# Urban planning for disaster resilient cities in case of Japan

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## Urban planning & mega hazard

- <Great Earthquake in Tokyo= Great Kanto Earthquake 1923>
- Big fire, 100,000 people were dead mainly because of fire
- Quick response of government to make planning for reconstruction
- Implementation of innovative planning, land readjustment in huge built-up area
- Contribution for further development of Tokyo
- Hereafter, prevention of the spread of fire is the main target of disaster prevention planning

#### Damaged Area of Great Kanto Earthquake 1923



#### Land readjustment of damaged area

#### Project of planned street for reconstruction



Source:(東京市役所編纂,「帝都復興事業図表」,東京市,昭和5年3月)

# Urban planning & mega hazard

- < Hanshin Great Earthquake 1995>
- 6,000 people were dead, mainly because of the collapse of houses and buildings
- New type of disaster problems: collapse of infrastructure, weakness & recovery of urban life system
- Difficulty of consensus making for reconstruction making (condominium)
- Importance of voluntary activity: NPO, NGO

#### Fall down of City Highway



Source: Kobe Shnbun

## Special character of East Japan Earthquake

- Huge damaged area & multiple damage: 500km long damaged coast by Tsunami, 37 local municipalities, 9200 km2 in Iwate, Miyagi & Fukukshima were strongly damaged, damaged population: ca. 1.8 million people,
- Aspect of man-made disaster: Fukushima nuclear power plant
- Disaster in shrinking area

#### Great East Japan Earthquake:

**Primary Quake and** Quakes Larger than Magnitude 7.0 occurring in March and April



Source: Kahoku Shinpo Publishing Co. 2011.06 "The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami"



Source: The Japan Times Special Report, 2011.06 "3.11 A Chronicle of events following the Great East Japan Earthquake"

## Minami Sanriku Town in Miyagi Pref. Before



## Minami Sanriku Town in Miyagi Pref. After



## In addition, Accident of Nuclear Power Plant



Tasks and hurdle for realization of reconstruction planning

- Reality and realization process of seawall for Tsunami prevention
- Treatment for dangerous area in case of Tsunami: land use control for building prohibition
- Relation of fishery and marine products industry to sea side
- Delay of infrastructure restoration and reconstruction: ex. Railway, fish harbor, raising of ground sinkage
- Dependence danger for public subsidy

# Tasks and hurdle for realization of reconstruction planning

- Long term continuation of temporally housing
- Housing reconstruction: location and housing type, possibility & problem of collective relocation, site problem: highland or on the present site, financial problem of self reconstruction, flexible treatment of public housing, treatment of personal financial problem ( ex. double housing loan)
- Possibility of compact town under the condition of demographic change and shrinking of industry
- Possibility of human resource and power: formation of active citizens group, innovative idea and action of NPO, support of professional and expert

## Action Plan for disaster prevention by Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG)

- Urban development plan for disaster-resistance (January 2010)
- Close-set wooden housing area as a target area for resilient improvement: 28 development district 7000ha, 11 priority development district 2400ha
- Ten-year project to advance fire resistance in closeset wooden housing areas
- a. Acceleration of the establishment of fireproof zones in cooperation with the wards
- b. Construction of major city-planned roads to form firebreak belts
- c. Creating an atmosphere conductive to building disaster-resistant communities



Areas Designated for Establishment of Firebreak Belts and as Development /Priority Development Districts

source: TMG-creation of a highly disaster resilient city





Example of a widened community road



Example of a project to replace old wooden houses with shared residential buildings in close-set wooden housing districts







Source: ibid



# Location of Ten-year project to advance fire resistance in close-set wooden housing areas



## Critical points for ten-year project

- Necessary to understand of formation process of close-set wooden housing areas
- How to maintain the function of affordable housing area for low income group and elderly group
- How to develop a sustainable community with attractiveness of mixed use

Perspective for reconstruction, revitalization and sustainable development

- New planning paradigm under changing socio-economic and environmental conditions: not only for reconstruction for damaged area, but also for resilient national land to reduce the damage of disaster
- Rethinking of national planning and regional planning: from monopolistic centralization to multiple decentralized national land, balanced and resilient society
- Support for innovative project and experimental project : smart city project, new agricultural experimental project, renewable energy, tourism in connection with reconstruction process
- Utilization of local knowledge and human resource of community