Plenary Session
Practical Build Back Better Efforts, and the Course of Action Hereafter

‘Build Back Better’, Sendai’s approach
— Presentation of the Sendai Model —

Kazuko Kohri, Mayor of the City of Sendai
Sendai City’s Road to Recovery

- Multiple defenses to minimize tsunami damage
- Building of a coastal levee and an elevated road
- Construction of evacuation hills and facilities
- Formed the Sendai City Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Plan
- Hosted the Tohoku Rokkon Festival
- Designed disaster reconstruction municipal housing
- Dispersed to prevent group relocation
- Agricultural rehabilitation (soil desalination; reconstruction and preparation of farmland for cultivation)
- Hosted the 2016 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future
- Hosted the 2017 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future

Development of know-how and experiences
- Reviewing of the Sendai City Disaster Prevention Plan; assistance for disaster victims to resume normal lives; and promotion of Sendai’s disaster prevention education

Disaster Waste Disposal
- Hosted the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

City of Sendai
Basic Concept of Sendai City’s Recovery

Sendai City hosted the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), where the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted.

Build Back Better

This is a concept by which, in the stage of post-disaster recovery, a municipality should aim not only to achieve recovery to previous conditions but also to make the city better prepared for possible future disaster.
Recovery Projects Reflecting Sendai City’s Characteristics

**Case 1**
Review how to manage evacuation centers

**Case 2**
Set up a support program for disaster victims to resume normal lives

**Case 3**
Launch the Earthquake Disaster Memorial Project
Recovery Projects Reflecting Sendai City’s Characteristics

**Case 1** Review how to manage evacuation centers

**Before the Earthquake**
Evacuation centers were originally supposed to be managed only by ward office staff. There was no clear division of roles between the local government and communities.

**After the Earthquake**

1. To manage evacuation centers cooperatively with local organizations, evacuees and city officials.
   - Have meetings in advance
   - Sendai City
   - Facility designated as a shelter
   - Facility designated as a supplementary shelter

2. To create community-based evacuation center operation manuals, customized to each community’s situation

3. To set up a section in the City of Sendai, responsible for evacuation center management in an effort to build face-to-face relationships in communities

Keyword: **Community**

Implement measures to reduce disaster risks based on self-help, mutual aid and public assistance
Case 2: Set up a support program for disaster victims to resume normal lives

Visit people house to house to grasp the living conditions and recovery plan of disaster victims

Sort out and analyze problems facing each household

Share information among those providing support and clarify the division of roles

Keyword: Diversity

Build up a system of information sharing between Sendai City and its affiliated institutions, organizations, and NPOs and clarify roles in providing support while taking into consideration various opinions and needs.
Recovery Projects Reflecting Sendai City’s Characteristics

**Case 3**  
Launch the Earthquake Disaster Memorial Project

The need to reflect on why we were unable to make full use of the wisdom of our predecessors, and to prevent the lessons learned from the disaster being forgotten

Sendai City Disaster Reconstruction Memorial Committee held discussions on ideas

- Preservation of disaster ruins
- Built a memorial facility, serving as a base for interaction
- Issued booklets recording the post-disaster recovery efforts

- Hosted the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Hosted the Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future

**Key phrase:** Learn and pass down

Send out and pass down messages from a long-term point of view to share the memories of the disaster with people in other countries and future generations
Presentation of *the Sendai Model*, Recovery Projects Reflecting Sendai City’s Characteristics

- **Disaster resilience**
  - Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City for a secure future

- **Ease of living**
  - Disaster prevention and environment-focused urban development
  - ‘human capacity building’

- **Low carbon**
  - Disaster prevention and environment-focused urban development

- **Experiences and lessons learned from post-disaster recovery**

- **History of building Sendai as an environmental city – the City of Trees**

- **Sharing information throughout Japan and the world**

- **Promotion of exchange activities and economic investments**

Making Sendai City safe, secure and sustainable and contributing to the world’s disaster prevention culture
Presentation of the Sendai Model, Recovery Projects Reflecting Sendai City’s Characteristics

Collaboration based on the Community
Support based on Diversity
Learn and pass down individuals’ experiences

Post-disaster recovery efforts that value gaining citizens’ trust

Sendai’s Build Back Better Model
Aiming to Make Sendai a ‘Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City’

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