

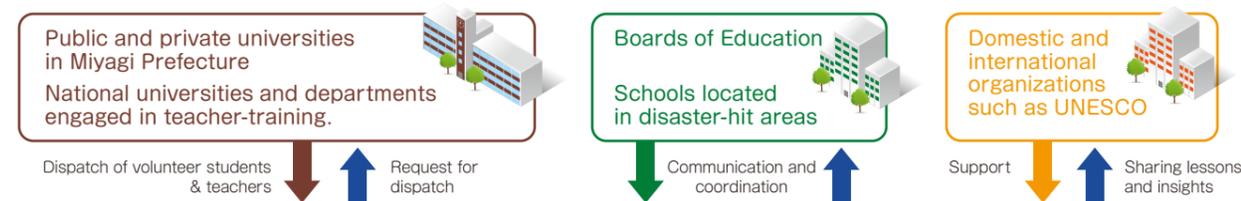
Collaboration with other institutions in Japan and overseas
 ~Sharing of knowledge and insights at the global level~
 Cooperation between disaster-hit areas

Lessons learned from the disaster would be effectively used once they are extensively shared and disseminated in Japan and overseas. At our center, by collaborating with other relevant institutions in Japan and overseas, in addition to sharing the lessons learned and insights gained from the disaster, we share knowledge by cooperating with other disaster-hit areas that suffered similar kind of disaster, and thereby contribute to recovery activities.

With the acceleration of globalization, there is an increasing demand for sharing knowledge and insights concerning disaster science, recovery from disaster, and disaster risk reduction with countries in the Asia Pacific region that are also prone to the risk of natural disasters.

At our university, we have been actively engaged in building network with the international society through the initiatives of environment education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and UNESCO Associated schools. Through exchange training programs with the IIDEA of Ministry of Education, Thailand, with whom we have collaborated, and through opportunities like JICA group training, we promote exchange between researches and practitioners in the fields of disaster risk reduction education and operation of evacuation shelters.

Besides, for the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Prevention to be held in Sendai in March 2015, we have set up our liaison office for the conference in Research and Development Division, and we would seek effective methods for information dissemination and discussion.



Miyagi University of Education Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance

Research and Development Division

- Understanding the current needs of recovery of education in disaster-hit areas
- Optimization of support, offering practical support
- Accumulating lessons learned and insights gained from the Great East Japan Earthquake
- Collaboration with other domestic and international institutions
 - Global knowledge-sharing-Cooperation between disaster-hit areas
- Review of disaster risk reduction education programs and development of teaching materials
- Demonstration and practice of creating new "Avenues" for community disaster prevention in light of the earthquake disaster

Practical Support Division



Miyagi University of Education
 Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance

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Current status of Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance

Miyagi University of Education
 Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance



Initiatives of the university for recovery of education in the disaster-hit areas, and prospects of recovery

The Great East Japan Earthquake resulted in the loss of many precious lives. I extend my deep condolences to the people who lost their lives. In addition to sincerely praying from the bottom of my heart that the recovery efforts progress smoothly, we are putting our best efforts for the recovery of education at our university.

Dr. Kazuyuki Mikami

President, Miyagi University of Education



Response at the time of disaster

Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake, while the university was putting all its efforts to confirm the safety of students, restoring the lifeline services, and inspecting the safety of buildings and facilities; students, faculty members, and staff members of the university started providing voluntary and dedicated support to the disaster victims and the disaster-hit areas. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the committed hard work of students who were engaged in taking care of college students in the university on practical training, faculty members who looked after the affected students at their own residences, and administrative staff members who provided support to the disaster-hit areas on weekends. Amidst this,

the university came up with “Miyagi and Sendai Future Development Project”, and extended the support of university such as providing relief goods. As the initial structure of this support, day-to-day “relationship” such as network of practical training and UNESCO Associated schools came in handy, which finally evolved as a bridge linking the disaster-hit schools and support personnel.

Activities of Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance

In June 2011, right after the earthquake, the university established Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance as the core unit responsible for taking initiatives for recovery of education in the disaster-hit areas. In addition, 14 universities from all over Japan also extended their cooperation by dispatching volunteers, and they are engaged in volunteer activities for supporting learning along with the students of our university. Moreover, in cooperation with the local boards of education, we have been compiling articles on the lessons from recovery of education after earthquake for each region.

From April 2013, in addition to the aforementioned Practical Support Division, we further activated Research and Development Division. In June 2013, construction of the building of the center was



completed.

In Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance, Kesenuma Office (c/o Collaboration Center), Sendai Central Office, and Iwanuma Office were established in parallel. Kesenuma City and Miyagi University of Education Collaboration Center offered the same place as the city board of education in the former Kahoku building that was donated to Kesenuma City by Kahoku Shimpo Publishing Co., Ltd.

Another recent progress is the increase in consciousness among students for volunteer activities, which has resulted in the demonstration of excellent capabilities, and voluntary support activities provided mostly to the students by forming volunteer teams.

Global networking of disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction education

I think it is important to globally disseminate the knowledge and insights about lessons learned from the massive earthquake disaster. We are sharing the information with the world by publishing the articles related to earthquake disaster, publishing newsletters on our website, publishing brochures of volunteer activities all in English, while inviting non-Japanese speakers in “Recovery Cafe”

organized by the center, and receiving visitors from overseas.

Transfer of knowledge and lessons learned through collaborative network of disaster risk reduction education

It is said that a massive earthquake like the Great East Japan Earthquake strikes once in thousand years. What kind of message should be conveyed until the next thousand years where the next massive earthquake strikes? In preparation for natural disasters that frequently occur across the world, continuously interacting through the global network that offers mutual support is one of the important methods. For that, Miyagi University of Education is aiming at building a network for extensively sharing scientific knowledge and experience of disaster handling in educational institutions. For children who would be playing important roles in the future, in addition to putting our best efforts for recovery of the disaster-hit areas, compiling the lessons learned from the disaster, effectively communicating them, and passing them over generations is a key mission assigned to our university.



Current status of Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance

Miyagi University of Education established Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance right after the earthquake in June 2013 for contributing to the recovery of education. So far, in collaboration with teacher-training universities all over Japan, we have provided support for learning by sending about 4,000 student volunteers to the disaster-hit areas.

Over two years after that, we completed the construction of center building that would become the base of support activities for recovery of education in the disaster-hit areas, and its opening ceremony was held on June 29, 2013 where about 80 people including faculty members and students of the university, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and representatives from Miyagi Prefecture and municipal board of education participated.

Center building is a two-story reinforced concrete structure, with the total floor area of 285 square

meters. It is equipped with research laboratory and offices for teaching staff studying disaster risk reduction education, as well as a meeting room for students engaged in volunteer activities for the learning assistance.

Objective of the center is to clearly identify the priorities for recovery of education in Miyagi prefecture keeping in mind the recovery measures taken by the local municipalities, and provide support from medium to long term standpoint.

In addition to psychological care of children and students and aiming for improving their academic achievements, it is important to develop capabilities for surviving in the society in general. Besides, supporting the teaching faculty in institutions is also an essential initiative.

As a center engaged in recovery of the entire society, Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance is on a firm path with the involvement of other universities and regions.

Progress of Practical Support Division

Status of volunteer activities for learning assistance

One of the most prominent outcomes of the activities undertaken by Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance is conducting volunteer activities for supporting learning. Based on the request for support from board of education in the prefecture and schools in the disaster-hit areas, while coordinating with volunteer students sent from public and private universities in the prefecture and national teacher-training universities all over Japan, we are

engaged in various activities such as supplemental study sessions using long vacation and weekends.

Besides, apart from long vacation period, we also provide support by assisting in teaching during day-to-day classes and after school activities at Nakano Elementary School and Arahama Elementary School in Sendai City, and Tamaura Elementary School in Iwanuma City.

Educating students through volunteer activities for learning assistance

Recruiting volunteers for supporting recovery of education

While having a profound impact on our minds from various aspects, the 2011 earthquake taught us several things. With various memories in their minds, children in the disaster-hit areas are still attending their schools.

Providing learning support to such children and interacting with them during recess time affords a great opportunity of future learning, and it also affects the innate qualities of teaching faculty over a period of time. Because of this, we have a strong desire of having more and more students of our university experience the volunteer work for supporting learning, and therefore we created the concept of "committee of volunteers for supporting recovery of education".

Building awareness about the importance of learning support

For having many students achieve the desired goal of improving their innate qualities as students of teacher-training universities through the earthquake disaster, we mutually confirmed that enriching the activities of volunteers engaged in supporting recovery of education in future is the most important item, and we decided to take measures for that.

To begin with, in addition to students' earthquake disaster recovery project that evolved from opinion exchange session between the representatives of

various volunteer associations arranged during the university festival, we organized a symposium "recovery after earthquake disaster as conceptualized by the students of Miyagi University of Education – What I can do". We think what motivated students was the actual voice of students rather than we staff members.

Besides, we had our students actually visit the disaster-hit areas. By actually visiting Okawa Elementary School in Ishinomaki City, Tokura Elementary School in Minami Sanriku, Kadonowaki Elementary School in Ishinomaki City, and Arahama Elementary School in Sendai City by bus, and through directly listening about the situation at the time of disaster from school principals, many participants were extremely moved and shaken from inside. Conversation in the bus was also such that it further deepened the significance of the visit. "We have the duty to listen to the talk of many people in disaster-hit areas, carefully consider their feelings, and know the truth. I could feel the sense of mission in becoming a teacher in this era, and I would like to protect lives and happiness of children in future. (from the feedback received from a student)"

Conveying the feelings from one student to another student. Such activities have been successful, and activities of students have also become more vigorous.



Progress of Research and Development Division

Full-fledged start of "Disaster Recovery Assistance Laboratory" under Research and Development Division

At Center for Disaster Education & Recovery Assistance, in addition to understanding the continuously changing situation of the disaster-hit areas and looking into the support needs for recovery, we have established Research and Development Division so that we can disseminate and share information with other Japanese and overseas institutions. For strengthening this function, we have assigned two specially appointed faculty members, who are engaged in collaborative survey and research.

After the center building was inaugurated, full-fledged research and study sessions have started. We periodically organize "Recovery Café" for learning and discussing the status of recovery from earthquake and initiatives of various foreign countries for disaster prevention, thereby increasing awareness about role and mission of the center and refreshing the feelings for this initiative.

Reconsideration of Disaster Risk Reduction Education Program and Preparation of Study Material

Based on the knowledge gained and lessons learned from the earthquake disaster, we are engaged in developing and conducting new disaster risk reduction education initiatives, and we are also involved in preparing study material for that. At present, through joint research with Center for Simulation Sciences, Ochanomizu University, we are participating in the development and verification of study material for simulating the operations of evacuation shelters.

Insights Gained and Lessons Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake

From the standpoint of socio-seismology, we would strive to understand natural environment (environment such as ground characteristics and topographical features) and social environment (especially, mechanism and dwelling environment in local society) specific to Tsunami-hit areas, collect information about successful and unsuccessful examples of evacuation from Tsunami disaster, and we would like to propose the ideal state of future regional plan and evacuation suitable to the regional environment in the case of Tsunami disaster. In that also, because we expect that schools have a very large role to play in disaster-hit areas, collaboration between board of education and schools will be very important in the future as well.

Besides, at Research and Development Division, we also participate in the activities of associations such as Japan Association for Earthquake Engineering, Association of Japanese Geographers, The Tohoku Geographical Association, and we are actively engaged in academic exchange through discussion with researchers in Japan and overseas.

Demonstration and Practice of Creation of New "Avenues" for Community Disaster Risk Reduction

In community disaster risk reduction, it is important that various bodies such as government, schools, fire associations, voluntary disaster risk reductions organizations, neighborhood associations, and NGOs prepare for risks and disasters in cooperation. At our center, in collaboration with the researchers of International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University, we organize research sessions and workshops, and we work towards creating new "Avenues" for community disaster prevention considering the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Besides, for taking measures for preventing isolation of evacuation shelters in schools in cooperation with the model regions and schools in the prefecture, we have started initiatives for creating awareness about disaster communication volunteers using simplified wireless and amateur CB radio. By compiling the results and issues with such demonstration experiments, we would contribute to community disaster risk reduction of each area.

Understanding the current needs for recovery of education in disaster-hit areas

With the cooperation of affected municipalities and boards of education, we strive to understand the current situation of recovery and issues faced by disaster-hit communities and schools. Especially, we conduct monitoring about spatial movement of victims who had no option but relocate or live in temporary houses, and relationship with the region as well as issues in town development.

Besides, leveraging the strengths of our university in terms of proven track record of collaborating with board of education and schools, teacher-training universities would collect and record information concerning their experience and lessons in using many schools as evacuation shelters at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

