



Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR (JCC2015)

Call for Participation

We, citizens of Japan, have learnt a great deal through our experiences of the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (EJET) in 2011. Specifically, we've learnt the strengths and weaknesses of the following concepts: self-help, mutual-help, and public-help. Furthermore, we are acquiring critical knowledge and first-hand experiences dealing with nuclear risks. How can we ensure that lessons we learnt with so much sacrifice are communicated to the next generation? One way of doing so, we believe, is to reflect these lessons in global policies and frameworks.

Japan, with highly developed disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures, has led global DRR discussions. The previous two World Conferences on Disaster Reduction have taken place in Japan, and the third one is planned to take place in Sendai, Japan. Ten years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in Kobe in 2005, and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 – the only international framework on DRR – has been adopted.

However, there are concerns over the level of participation of the HFA establishment as well as the gap between policy and practice at the local level¹. Trying to address such gaps, the Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)² was established in 2007. The global action survey called “Views from the Frontline (VFL)” has represented over 20,000 views from over 450 civil society organizations in 57 countries.

Currently, 95% of overall casualties from disasters occur in developing nations. Furthermore, the number of deaths from ‘everyday disasters’³ accounts for three times more than those from mega disasters, and such numbers are also concentrated in developing nations.

Globally, there is an increasing recognition of the similarities between ‘resilient communities’ that reduce the impact from disasters and ‘sustainable communities’ emphasized by the development sector. Disaster losses (both human and economic) significantly reduce development gains, and climate change is ever increasing disaster risks which cannot be ignored from both DRR and development perspectives.

2015 will be a significant year with the successor framework on DRR, the HFA2, as well as in the development sector with the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in the environment sector with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁴. We believe that all these frameworks are inter-linked, and require a comprehensive perspective that covers all of these frameworks.

¹ UNISDR HFA mid-term review (2010-2011) indicates that “Efforts to reduce underlying risk factors account for the least progress in terms of the HFA.” VFL 2011 also showed that Local Risk Governance - in terms of an inclusive, accountable and responsive state working in partnership with affected communities - was critical in achieving this, but found that progress on all indicators of factors strengthening local governance was low (VFL 2013, page 7).

² Currently, there are representations by other networks such as InterAction, Bond, VOICE in GNDR. Until recent participation by JANIC and Peace Boat Disaster Volunteer Center, there wasn't any representation by Japanese civil society.

³ GNDR Recommendation 1 Recognise the impact of everyday disasters on lives, livelihoods and assets (VFL 2013 page 4-5)

⁴ GNDR Recommendation 3 Tackle the underlying causes of people's vulnerability to disasters (VFL 2013 page 7)

As compared with developing nations, Japan's resilience at community level is high, and the response in the wake of EJET in 2011 demonstrated such strength and various innovative approaches that tackled emerging issues. However, there were also lessons that we learnt and issues to be considered for the future.

In particular, sharing the experiences and lessons from nuclear risks is the responsibility of Japanese civil society towards the world, which is a rare role that we are expected to play in the international community. Therefore, we have been proposing to include nuclear risks within disaster risks, and people who live in nuclear risk zones be considered as 'the most at-risk and marginalized people'⁵, and clarification of accountability lines⁶ so that these people receive necessary information before and after the disaster based on their rights.

In addition to nuclear risks, we will also propose other matters of mutual interest for both developed and developing nations. From previous experience of ours, it is clear that Japan has issues similar to those developing countries face such as multi-stakeholder partnerships and citizen's participation. This is also evident from the recommendations Japanese civil society has put forth at the Fourth Session of Global Platform in Geneva in May 2013⁷.

In order to systematically and collectively approach the issues above in preparation for 2015, we will establish the Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR (JCC2015). The network will function until April/May 2015 and the objectives will be as follows:

- 1) To contribute global DRR movement by sharing experience of civil society as well as disaster affected population in Japan at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.
- 2) To advocate for proactive inclusion of nuclear risks at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 as well as within HFA2.
- 3) To share both domestic and international grassroots experiences of Japanese CSOs for tackling frequently occurring disasters and critical elements of disaster resilience including specific requirements for vulnerable segments of the population, building resilient communities, and adapting to climate change.

There are many examples on best practice within the field of DRR. For example, the Philippines Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 was established in collaboration among civil society and the government. With its enactment, local governments can allocate 5% of their development budgets to DRR initiatives.

On the other hand, there isn't an international institution which can handle large-scale industrial disasters such as nuclear disasters and necessary coordination in the mid-to-long-term recovery process. There is a global need to demand the establishment of such an international organization.

We aim to learn, share, and act with global civil society through participation at HFA2 discussions in order to realize sustainable and resilient communities. We would welcome participation in this network in order to advance towards the same objectives with like-minded people and organizations in the world.

⁵ GNDR Recommendation 2 Prioritise the most at-risk, poorest and marginalised people (VFL 2013 page 6)

⁶ GNDR Recommendation 4 Mobilise political commitment by focusing on rights, responsibilities and accountabilities (VFL 2013 page 8)

⁷ 5 recommendation points on GNDR Recommendation 5 Promote partnerships and public participation (Lessons and recommendations from Japanese Civil Society for the Post 2015 DRR Framework, May 2015, Geneva)

Planned Activities of JCC2015

Time	Global Movement	Planned Activities of JCC2015
2013		
October	UNISDR leadership Fukushima visit Meeting with Japanese government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st pre-kick-off meeting Facilitate UNISDR's visit to Fukushima
November		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd pre-kick-off meeting
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for participation Information exchange session with Dr. Rajib Shaw of Kyoto University (December 24)
2014		
January		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding assembly (January 10) – 1st General Assembly Finalization of organizers and secretariat arrangements Establishment of home page in both Japanese and English Issuing of 1st statement in English Planning meeting with GNDR
February	CSO consultation organized by UNISDR (Geneva, Switzerland and one more location planned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of CSO consultation and express opinions of JCC2015
March-May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with Japanese government on 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) and issuing of statement for AMCDRR Planning for specific action plans for March 2015
June 22-26	6 th AMCDRR (Bangkok, Thailand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at AMCDRR
July		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report session on AMCDRR outcomes and re-planning sessions Continue planning for specific action plans for March 2015
July-December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptualizing, application, preparation, volunteer mobilization, accommodation arrangement, establishment of Sendai office for side event at World Conference on DRR (WCDRR) Issuing of statement towards WCDRR (position paper or compilation of views of participating organizations of JCC2015)
2015		
January-March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd General Assembly Final preparation towards WCDRR
March 14-18	WCDRR (Sendai, Japan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in WCDRR and overall coordination of JCC2015 activities Side event at Sendai city, other places in Miyagi prefecture, Fukushima prefecture
April-May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of final report and any other outstanding tasks Dissolve General Assembly

Duration

January 10, 2014 to May 2015

Chairperson

OHASHI, Masaaki (Chairperson, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation)

Eligibility for Membership

- Members should be non-profit civil society organizations and related ones with operational base and activities in Japan.
- Members share the same objectives of this network and are committed to joint activities.
- Members agree to have their names on the homepage and pamphlet of JCC2015.

Member Organizations (85 in total as of May 12, 2014)

★=Steering Committee

AmeriCares
Arigatou International
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
Association of Yokohama disaster volunteers to work in conjunction
Ayus : Network of Buddhist Volunteers on International Cooperation★
Buddhist NGO Network★
CARE International Japan
Caritas Japan★
ChildFund Japan
Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency
Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support★
CSO Network★
CWS Japan★
Entidad colaboradora entre America Latina y Japon
Environmental Partnership Council (EPC)
Fukuichi Co.,Ltd.
Fukushima Beacon for Global Citizens Network (FBG)★
Fukushima Cooperative Reconstruction Center★
Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization
Fukushima NPO Network Center★
General Incorporated Association Shinsai-Regain
Habitat for Humanity Japan
Human Rights Now
Information Support pro bono Platform
Institute for Human Diversity Japan
International Medical Corps ISH
International Scientology Volunteer
Ishinomaki Future Support Association
IWATE Fukkou Collaboration Center★
The Japan Association Charitable Organizations
Japan Civil Network for Disaster Relief in the East Japan★
Japan Conservation Engineers & Co., Ltd
Japan Disability Forum
Japan International Volunteer Center
Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International★
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation★
Japan NGO Network on Disabilities
Japan NPO Center★
Japan Religion Coordinating Project for Disaster Relief
Japan RQ Disaster Education Center
Japan Toilet Labo.
Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

JHB General Corporation
Kansai NGO Council★
Kitakyushu Institute on Sustainability
Meeting to Support the Volunteer Center Yamagata
Morinodengenban Yururu★
Nagoya NGO Center★
Nakoso Support Center for Community Development
The National Council of YMCAs of Japan
NichirenShu Annon Fund
The Niwano Peace Foundation
Non Profit Organization Shalom
Non Profit Organization Utsukushima NPO Network★
Nonprofit Organization SAKURA NET
NPO Fukushima Organic Agriculture Network
NPO Genki Miyagi
NPO Shinsai Kara Inochi Wo Mamoru Kai
NPO Tachiagaruzo! Miyakosi Taro
NPO Tagada Hakki Project
Oxfam Japan★
Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union★
Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center★
PHD Foundation
Plan Japan
Platform for Regional alliances
Radio FMYY
Religions for Peace Japan
Rissho Kosei-kai Donate-a-Meal Fund for Peace
Save the Children JAPAN★
Sendai-Miyagi NPO Center★
Senior Program Officer
Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)
Shinnyo-en Relief Volunteers
Soka Gakkai Youth Peace Conference
Specified Non-profit Organization IVY
Training Center for Gender & Disaster Risk Reduction
Ugoku/Ugokasu (Global Call to Action against Poverty Japan)
Universaldesign · Step
Volunteerinfo
WaterAid Japan
Women's Eye (WE)
Women's Network Japan for DRR★
World Vision Japan
Yokohama NGO Network

For more information:

Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR Secretariat
(CWS Japan, Fukushima Beacon for Global Citizens Network,
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation,
PEACE BOAT Disaster Relief Volunteer Center)

Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)
TEL: 03-5292-2911 / FAX: 03-5292-2912
URL: <http://jcc2015.net/en/>
E-MAIL: wcdrr3@jcc2015.net