

# Opening Remarks

for

## Seminar on Disaster Waste Management

(Special Session of G7 Alliance Workshop in Yokohama)

February 22, 2016

**Tokuya WADA**

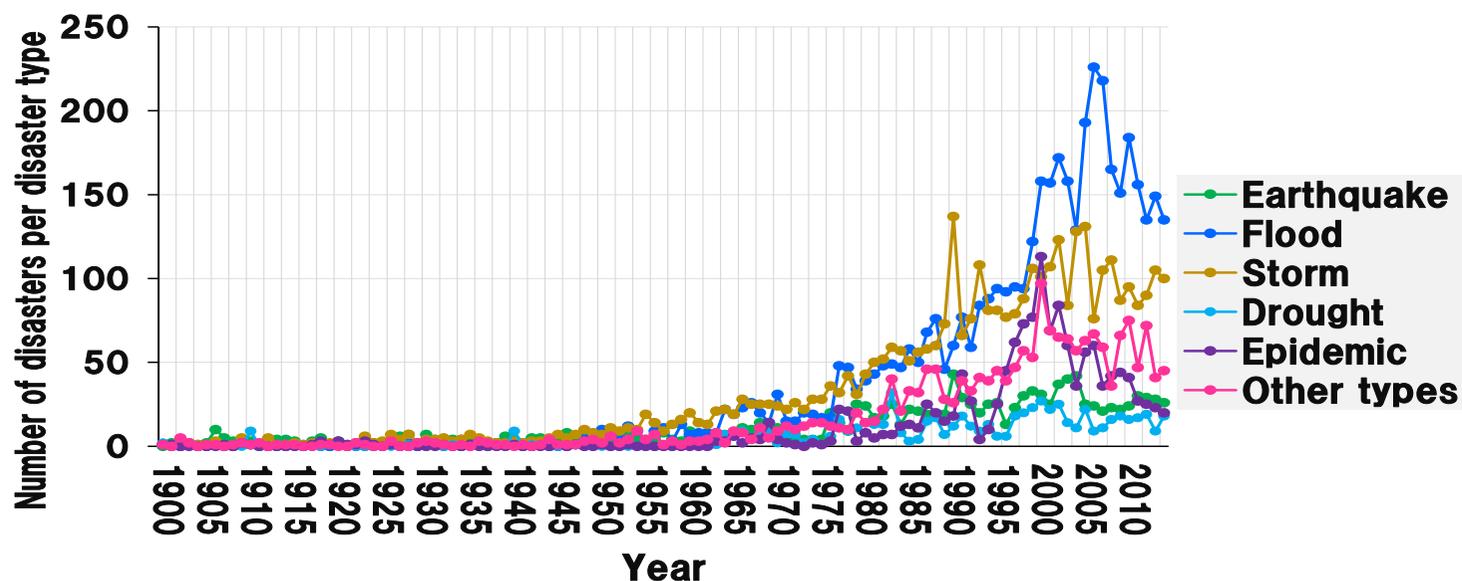
Director

Waste Management Division

Waste Management and Recycling Department

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

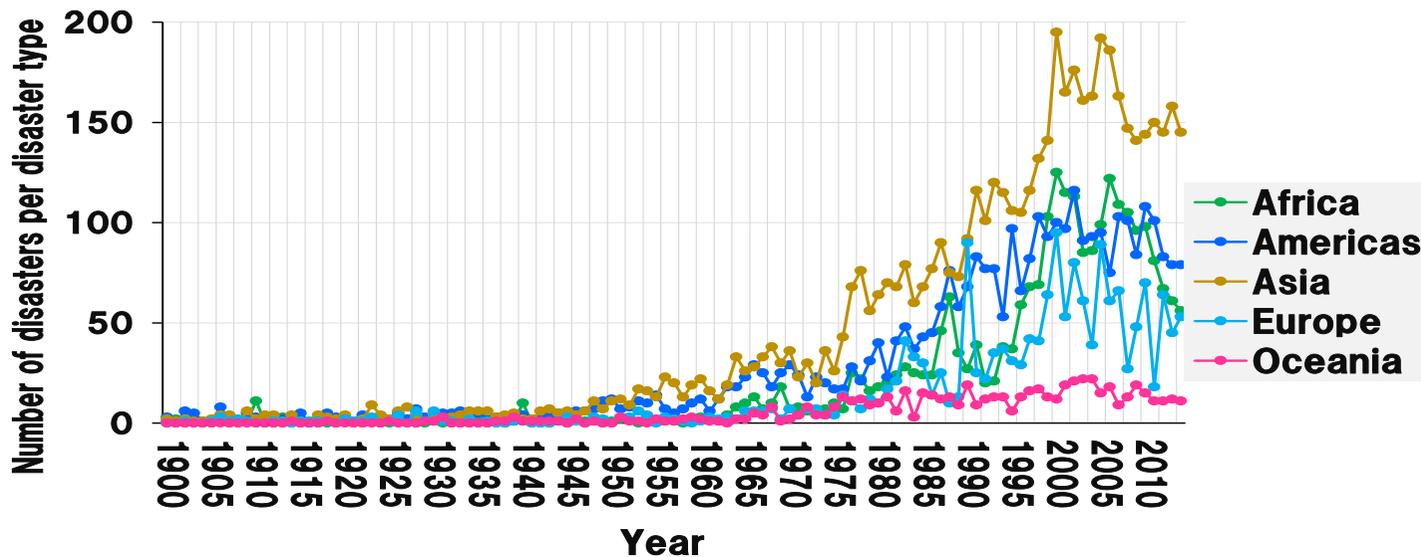
# The frequent occurrence and aggravation of natural disasters



- The number of disasters has increased rapidly in the past 50 years .
- In particular, flood disaster occurred frequently compared with others.

source: Center for research on the Epidemiology of Disaster -CRED

## Trends in the number of disaster (by type)



- The number of disasters in each region has also increased rapidly in the past 50 years.
- This increase stands out in Asian region.

source: Center for research on the Epidemiology of Disaster -CRED

## Trends in the number of disaster (by region)

# The Great East Japan Earthquake



Date and time of occurrence: March 11, 2011, 14:46

Epicenter: Off the coast of Sanriku

Depth of the focus: 24km

Scale: magnitude 9.0

Human suffering:

approx. 18 thousand fatalities,

approx. 3 thousand people missing

Damage to buildings:

approx. 129 thousand completely destroyed,

approx. 270 thousand half destroyed,

approx. 760 thousand partially damaged

In the Great East Japan Earthquake massive amounts of disaster waste were generated.

- ◆ About 20 million tons of disaster waste (239 municipal governments in 13 prefectures)
- ◆ About 11 million tons of tsunami deposits (36 municipal governments in 6 prefectures)



**We could dispose them in three years, and recycle more than 80% of disaster wastes and most of tsunami deposits, minimizing additional amount of resource consumption and final land-filling.**

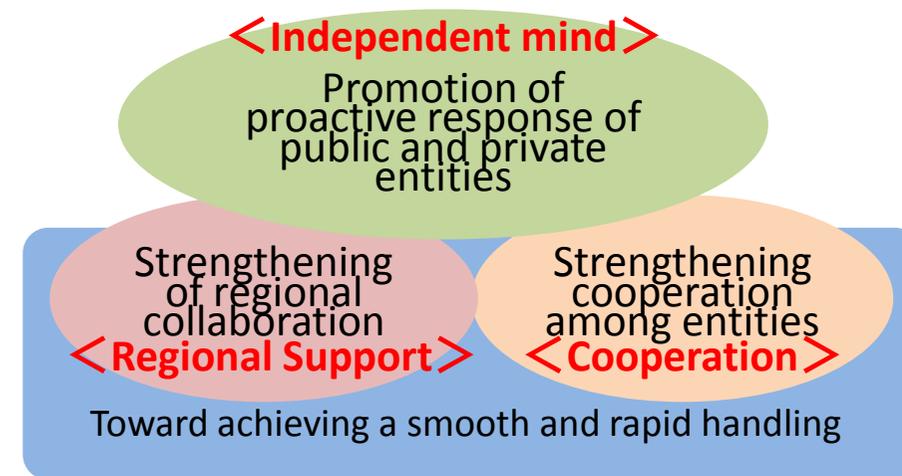
# Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake

In light of the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake, “issues” and “policy & measures” to be strengthened in preparation for disasters are as follows:

## 〔Issue 1〕 Preparation to realize the smooth and rapid response (policy and system) was insufficient.

### 〔Policy & measures〕

- To strengthen the functions of the national government
- To clarify the roles among the national government, local governments and private sector, and to work systematically during peacetime in order to be able to proactively respond and straggle together in close nation-wide cooperation after the quake.



## 〔Issue 2〕 The guidelines and mechanisms aiming at ensuring the proper treatment were insufficient.

### 〔Policy & measures〕

- To ensure recycling and proper disposal of the wastes after large-scale disasters
- To develop mechanisms which could respond to any disaster scale from normal to large in appropriate manner.

# The Outline of Partial Revision of Waste Management Act and Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act

(Enforcement on Aug 6, 2015)

## Revision of Waste Management Act

### Strengthening the preparedness during peacetime

- Clarify the basic principles of disaster waste disposal
- Clarify the responsibilities of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders such as the national government, local governments and private sector.
- Enhance the provisions on the basic policies which the national government defines and the basic plans which prefectural stipulate.

### Special measures pertaining to the construction or operation of waste disposal facilities after the disaster

- In order to achieve rapid installation of temporary treatment facilities and flexible use of existing disposal facilities after the disaster, the following revision was brought in:
- Simplify the procedure of installation of municipal solid waste treatment facilities installed by municipalities and those who have been entrusted to dispose disaster wastes by municipalities
  - Easing the restriction in case of using industrial waste disposal facilities, permitting the notification after the fact (not in advance)

## Revision of Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act

### Master plan for the disposal of the waste in large-scale disaster

In order to strengthen the measures to large-scale disasters, Minister of the Environment defines basic policy as a master plan for waste disposal in case of the government-designated disaster (the Large-scale disaster).

### The proxy measures of waste treatment by Minister of the Environment

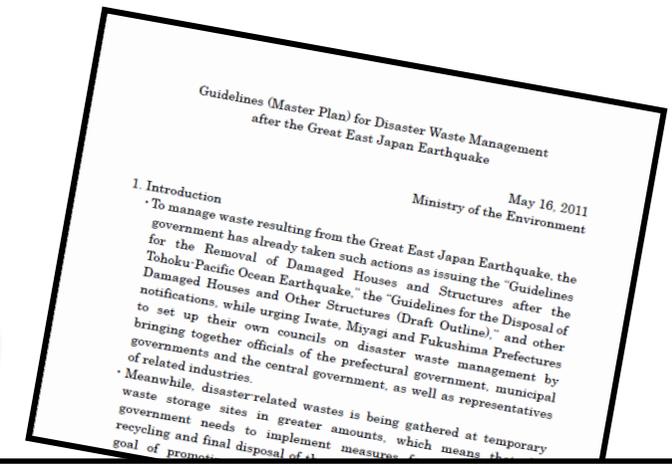
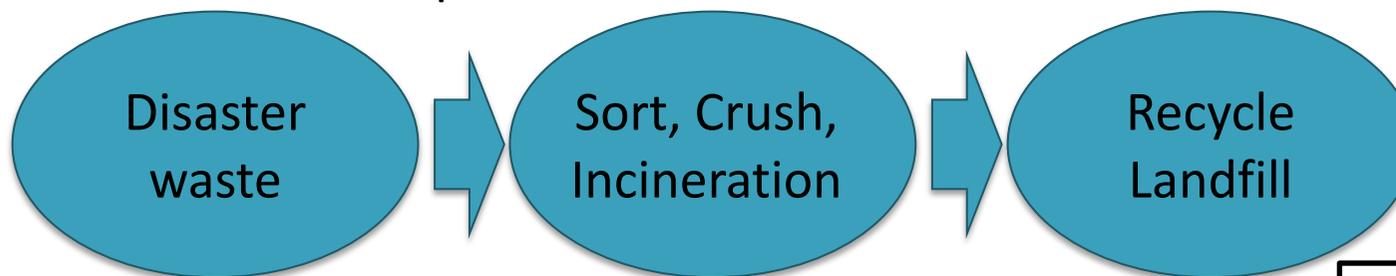
After the occurrence of the government-designated disaster Minister of the Environment is authorized to dispose waste on the request basis on behalf of the local governments which have difficulty in smooth and rapid waste disposal despite application of existing special measures that can ease the processing standards in a designated areas for a certain period.

# Support of disaster waste management in Nepal by MOEJ

Japan's efforts and the experience, especially recycling after the Great East Japan Earthquake is very useful.

Nepal and UNEP requested technical assistance to Japan for establishing the disaster waste management guideline (disposing disaster wastes and recycling bricks from the damaged houses and buildings).

## 【Flow of Waste Disposal】



Ex. Disaster waste management guideline

Ministry of the Environment, Japan will play an active international contribution in cooperation with UNEP and JICA etc. in the field of disaster waste measures.