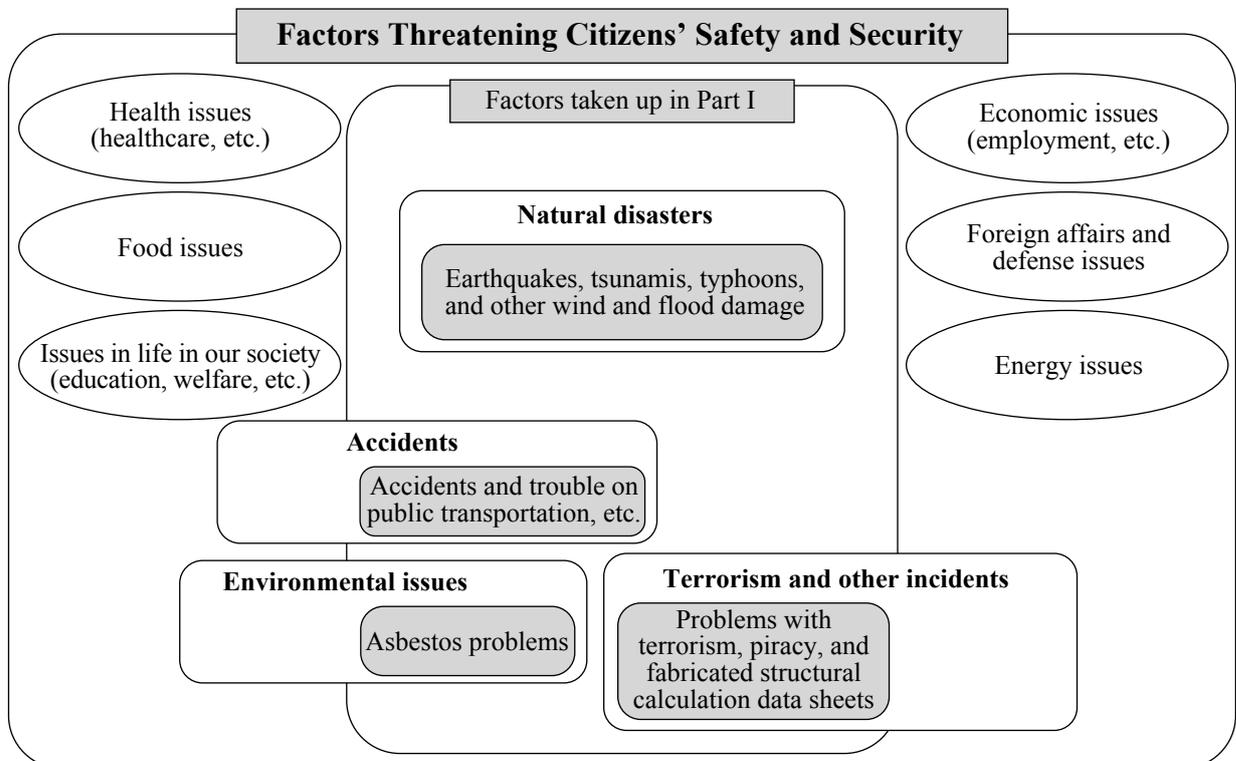


Introduction

The preservation of safety and security is the most important issue for all citizens of Japan. However, factors threatening citizens' safety and security are increasing more than ever before; threats like frequent outbreak of terrorism all over the world, high incidence of natural disasters, accidents, and other trouble, the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases like avian flu and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), and the deterioration of domestic security typified by a sharp rise in crimes such as those committed by youth and foreigners. In addition, new issues are surfacing in relation to changes in the structure of society, including the declining birthrate and aging population as well as the globalization of economic activities.

In the areas with which the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) is particularly deeply concerned, from 2004 to 2005 domestically, along with frequent incidence of natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and torrential rains, there were also many accidents and other safety problems in the transportation sector, while overseas there were terrorist incidents targeting public transportation systems. Problems with asbestos also became widely known, even as the problem of fabricated structural calculation data sheets came to light.



Swift action on these issues is indispensable to the establishment of a society safe and secure from threats like natural disasters, accidents, and terrorism, which is why MLIT is giving its utmost efforts toward the promotion of policy measures.

Based on these conditions, Part I surveys the natural disasters, accidents, terrorism, and other incidents that occurred from 2004 to 2005. It analyzes issues that have surfaced in relation to changes in the structure of society and describes the direction of the development of MLIT Policy from here on out toward the realization of a true "global monument of safety and security."

In addition, MLIT administration as a whole is promoting the enforcement of policy with the following goals: (1) the realization of vibrant living for independent individuals, (2) the maintenance and development of a competitive economic society, (3) the securement of safety, (4) the preservation and creation of a beautiful and hospitable environment, and (5) the formation of diverse communities. Part II organizes the policy issues for achieving these goals in 10 issues and reports on specific actions taken.