

Earthquake Preparedness and Recovery in Japan

1. History of the requirements on Structural Safety of Buildings

In 1920, basic technical requirement on the structural safety of buildings was stipulated in “Urban Building Law”. And after experienced the earthquake disasters, we revised the Building Standard Law (BSL) in order to much safer building design. The new earthquake-resistant design was introduced in 1981. Then, the structural safety design was transitioned to performance based code in 2000. The improvement towards the structural safety for existing apartment buildings was enforced in 2015.

2. Subsidy System on the Promotion of the Earthquake Proofing

In order to reduce the expenses by building owners for the diagnosis, design and improvement construction cost, newly subsidy institutions was established by the national and local governments. The buildings which constructed before 1981 are targeted

3. Actions after an Earthquake Disaster

So as to protect the peoples by first and/or secondary disaster, we implement an emergency safety assessment.

Furthermore, local governments will designate the districts that damaged by the disaster under the BSL then applied the restrictions of control and prohibit for buildings in certain period. In this period, local government will prepared the reconstruction plan together with citizens who previously settled in damaged districts by the disasters.

4. Further Clarified Subjects and Proposals

The Great East Japan Earthquake (M9.0) was occurred in 2011. The suffered families are not only caused by earthquake but also the huge scale of the Tsunami that it beyond expectation. Although already past four years more, most of families are still settled outside of suffered areas. And they forced to move high level land. We faced the subjects on the continuity of local asset and community.

The emergency temporary housing construction will required a basic living standards within limited construction term. The suffered families allowed to living only few years. We recognized that the reconstruction of economic and social infrastructure including housing should fully utilized domestic materials and make a revitalization of job opportunity in order to sustainable and continuous recovery of the stricken areas.