

### **Chapter 3: Direction of MLIT Policy toward the Establishment of a Truly Safe and Secure Society**

#### **[The Road to Becoming a True “Safety and Security oriented Nation”]**

New issues that have surfaced with changes in the structure of society like the declining birthrate and the aging population, the centralization of populations and traffic, and the globalization of economic activities must be dealt with from a new viewpoint.

In order to establish a truly safe and secure society, the whole of society must deal with these issues in a coordinated effort of all entities – not only government efforts but also individual, community, and corporate efforts, as is represented in the ideas of “self assistance,” “mutual assistance,” and “public assistance.”

In so doing, it is important to recognize that the pursuit of more abundant and convenient lifestyles entails increased risks, and that assurance of safety and security entails expenses for societal and economic activities and hence a necessary degree of sacrifice of convenience and time.

MLIT will give its utmost efforts to promote policies toward the establishment of a safe and secure society, with the following as its basic posture:

1. Make the best use of limited staff and funds with the assurance of safety and security as the top priority.
2. Have a sense of urgency in tackling policy implementation, at all times checking and tirelessly reviewing and improving administrative measures.
3. Always anticipate unforeseen situations and take risk management measures to keep damages to a minimum, even while giving top priority to forestalling natural disasters, accidents, and so on.
4. Release information concerning threats to public safety and security in a form that citizens can readily understand.

It is through efforts like those mentioned above that we must aim for the realization of Japan becoming a true “Safety and Security oriented Nation.”

#### **[Comprehensive implementation of disaster prevention and reduction measures]**

It is important to strengthen measures to prevent natural disasters, and it is especially necessary to implement disaster relief measures that contribute to immediate damage mitigation. In so doing it is critical to set a deadline and move matters forward vigorously.

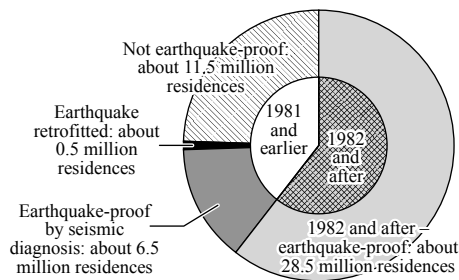
In addition to physical improvements, this requires the enrichment of comprehensive information-based measures, such as increasing safety in disasters by providing appropriate disaster prevention information.

##### ○ Promotion of measures against earthquakes

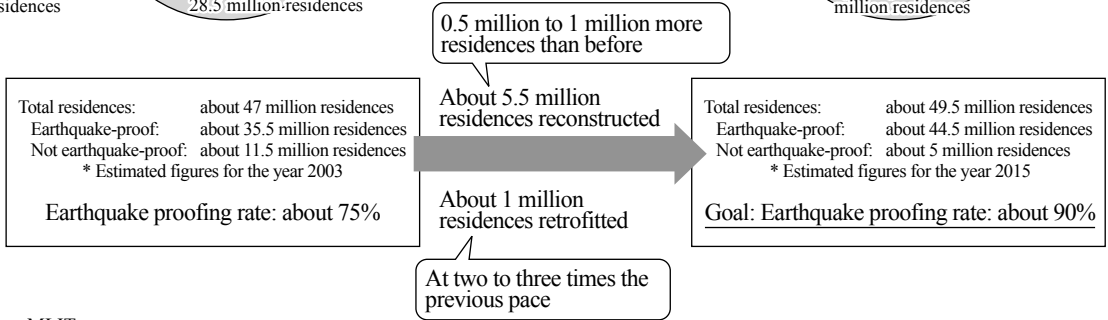
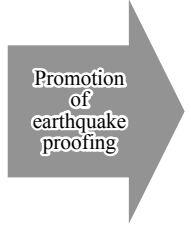
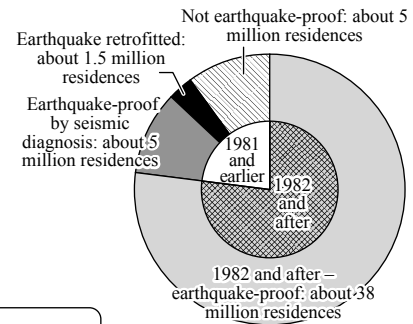
Marking the year 2006 as the “First Year of Earthquake Resistance,” efforts must be made to prevent damage and inhibit the spread of damage during earthquakes, including the earthquake proofing of residences and buildings, transportation infrastructure, emergency transportation roads, and other structures – the most effective damage mitigation measure, as well as intensive improvements on crowded city quarters, information provision to those having difficulty returning to their homes, provisions for isolated settlements, formulation of effective business continuity plans (BCP), and promotion of smooth and speedy restorations.

## Goals in Residential Earthquake Proofing

### Status on Residential Earthquake Proofing



### Goals for 10 Years from Now



Source: MLIT

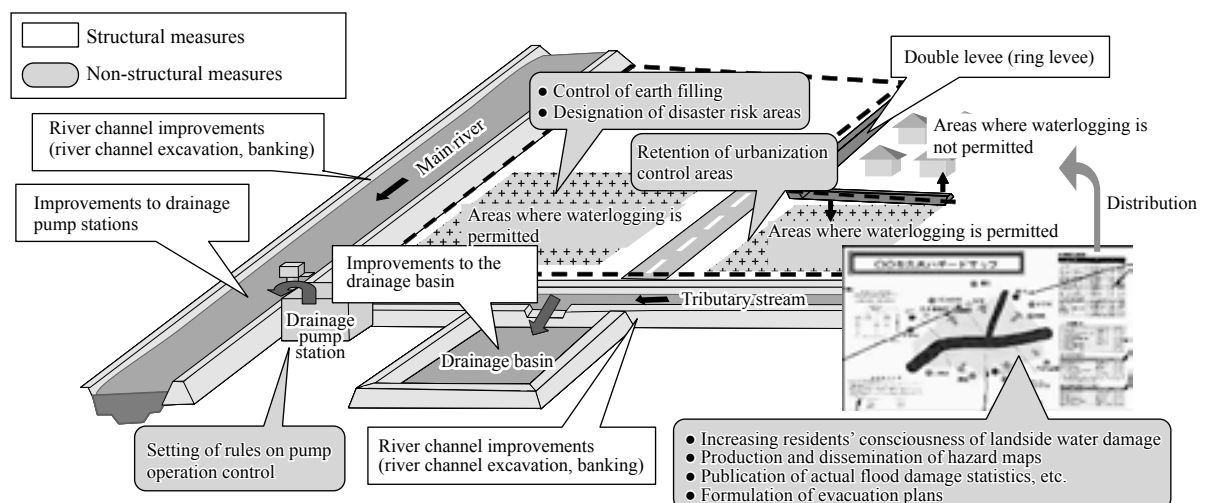
### ○ Promotion of measures against tsunamis

In recent years, the distinct possibilities of occurrence of ocean-trench earthquakes like the Tokai, Tonankai, and Nankai Earthquakes has been pointed out, with accompanying large-scale local tsunamis expected. This possibility necessitates efforts to prevent the occurrence and spread of tsunami damage, including securing the functionality of existing facilities like tsunami-ready levees, as well as provisions for tsunami evacuation measures.

### ○ Promotion of measures against heavy rains and storm surge damage

Some of torrential rains, partly affected by climate change are exceeding the capacity of infrastructure in recent years, while people and property are concentrated in areas below sea level. Therefore it is important to advance improvements on protective facilities and to carry out sufficient management in order to ensure their reliability under these situations. At the same time, under financial constraint, because facility improvements take time, and disasters may strike during the course of improvement work, and for other reasons, it is also necessary to take steps to prevent the occurrence and spread of damage even in the event of heavy rain and storm surge damage like flooding above floor level and debris flow.

## Inland Water Control Unifying structural and non-structural Measures



Source: MLIT