

# Disaster Management in Japan

- Readiness to Response at Local Level;  
Case study from the Kanto Flooding Case (2015)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Japan

# Presentation Outline

## **PART1 Japan's Efforts to Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction**

- Overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on DRR

Outcomes/Initiative/"Build back better"

## **PART2 Case Study from the Kanto Flooding Case (2015)**

### **1 Overview of the Flooding caused by Typhoon 18th, 2015**

### **2 Disaster Management in Japan**

- 2-1 Agency Collaboration (General Ideas)
- 2-2 Police Agency
- 2-3 Fire and Disaster Management Agency
- 2-4 Japan Coast Guard
- 2-5 Self Defense Force
- 2-6 Agency Collaboration (in Joso City)

### **3 Challenges for Intergovernmental Disaster Management**

# Part1

## Japan's Efforts to Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction

- Overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on DRR

# Overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on DRR



## Outcomes

- (1) Participants: More than 6,500 persons from 187 United Nations member states
- (2) Adoption of “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” and the “Sendai Declaration”
- (3) “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction”
- (4) Good opportunity to play up the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake (March, 2011).



# Overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on DRR



## *“Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction”*

### **1 Basic Concept:**

**Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction (DRR)**

### **2 Basic Policies:**

**(1) Investment in DRR from the long-term perspective**

**(2) Build Back Better**

**(3) Collaboration between the central governments and various actors**

### **3 Three perspectives:**

**(1) The human security approach and promoting women’s participation (women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities)**

**(2) Cooperation based on the perspective of adaptation to the impacts of climate change**

**(3) Utilizing Japan’s knowledge and technology**

# 3 Overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on DRR



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 Sendai Japan

## Concrete Measures

- *Non-material assistance*
- *Material assistance*
- *Global and region-wide cooperation*



DRR cooperation totaling to 4 billion US dollars and training of 40,000 from 2015 to 2018

## Part2

# Disaster Management in Japan

- Readiness to Response at Local Level

# 1 Overview of the Flooding caused by Typhoon 18th, 2015

- ◆ Typhoon 18<sup>th</sup> hit the Japanese Island, especially North Kanto-Area including Joso City, Ibaraki Prefecture
- ◆ The area surrounded by two rivers were caught in a flash flood
- ◆ Destroyed thousands of homes, caused tens of billions of dollars in damages, 3 killed, 54 wounded, 1399 rescued by helicopters (altogether in Ibaraki Prefecture)

Source: Geospatial Information Agency, GOJ

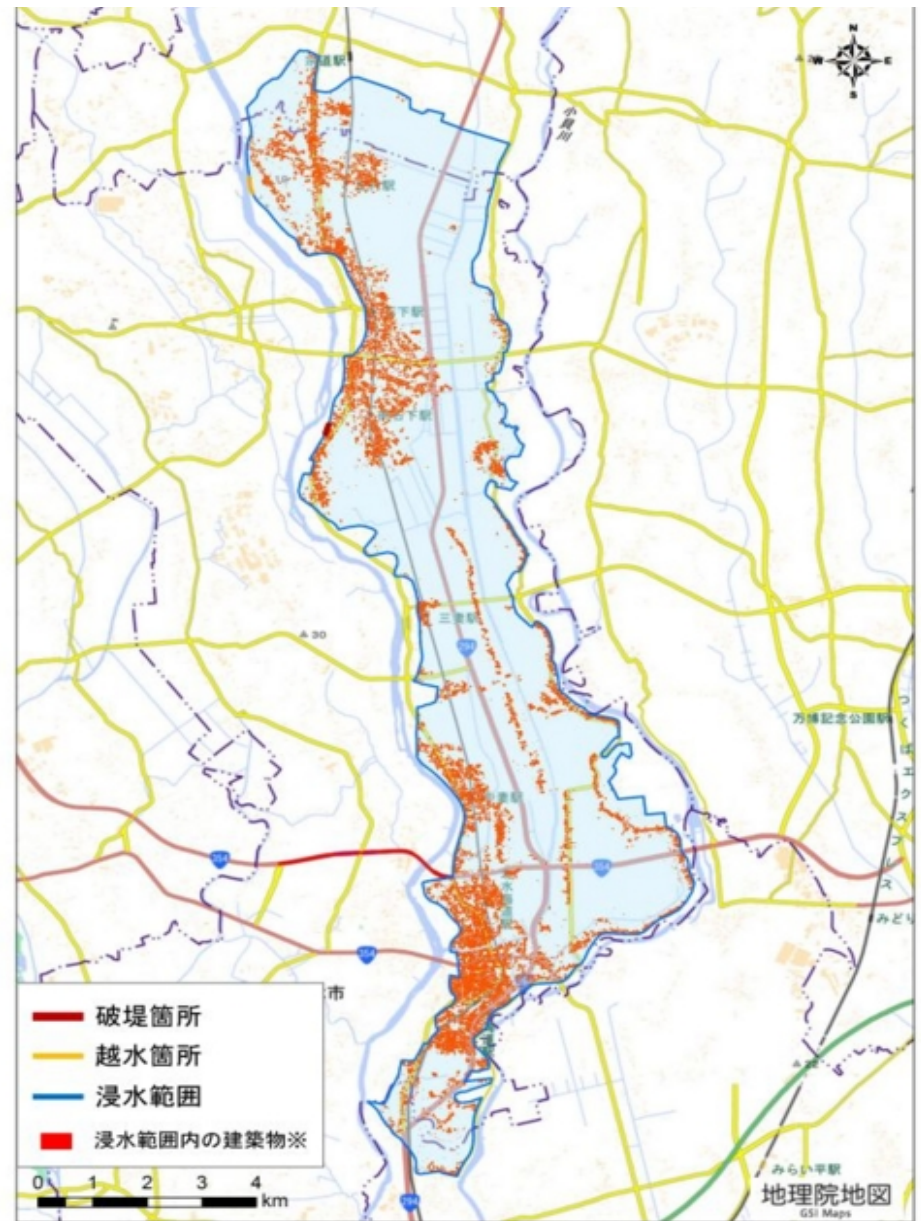


Figure Estimated flooded area in Joso City caused by Typhoon 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 (As of 15:30, 12/September/2015)



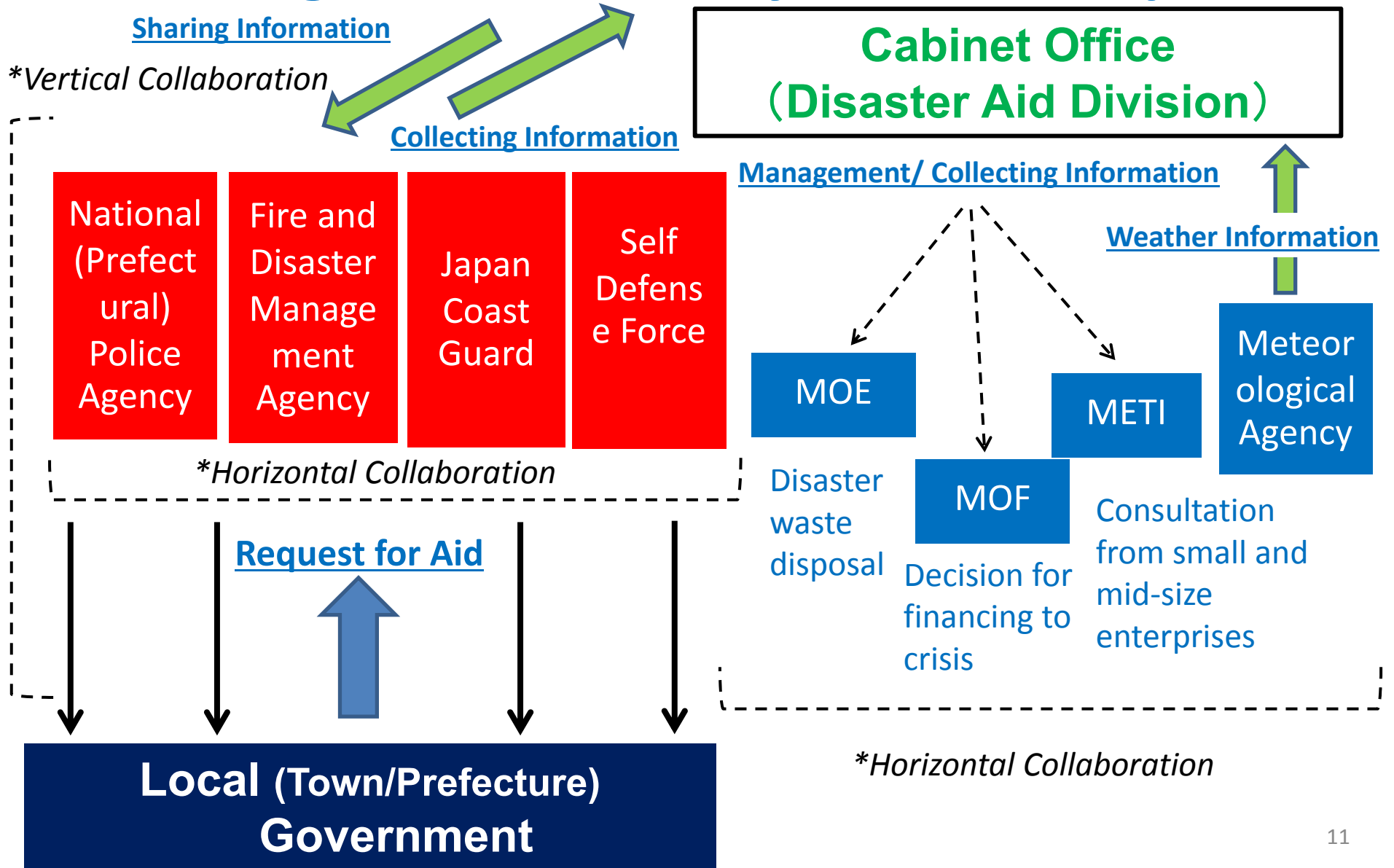


Credit: livedoor.glogimg.jp



# 2 Disaster Management

## - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan



# 2 Disaster Management

## - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan

### Police Agency

- Rescue activities by special units
- PR and assistance of evacuation
- Patrolling by squad car for 24 hours to prevent looting and theft
- Visits to evacuation centers by female police officers for consultation
- House-to-house visit



Patrolling and consultation  
by “Yukitsubaki (Snow-Camellia) Squad

## 2 Disaster Management

### - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan

#### Fire and Disaster Management Agency

- Releasing “Alerting Information regarding Typhoon 18th”
- Search and rescue by (air unit + ground force)
- First aid activities



<http://www.fdma.go.jp/>



“Sling Rescue” from buildings

Rescue Activities by Emergency Rescue Force

# 2 Disaster Management

## - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan

### Japan Coast Guard

- Search and rescue by aircrafts
- Dispatching Liaison Officers
- Releasing orders for evacuation from ports
- Searching floating objects → Release navigation warning





## 2 Disaster Management

### - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan

#### MOD/Self-Defense Force

- Search and Rescue
- Assistance for Water Supply
- Assistance for Bathing
- Dispatching Liaison Officers
- Epidemic Prevention
- Discharging Water
- Debris Removal



“Sling Rescue” from the rooftop



Assembling bathing facilities (Japan Self-Defense Force)

# 2 Disaster Management - Intergovernmental Dynamics in Japan

## Agency Collaboration *(Horizontal Collaboration)*



Joint Activities by Police/ Fire and  
Disaster Management Agency/ Self  
Defense Force



Coordination Meeting at Joso City Office

[http://www.mod.go.jp/js/Activity/Disaster\\_relief/2709kinugawa.htm](http://www.mod.go.jp/js/Activity/Disaster_relief/2709kinugawa.htm)



# 3 Challenges for Intergovernmental Disaster Management

## Challenges

- Difficulties for getting different agencies to work together (Duplication/ Turf /Information sharing)
- How to achieve “Shared-governance ” approach (Anton, 1989; Schneider, 1990)
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) doesn't work for large-scale disaster

# 3 Challenges for Intergovernmental Disaster Management

## Key Solutions

- Horizontal Collaboration × Vertical Collaboration
- “Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction”
  - (1) Exercise and practice
  - (2) Local Preparedness
  - (3) Collaboration and smooth information sharing

# Thank you for your attention.

