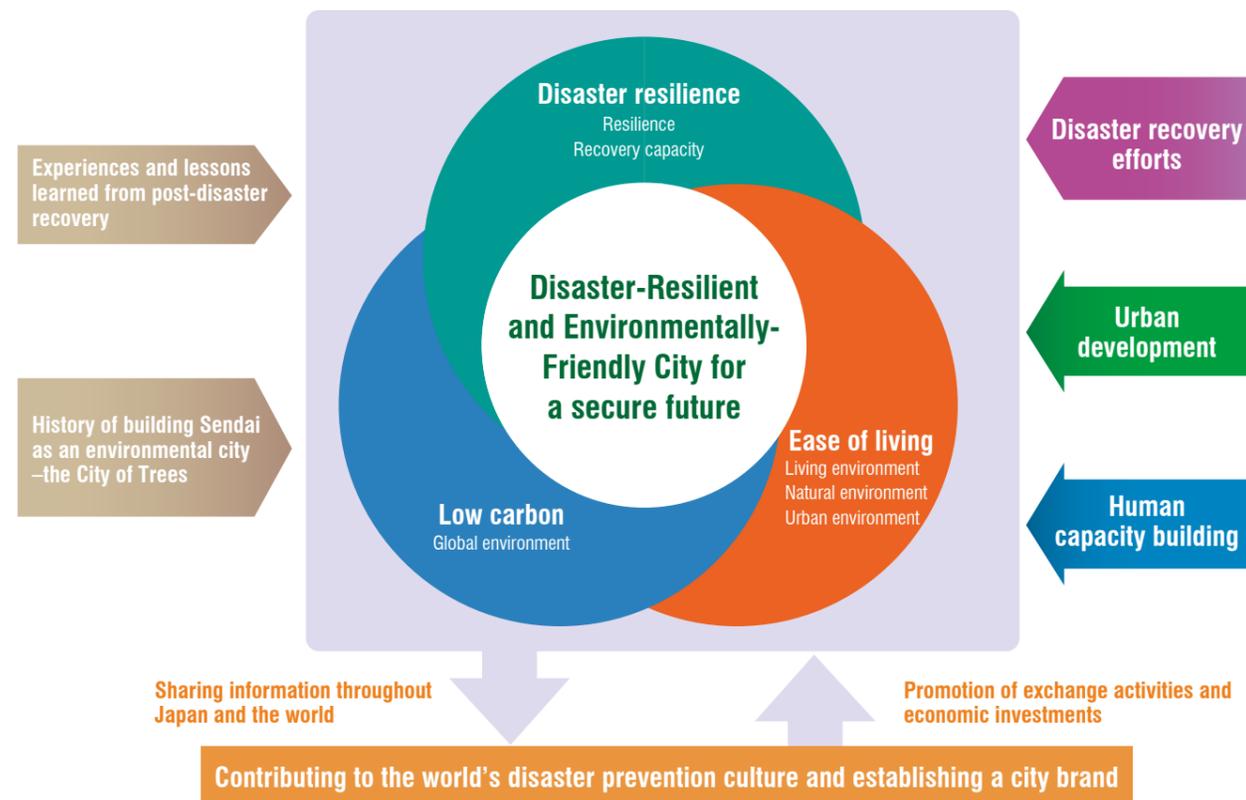


# Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City, Sendai

Having learned from the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Sendai is on its way to becoming a “Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City” that is both flexible and resilient to future risks, such as natural disasters and climate change. In order to achieve this goal, in the lush environment that earned the city its nickname of “the City of Trees”, the city is focusing on three elements. First is urban development that pursues ways of city planning leading to robust infrastructure and improved disaster risk reduction in energy supplies. Second is human capacity building that will help support disaster prevention activities in local communities. Third is passing on information about the experiences and lessons learned from the disaster.



Minami-Gamo Wastewater Treatment Plant applied the concept of “Build Back Better” and made recovery efforts which have taken into consideration both earthquake resilience and energy saving.



Solar panels installed on the roofs of schools and other facilities that will function as evacuation centers in disaster situations.



Disaster prevention drills based on the lessons learned from the earthquake.



Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future, to be held every year since it began in 2016.

## Towards the Realization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030



### Fumihiko Imamura

Director, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University

A professor of tsunami engineering. Since 2014, Imamura has acted as director of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University. IRIDeS is an international research center located in Sendai that is focused on studying natural disaster science. The center researches a range of fields including the humanities, social sciences, science, engineering, informatics, medicine, and more. It also encompasses the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics, which works with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

No matter where one may be in the world, there is the risk of being struck by a natural disaster. In recent years, with a growing population, socio-economic globalization, as well as increasing climate change, better response to disasters has become an issue of utmost urgency.

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake caused major damage to the Pacific Ocean side of the Tohoku region, such as that in Sendai. This calamity must never again be repeated. We feel we must convey the lessons we learned from this experience far and wide and reduce the disaster risks that other regions and the next generation may be exposed to. As people living in the stricken regions, we faced this issue head-on.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was created at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai in 2015.

This framework describes a series of targets and priorities for action for countries around the globe to implement over the next 15 years in order to reduce damage caused by disasters. People who come from overseas to visit Sendai show an interest in both how the reconstruction is proceeding and in what things citizens are doing at the local level. The impression one gets is that they are deeply interested in changing the established thought that disaster risk reduction is something achieved top-down by governmental administration and not citizens. The way in which local residents, NPOs, corporations, specialists, and many other stakeholders have come together for Sendai’s reconstruction will prove to be a vital case study for other regions.

As the name bearer of the Sendai Framework, the world is looking to Sendai to foster a culture of disaster risk reduction. Utilizing opportunities such as the World Bosai Forum/International Disaster Risk Conference 2017 in Sendai, which will be held every other year from 2017 on, we must foster the further sharing of information and collaboration.



The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, at which the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted.

## The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the outcome document of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March 2015 in Sendai, and outlines a range of international disaster risk reduction policies towards the year 2030. The lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake are incorporated into the framework as key concepts and priorities for action. Many countries have started to implement measures for disaster risk reduction based on this framework.

As the city where this framework was adopted, we are improving essential utilities and other infrastructure as well as promoting disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction with a variety of entities playing a main role in the efforts.

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1. Establishment of seven global targets such as reducing the mortality rate from global disasters for the first time.
  2. Presentation of new ideas, such as mainstreaming disaster prevention, pre-disaster investment to be used in measures for disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction, and the concept of “Build Back Better”.
  3. Emphasis on the roles of various relevant stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, including not only the local governments, citizens organizations and research institutes, but also women, youth and the private sector taking action to prevent disaster and reduce disaster risks.

<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders: The wide range of people and entities who hold a stake or interest in a given activity in society.