

Counter measures against disasters in Japan and promotion of approaches for disaster risk reduction in each member country of the UN-GGIM-AP

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Abstract:

A number of natural disasters takes place in the world, especially in the Asia and the Pacific region. Japan is not an exception. Various kinds of natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and typhoons occur also in the country. The tragic 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, particularly, brought serious damage. The system for disaster reduction in Japan has been built up in recent years with contributions not only from disaster management institutes but National Geospatial Information Agencies (NGIAs) in many ways. Taking this opportunity, we will introduce the significance of geospatial information to reduce disaster risks based on case studies in Japan.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), which was adopted in the latest UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in this March, describes the importance of development, improvement and provision of disaster risk information utilizing geospatial information technology. The significance of geospatial information is also suggested in the agreement document of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be adopted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit from 25th to 27th September, 2015.

It is proposed that UN-GGIM-AP clarify the possibilities of contribution of NGIAs in disaster management by the collaboration with Member States, through its WG activities during the next three years, as well as ensure the implementation of the SFDRR through learning and discussing how to accelerate those possibilities together with the said WG members. In addition, consideration should be given to the collaboration between UN-GGIM-AP and the proposed Working Group regarding emergency response and disaster risk reduction, which was agreed in the 5th Session of UNCE-GGIM.