



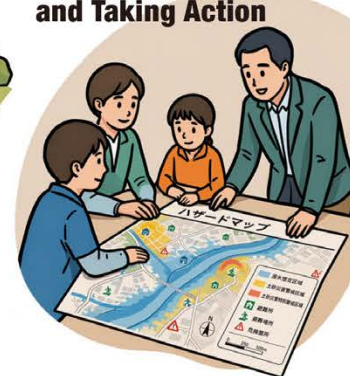
Internalizing Disaster Risk



Recognizing Disasters



Preparing for Disasters  
and Taking Action



**Second  
Certification**  
22 December,  
2025



**NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets**

Passing on Disaster Lessons to the Future

A society where everyone takes disaster risks personally and lessons are passed down over generations



Volcanic eruptions



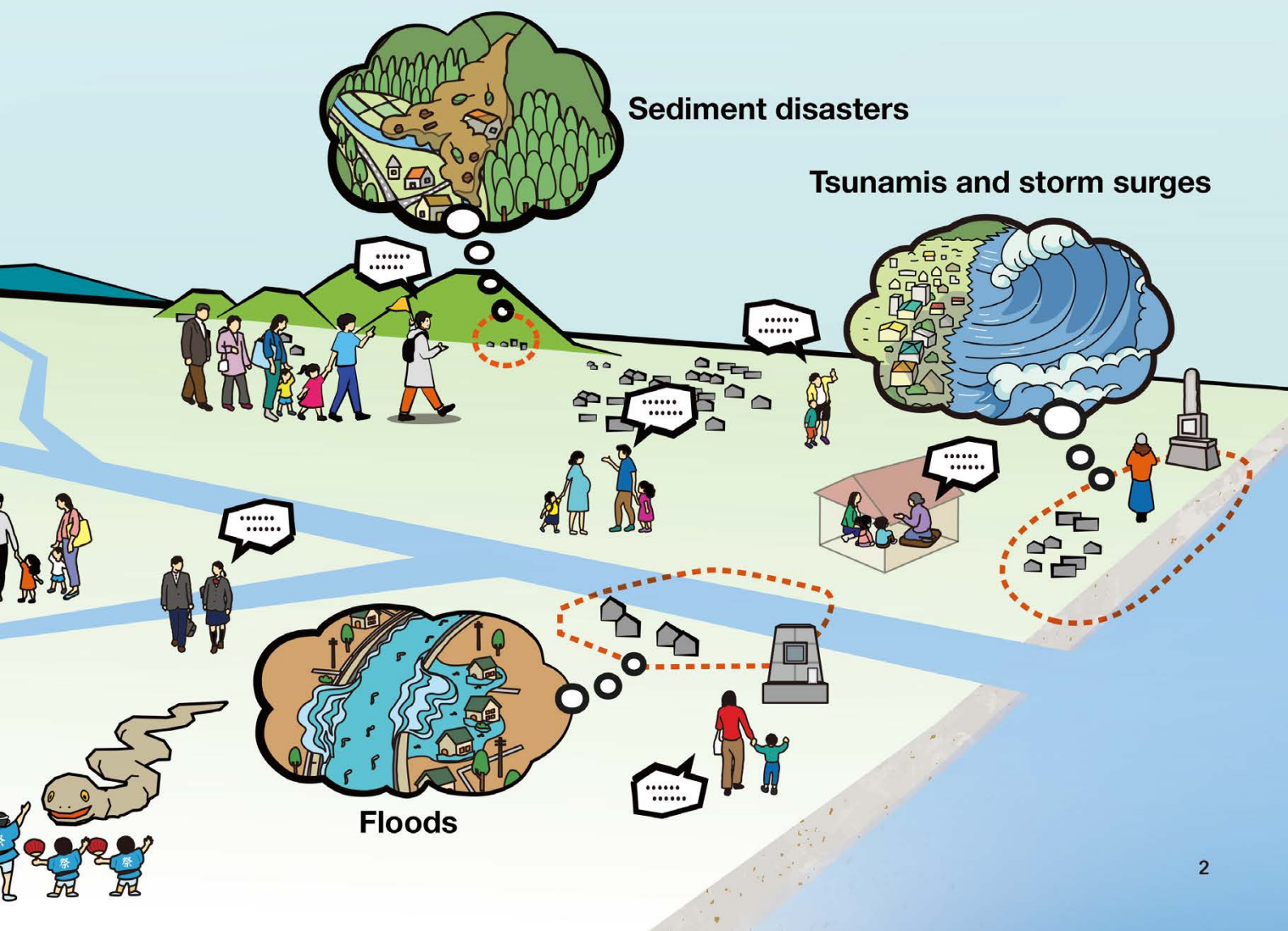
## Reducing the feeling of “I never thought it would happen to me”

Lately, water-related disasters have grown more severe and frequent due to climate change. Other disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, can occur at any time in Japan as it is situated along active tectonic belts. Disaster risk is always present in our daily lives, yet it's often difficult to picture that risk in concrete terms. As a result, when a disaster strikes, people may regretfully think, “I never thought it would happen to me.” And if we lose our lives, we don't even get the chance to regret it. That's why it's increasingly important to internalize disaster risk so that you can recognize it as something that could happen to you.

## Keeping lessons alive locally and turning them into preparedness

This is where 伝承 (Densho) comes to the forefront — community-based effort to keep the memories of local disasters alive and pass them on from person to person and from one generation to the next. This happens through storytelling, hands-on learning facilities, local festivals and activities, and through various creative approaches, such as parks and memorial monuments. Even in past major disasters, there are documented cases where Densho played a significant role in preparedness—and ultimately saved lives.

To highlight and support such local efforts, a certification system was established in May 2024 to draw broader attention to facilities that clearly communicate local disaster histories, as well as activities (e.g. storytelling) dedicated to passing on vital lessons. It reflects the hope that valuing communication will encourage people to personalize disaster risks, and ultimately protect lives from intensifying climate change and major disasters.





# NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

Promoting and expanding exemplary facilities and activities for passing on disaster lessons

## Internalizing risk to strengthen disaster preparedness

To protect lives and minimize damage, it's essential that each person internalizes disaster risk and takes proactive evacuation and preparedness actions. From this perspective, in May 2024 the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) established a system to certify facilities and activities—such as facilities that clearly convey what happened in local disasters, and efforts by storytellers who pass on disaster lessons—as “NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets”. Through this system, it is expected that people in communities with these assets will further internalize disaster risk. Furthermore, by sharing the ingenuity and sustained efforts of those engaged in passing on disaster lessons will be shared domestically and internationally, positive ripple effects will be created, and that disaster awareness will grow across society.

### Certification target (examples)

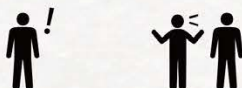
- Facilities that clearly convey disaster damages
- Educational activities and festivals that preserve disaster memories
- Storytellers that pass down disaster lessons

### Our Focus

#### Focus 1

##### Empowering communities internalize local disaster risk (Drawing attention to certified assets)

These assets empower local residents to learn about disasters, take proactive action and internalize disaster risk.



#### Focus 2

##### Sharing exemplary approaches (Promoting ideas and know-how in Japan and abroad)

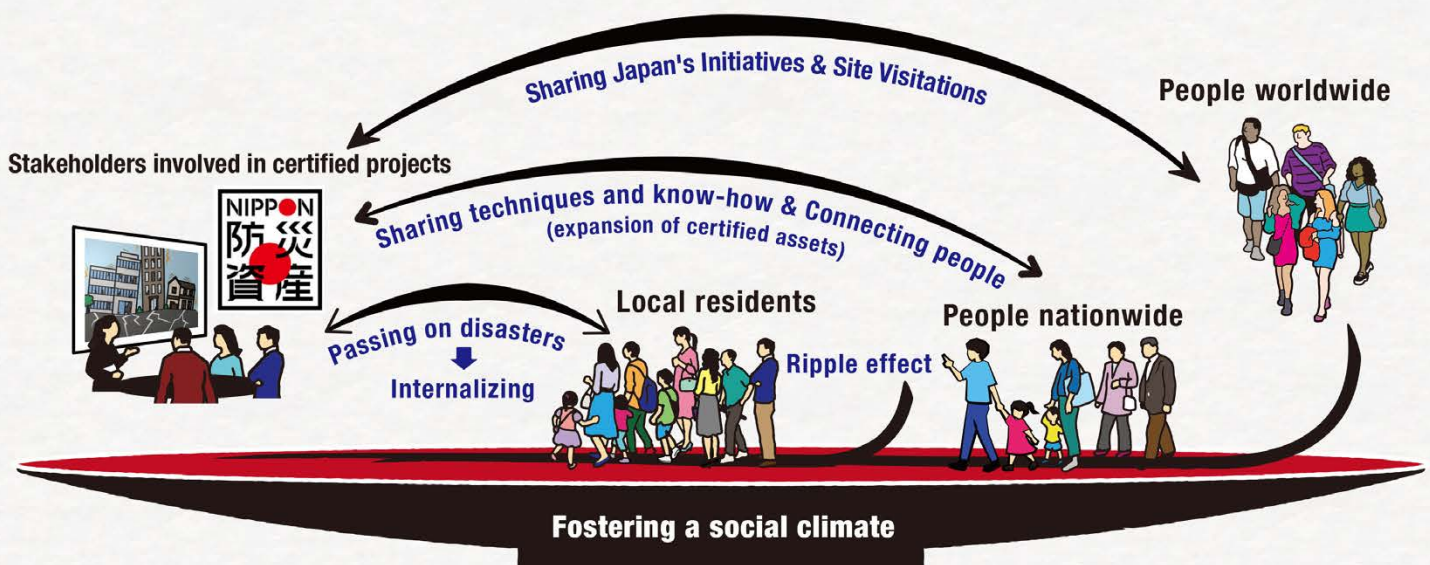
By sharing practical ideas and know-how widely, good practices can be adapted elsewhere and efforts to pass on disaster lessons can spread to more communities.



#### Focus 3

##### Fostering a social climate (Promoting the importance of “passing down”)

Step by step, we aim to foster a culture that values sharing, about disasters and beyond, so that communication and preparedness become part of everyday life.



## Evaluating ingenuity that deepens lessons and ensures continuity

When certifying facilities and activities as “NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets,” priority is placed on accurate, fact-based disaster information to assess whether the event is communicated correctly and clearly. Beyond the facts, it is also assessed whether the content motivates proactive behavior and contains learnings and lessons that lead to enhanced preparedness.

Another key criterion is whether there are everyday mechanisms and creative ideas that make it easier for people to keep learning and translate insights into action.

We use the term “assets” rather than “heritage” because we want these initiatives to be living resources that continue to create value now and into the future. We expect the value of these “assets” to grow as activities continue and evolve.



## Two levels: Certified with Distinction and Certified

Certification under NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets applies to candidate projects recommended by the Joint Councils of River-basin Resilience and Sustainability by all, the Volcanic Disaster Prevention Councils, and other bodies nationwide (i.e., a nomination-based system). Among these, projects demonstrating exceptional ingenuity or effective mechanisms for internalizing disaster risk—leading to proactive evacuation and preparedness—are designated as “Certified with Distinction”.



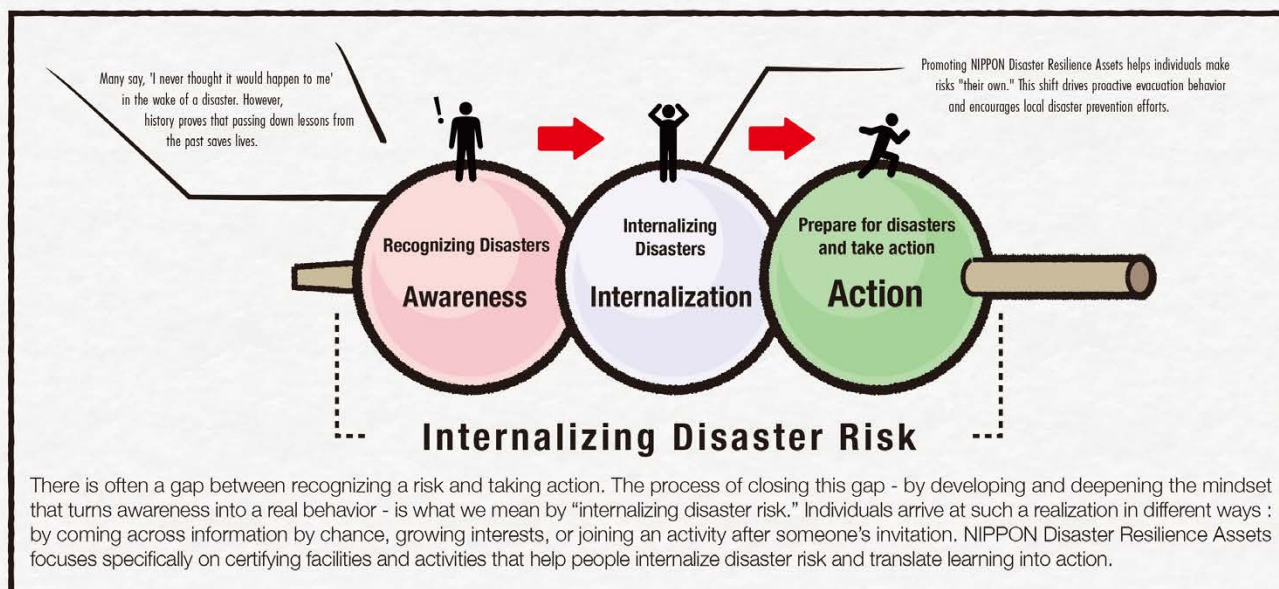
## Certified by the Minister of State for Disaster Management and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Candidate projects identified through national councils (including the Joint Councils of River-basin Resilience and Sustainability by all) are reviewed by an expert selection committee. Based on that review, the Minister of State for Disaster Management (Cabinet Office) and the MLIT certify projects as either “Certified with Distinction” or “Certified.” Both certifications are granted for a fixed validity period and are renewed after confirming that activities continue to meet the expected quality standards.

Once certified as a NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets, an initiative is authorized to use the official name and logo. Certification is also expected to increase attention from local media, expand opportunities for information-sharing with public agencies, and create further networking opportunities among certified organizations. Overall, we aim for these visions to strengthen the branding of the initiatives and contribute to regional revitalization.



2nd NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Certification Ceremony (December 22, 2025)





# Certified Projects

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.1

**The Great East Japan Earthquake**

**Disaster Storytelling Activities at Tsunami Memorial Hall**

Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.2

**The Great East Japan Earthquake**

**Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum**

Tsumagoi Village, Gunma Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.3

**The Great East Japan Earthquake**

**Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum**

Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.4

**The Great East Japan Earthquake**

**Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum**

Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.5

**June 1961 Flood**

**Tenryu River Learning Center Kawarambe**

Iida City, Nagano Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 優良認定 No.6

**Storm Surges such as Muroto Typhoon, Tsunami caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake**

**Tsunami/Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station**

Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 認定 No.1

**The Great East Japan Earthquake**

**Disaster Prevention Tour Guide**

Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 認定 No.2

**July 2004 Flood and July 2011 Flood**

**Sanjo City Flood Control Learning Center**

Sanjo City, Niigata Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 認定 No.3

**All Water-Related Disasters in Ogaki City**

**Waju Museum and Waju Life Museum**

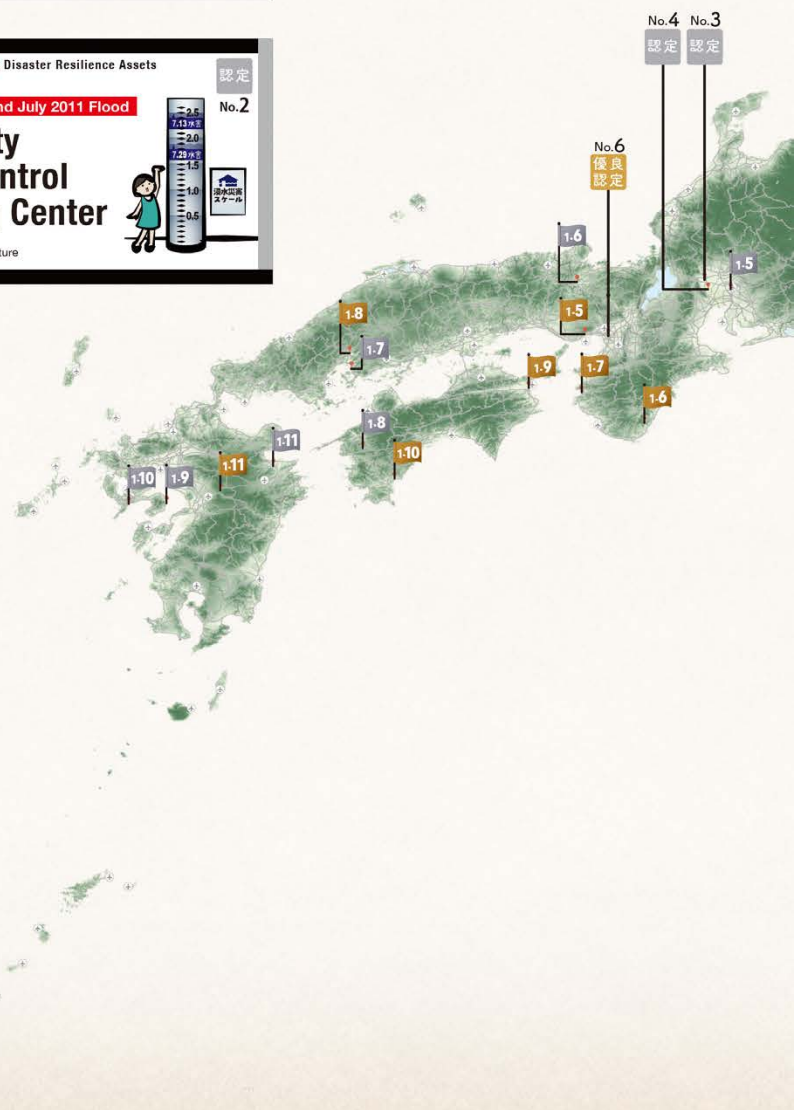
Ogaki City, Gifu Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets 認定 No.4

**All Water-Related Disasters in Kaizu City**

**Kisosansen Waju Museum**

Kaizu City, Gifu Prefecture



## Disasters covered by certified projects



Volcanic eruptions



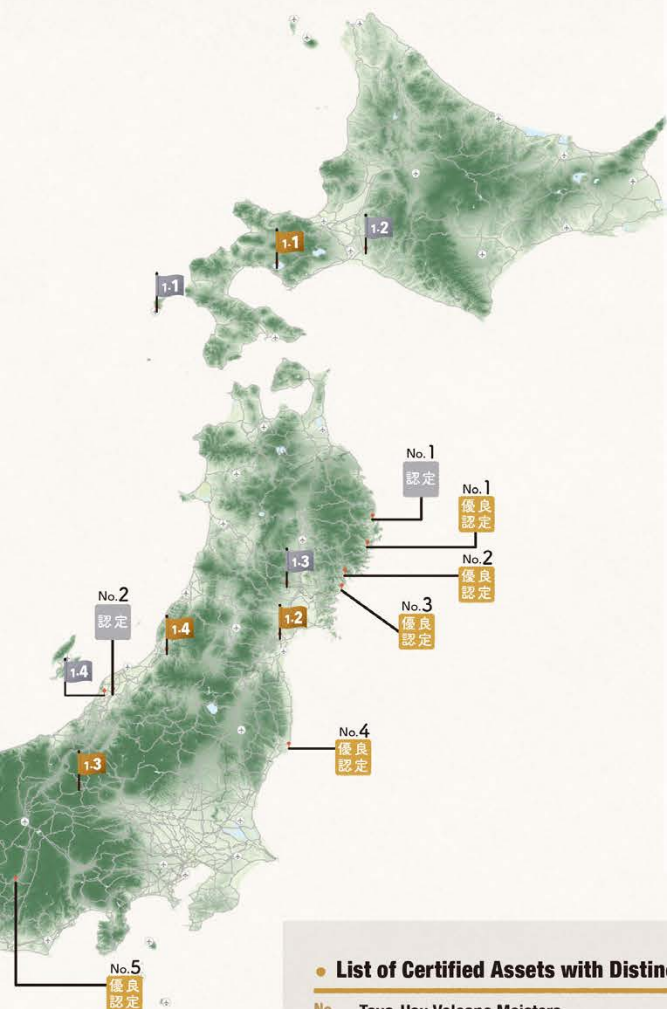
Earthquakes



Floods and sediment disasters



Tsunami and storm surges



## List of Certified Assets with Distinction

(Access and Related Links)

- No. 1** **Disaster Storytelling Activities at Tsunami Memorial Hall**  
| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture |
- No. 2** **Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum**  
| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Iwate Prefecture |
- No. 3** **Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum**  
| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture |
- No. 4** **Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum**  
| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture |
- No. 5** **Tenryu River Learning Center Kawarambe**  
| June 1961 Flood | Iida City, Nagano Prefecture |
- No. 6** **Tsunami/ Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station**  
| Storm surges from events like Muroto Typhoon, and tsunamis projected from the Nankai Trough Earthquake | Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture |



## List of Certified Assets

(Access and Related Links)

- No. 1** **Disaster Prevention Tour Guide**  
| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture |
- No. 2** **Sanjo City Flood Control Learning Center**  
| July 2004 Flood and July 2011 Flood | Sanjo City, Niigata Prefecture |
- No. 3** **Waju Museum and Waju Life Museum**  
| All Water-Related Disasters in Ogaki City | Ogaki City, Gifu Prefecture |
- No. 4** **Kisosansen Waju Museum**  
| All Water-Related Disasters in Kaizu City | Kaizu City, Gifu Prefecture |

The first certification

(September 5th, 2024)

### List of Certified Assets with Distinction

- No. 1** **Toya-Utsu Volcano Meisters**  
Mt. Utsu Eruption Disaster  
Hokkaido Prefecture: Date City, Toyoura Town, Sobetsu Town, Toyako Town
- No. 2** **3.11 Densho Road**  
The Great East Japan Earthquake  
Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture
- No. 3** **Tsumagoi Village: Passing Down the Story of the 1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster**  
1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster  
Tsumagoi Village, Gunma Prefecture
- No. 4** **Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonja (Giant Snake) Festival**  
August 1967 Uetsu Flood  
Sekikawa Village, Niigata Prefecture
- No. 5** **The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution**  
The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake  
Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture
- No. 6** **Wakayama Landslide enlightenment center**  
2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood  
Nachikatsuura Town, Wakayama Prefecture
- No. 7** **Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata (The museum of the fire of rice sheaves)**  
Ansei-Nankai Earthquake  
Hirogawa Town, Wakayama Prefecture
- No. 8** **Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center**  
August 2014 Heavy Rainfall  
Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture
- No. 9** **Map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories**  
All Disasters in Shikoku  
Tokushima Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture
- No. 10** **Disaster Prevention Tour in Kuroshio Town**  
Tsunami disaster caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake (simulation)  
Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture
- No. 11** **Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU**  
2016 Kumamoto Earthquake  
Kumamoto Prefecture

### List of Certified Assets

- No. 1** **Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum and Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytelling Group**  
1993 Hokkaido Nansai-oki Earthquake  
Okushiri Town, Hokkaido Prefecture
- No. 2** **Atsuma Disaster Reduction Learning Program**  
2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake  
Atsuma Town, Hokkaido
- No. 3** **Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark**  
2008 Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake  
Kurihara City, Miyagi Prefecture
- No. 4** **Regional revitalization initiatives centered around the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum**  
Flood control measures along the Shinano River  
Tsubame City, Niigata Prefecture
- No. 5** **Portal site for Toki and Shonai River Basin Resilience by All**  
Comprehensive flood control for the Toki and Shonai Rivers  
Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture
- No. 6** **Fukuchiyama City Chisui (Flood Control) Museum**  
September 1953 Typhoon No. 13, etc.  
Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture
- No. 7** **Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park**  
July 1907 and July 2018 Heavy Rainfall  
Saka Town, Hiroshima Prefecture
- No. 8** **Otoi Hall Disaster Memory Exhibition Room**  
July 2018 Heavy Rainfall  
Seiyo City, Ehime Prefecture
- No. 9** **Gamadasu Dome Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall**  
Mt. Unzen-Fugen Volcano Eruption Disaster  
Shimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture
- No. 10** **Nenbutsu-ko Manju (Sweet buns) distribution**  
1860 Landslide Disaster  
Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture
- No. 11** **Oita Prefecture disaster data archive and field tours**  
All Disasters in Oita Prefecture  
Oita City, Oita Prefecture

**1st  
Certification**  
September 5,  
2024

## Certified Projects:

*Introduction to Unique  
Initiatives (Examples)*

# Passing on Disaster Lessons to the Future

## Researching and Thinking



### Oita Prefecture Disaster Data Archive and Field Tours All Disasters in Oita Prefecture: Oita City, Oita Prefecture

Created in response to the frequent large-scale disasters such as the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the 2014 and 2017 Northern Kyushu Torrential Rains, this digital archive enables users to explore over 5,600 disaster records spanning approximately 1,300 years, and is actively utilized for field tours. (Center for Education and Research of Disaster Risk Reduction and Redesign, Oita University [CERD])

## Connecting Assets



Source: 3.11 Densho Road Promotion Organization official website

### 3.11 Densho Road (Network of Disaster Memorial Facilities)

The Great East Japan Earthquake: Aomori Prefecture,  
Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture

This initiative links various disaster ruins and exhibition facilities across regions affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake into a network, promoting "learning" and "preparedness" for disaster resilience while highlighting Tohoku's history of resilience and recovery. (3.11 Densho Road Promotion Organization / Disaster Storytelling Network Council)



## Connecting Through Festivals and Passing Down Lessons



### Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonia (Giant Snake) Festival

August 1967 Uetsu Flood: Sekikawa Village, Niigata Prefecture

Rooted in local serpent folklore, this festival passes down the lessons of the August 1967 Uetsu Flood to future generations. Guinness-recognized serpent length commemorates the disaster date (August 28), and local junior high school students study the event in class prior to the festival. (Sekikawa Village)

### NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets NIPPON 防災資産

### Explore More Certified Assets on Our Website

On September 5, 2024, 22 NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets were designated on the 1st Certification (11 Certified with Distinction, 11 Certified). In addition to those featured here, various creative initiatives have been certified. Visit our official website to view the first pamphlet and an introductory video.



Official Website  
(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,  
Transport and Tourism [MLIT])

## Making Preparedness a Habit

### Preparing for Future Disasters

優良  
認定



Community Disaster Prevention Experience Program  
(Guided by the voluntary disaster prevention organization Bousai Kakarigama-shi no Kai)

Leveraging  
tourism  
resources



#### Nenbutsu-ko Manju distribution

1860 Landslide Disaster: Nagasaki City,  
Nagasaki Prefecture

In a district where 33 lives were lost in a debris flow caused by heavy rains in late May 1860, this tradition involves distributing "Nenbutsu-ko Manju" on the monthly memorial day to preserve disaster memories and share disaster risks within households - a tradition sustained for over 160 years.  
(Nagasaki Prefecture / Nagasaki City)

認定

### Learning Through Seeing

#### Toya-Usu Volcano Meisters

The Mt. Usu Eruption Disaster: Hokkaido Prefecture,  
Date City, Toyoura Town, Sobetsu Town,  
Toyoko Town, Hokkaido Prefecture

Through the establishment of a "Toya-Usu Volcano Meister System", this initiative passes down eruption records and disaster mitigation wisdom. Serving as disaster resilience leaders, certified Meisters showcase the cultural and natural appeal of this UNESCO Global Geopark. (Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark Council)



Sharing local  
charm

優良  
認定

### Passing Down Disaster Stories at Facilities and On Site



Storytelling activities by survivors (Photo courtesy of Hiroshima City)

優良  
認定

#### Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center

August 2014 Heavy Rainfall: Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture

Established to pass on lessons and knowledge learned from natural disasters, including the August 2014 torrential rains, the facility evolved from a community exchange center originally opened by survivors. (Hiroshima City / Bairin School District Council of Reconstruction Town Development)



Community storytelling activities at Kanbara Kannon Hall.  
(Photo courtesy of Tsumagoi Local History Museum)

優良  
認定

#### Tsumagoi Village: Passing Down the Story of the 1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster

1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster: Tsumagoi Village,  
Gunma Prefecture

This initiative creates sites for learning about volcanic disaster and recovery from the 1783 (Tenmei 3) Mt. Asama eruption alongside storytelling activities enduring for over 200 years. The stone steps, said to have separated life and death for villagers during the eruption, are located at Kanbara Kannon Hall. (Kanbara District / Kanbara District Revitalization Council)

Shared by  
storytellers

# Disaster Storytelling Activities at Tsunami Memorial Hall

| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture |



Kamaishi City (Designated Manager: Kamaishi DMC Co., Ltd.)



Photo courtesy of Tsunami Memorial Museum

## Passing Down Kamaishi's Story Across Generations to Protect Future Lives from disasters

This tsunami memorial facility was established to pass down the experiences, memories, and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake to future generations, while continuing and evolving disaster resilience learning alongside the local community. The facility comprises exhibition rooms, reference rooms, and disaster learning rooms, offering on-site experiences—such as retracing evacuation routes and touring floodgates and embankments—as well as online storytelling programs. To leverage the lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake for future disasters, the facility actively continues its storytelling activities.



Exhibition commentary



On-site learning experience (Floodgates tour)



Photo courtesy of Tsunami Memorial Museum

Disaster preparedness workshop (Considering contents of disaster preparedness backpack)

POINT

### Diverse and Creative Program

In addition to free guided museum tours, the center offers “fun, interactive programs tailored to a wide range of age groups,” including paid in-house storyteller talks, disaster backpack workshops, safety card crafting workshops, disaster preparedness walk-rallies, and disaster-preparedness sports events. Driven by high acclaim and an increasing number of repeat visitors, participant numbers have grown year by year. The facility particularly excels in its continuous efforts to enhance disaster awareness by disseminating unique disaster prevention education both inside and outside the city through the operator’s creative ingenuity. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Photo courtesy of Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum

## Resident Guides and Immersive Exhibits Keep the Lessons of the Disaster Alive

As a facility that conveys the facts and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, as well as the path to recovery, it features exhibits on the damage caused by the disaster across four zones. A preserved disaster response headquarters used during the emergency response also adds a strong sense of realism. Furthermore, a wide array of initiatives—such as special exhibitions, community collaboration events, and explanations tailored to visitors' needs—encourages repeat visits. This facility is located within Takata Matsubara Tsunami Pines Memorial Park, which features disaster ruins such as the “Miracle Pine Tree,” while “Roadside Station Takata Matsubara” serves as a gateway to the Sanriku region.



Photo courtesy of Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum

Permanent exhibition zone



Photo courtesy of Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum

Fire engine damaged in the disaster



Photo courtesy of Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum

Explanations tailored to each school's needs



Photo courtesy of Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum

Preserved disaster management office of the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, MLIT

POINT

### Recreating reality

The facility provides exhibits that convey facts with a strong sense of realism through authentic records—including actual fire engines and bridges damaged in the disaster, photographs capturing the disaster scenes, and video testimonies from survivors—motivating visitors to take action. The center particularly excels in having highly skilled guides on site who continuously pass on the facts and lessons of the disaster to numerous visitors and groups, including school trips, sightseeing tours, and corporate training sessions. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum

| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture |



Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture



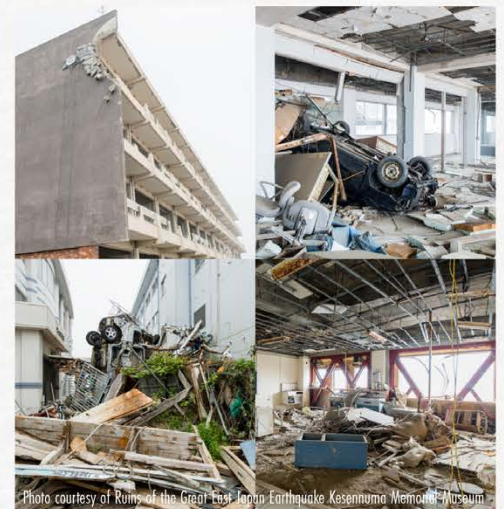
Photo courtesy of Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum

## Storytellers Sounding Warning to Public, Pointing to “Visible Proof”

In this facility, a school building damaged up to the fourth floor by the Great East Japan Earthquake tsunami is preserved as disaster ruins, with an adjacent memorial museum serving as an archival center. Serving as “visible proof,” it sounds an warning to the public to pass down the memories and lessons of the earthquake to future generations. The center offers disaster prevention and mitigation experiential programs, including storyteller tours, as well as optional “reflection workshops.” In collaboration with the tourism sectors, these ongoing efforts help visitors internalize disaster risks, shifting their perspective from “someone else’s problem” to “one’s own concern.”



Disaster ruins and the memorial museum



Disaster relics: A Powerful Reminder

POINT

### A Powerful Impact of Earthquake Relics

By preserving and opening the damaged former Kesennuma Koyo High School building as disaster ruins “in its preserved state” (including piled-up cars and destroyed school building), the facility conveys the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis with a powerful impact. The center particularly excels in continuously passing on disaster lessons through disaster reduction programs (storyteller guides and disaster seminars), while actively working to pass down these lessons to younger generations by collaborating with community storytellers to train local junior and senior high school student guides. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Photo courtesy of Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum  
Middle school and high school students serve as guides, acting as “Everyone is a Storyteller” around the monthly memorial day on the 11th

# Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum

| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture |



Iwaki City (Designated manager: ACTIO CORPORATION)



Photo courtesy of Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum

## Disaster Preparedness by “Recording Memories” and “Turning Records into Memories”

This facility passes on the experiences of the unprecedented compound disaster (earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power plant accident) caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. At the center — which normally offers panoramic views of the beautiful coastline — disaster-related materials are collected and made available as a “Disaster Archive,” alongside interactive exhibits and storyteller presentations. Furthermore, through exhibits and educational opportunities focused on emergency response, the center fosters practical disaster preparedness. Through continuous efforts to prevent the weakening of crisis awareness and disaster prevention awareness due to the disconnect in memory and experience, prompt evacuations were successfully executed during the Kamchatka Peninsula Earthquake (July 2025), demonstrating how past lessons were put into practice.



Photo courtesy of Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum



Disaster archives launched on the website



Photo courtesy of Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum

Guided tour through the tsunami-affected areas



Photo courtesy of Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum

Conducting disaster resilience lectures at schools and others

POINT

### Proactive Initiatives to Train Storytellers

In partnership with the Iwaki Storytellers' Association, the center delivers diverse storytelling programs - including regular on-site talks, guided tours, outreach lectures, and online sessions. It is particularly noteworthy for its proactive initiatives, such as holding biannual training sessions to enhance the storytellers' skills and actively recruiting new storytellers from younger generations. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Tenryu River Learning Center Kawarambe

| June 1961 Flood | Iida City, Nagano Prefecture |



Tenryu River Learning Center Steering Committee



## Protecting Yourself from Disasters by Learning about and Connecting with rivers

Situated atop a major embankment in a district historically prone to severe floods, this facility serves three core purposes: acting as a disaster resilience hub for the Tenryu River, enhancing community river awareness, and fostering local connections. Through “Kawarambe” workshops, tailored school support programs, and summer disaster preparedness events, the center offers diverse hands-on river experiences that deepen understanding of local nature and encourage proactive disaster response. Furthermore, in collaboration with community members and experts, initiatives are underway to preserve past flood records—such as those of the devastating 1961 Tenryu River Flood Disaster—and pass down these vital lessons through disaster storytelling.



Utilizing the 1961 flood memorial monument



Conducting evacuation drills using hazard maps



Students learning from the exhibitions



Panoramic view of Kawarambe Photo courtesy of Tenryu River Learning Center Kawarambe

POINT

### Deepening Understanding by Engaging the Local Community

The center stands out for planning its wide range of original disaster resilience learning programs and events—including intergenerational[1.1] workshops passing down the memory of the 1961 flood, guided walks exploring local disaster traces, and simulated evacuation experiences. It is particularly noteworthy for conducting—with active community involvement—a variety of activities designed to deepen understanding of nature and disaster preparedness in the Ina Valley, an area prone to flood damage. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Tsunami/ Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station

| Storm Surges such as Muroto Typhoon, Tsunami caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake |  
Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture |



Osaka Prefecture



Dyna-Cube tsunami simulation theater

Photo courtesy of Osaka Prefecture

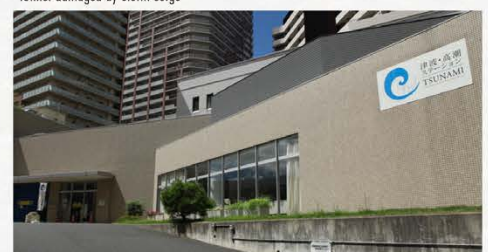
## See, Hear, and Touch: Interactive Learning for Tsunami and Storm Surges Disaster Preparedness

This is a one-of-a-kind facility in Japan specializing in public outreach and education on tsunamis and storm surges. It conveys the history of storm surge disasters that historically struck Osaka through photographs and video, while introducing the development and function of storm surge protection facilities such as floodgates and steel barrier doors.

Furthermore, visitors gain accurate knowledge about the Nankai Trough Earthquake and tsunamis predicted to hit Osaka in the near future, deepening their understanding of emergency responses. At the “Dyna-Cube” tsunami simulation theater, visitors experience the threat of tsunamis firsthand through powerful video footage projected on a four-sided screen covering the front, sides, and floor.



“Tunnel damaged by storm surge”



Exterior of the Tsunami/ Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station



Raising disaster preparedness awareness by setting up booths at local disaster drills and events

POINT

### Continuous Disaster Resilience Education Initiatives

The facility conveys the storm surge damage caused by three major historical typhoons while offering an immersive look at the tsunami hazards projected for a future Nankai Trough Earthquake. The facility is particularly noteworthy for conducting continuous disaster resilience education initiatives - such as providing guided tours led by tsunami and storm surge experts to pass on factual accounts and key lessons, as well as annually welcoming elementary and junior high school groups for curriculum-based field trips. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Disaster Prevention Tour Guide

| The Great East Japan Earthquake | Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture |



The Miyako Tourism and Cultural Exchange Association



## Experiencing the Threat and Legacy of Tsunamis at Preserved Disaster Ruins

This project aims to enhance disaster preparedness awareness by conveying the conditions of the Taro district in Miyako City, which suffered catastrophic damage during the Great East Japan Earthquake. Inside the Taro Kanko Hotel—preserved as a tsunami ruin with its structure above the fourth floor remaining nearly identical to when the disaster struck—guides provide commentary while visitors view video footage captured from the hotel during the tsunamis. Participants also tour seawalls bearing the scars of the disaster, experiencing the threat of tsunamis firsthand through the “Manabu Bosai” guided tour program. Utilized in disaster resilience education, this initiative is likewise positioned as a key component of local tourism and serves as one of the highlights of the Sanriku Geopark.



Guide providing commentary inside the tsunami ruins



Active utilization of Taro Kanko Hotel, which was flooded and damaged up to the 4th floor



### Preserving and Passing Down the Memories and Lessons

Through the disaster resilience guided tour program that takes visitors to the Taro seawalls bearing tsunami scars and the tsunami ruins of the Taro Kanko Hotel, the initiative passes on the memories and lessons of tsunami disasters to visitors. The initiative is distinguished by its sustaining long-term efforts - continuously upgrading guides' skills through regular training, hosting numerous student groups from elementary to university levels on school excursions and educational trips, and serving as an essential local resource for disaster resilience education. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Sanjo City Flood Control Learning Center

| July 2004 Flood and July 2011 Flood | Sanjo City, Niigata Prefecture |



Sanjo City



Photo courtesy of Sanjo City Flood Control Learning Center

## Hands-On Learning About Floods: Experiencing Both Nature's Blessings and Hazards

This facility was established as a hub to enhance residents' disaster preparedness by passing down the lessons of two major floods that struck Sanjo City (in 2004 and 2011) to future generations. In addition to displaying photographs from the floods, the facility incorporates visual elements to convey the scale of damage - such as marking flood depths on pillars and displaying actual maps used in fire and rescue operations. Visitors can also engage in immersive, high-tension hands-on experiences, such as stacking sandbags and opening doors of submerged vehicles.

The adjacent community plaza along the Shinano River serves as a recreational space for citizens while hosting disaster preparedness events, offering a place to experience both the necessity of disaster preparedness and the rich blessings of the river.



Realistic photographic records



Disaster resilience education program



Display of flood depth on a pillar

POINT

### Enhancing the Effectiveness of Disaster Resilience Education Through Experiential Facilities

To pass on the lessons of the two major floods, the facility incorporates realistic records and photo displays alongside a rain simulator, enhancing the effectiveness of disaster resilience education. The center also excels in offering a wide range of disaster resilience education programs—including talks featuring firsthand accounts of people with experience of natural disaster, submerged vehicle door pressure simulations, and vehicle glass-breaking exercises. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Waju Museum and Waju Life Museum

| All Water-Related Disasters in Ogaki City | Ogaki City, Gifu Prefecture |



Ogaki City Board of Education



Photo courtesy of Ogaki City Board of Education

## Seeing and Learning from Real Life: Living Surrounded by Rivers

Located in Ogaki City - where 15 Class A rivers flow through the municipal area, including the Ibi and Nagara Rivers of the Kiso Three Rivers - this museum passes on the origins, history, lifestyle, and culture of Waju (*ring-dyke communities*), which were created to protect lives and property from water hazards. The "Waju-kan" (Waju Museum) offers visual learning through aerial photographs, dioramas, and reconstructed sections of traditional residences. Meanwhile, the "Waju Seikatsu-kan" (Waju Life Museum) preserved historic residence - typical of wealthy landowners in waju areas - allows visitors to experience the daily life of traditional Waju homes. Both sections offer guided talks aligned with elementary school curricula, as well as hands-on workshops exploring Waju culture (such as making box-pressed *sushi* and "*mizu-manju*", a chilled Japanese sweet with a clear starch wrapper). Furthermore, in collaboration with local research groups, they pass on the wisdom of predecessors through lectures and Waju field surveys.



Photo courtesy of Ogaki City Board of Education



Photo courtesy of Ogaki City Board of Education

Workshops at the museum (Making "mizu-manju")



Photo courtesy of Ogaki City Board of Education

Waju field surveys in collaboration with a local research group

POINT

### Experiencing Authentic Architecture and Historical Lifestyles

By engaging with original buildings and historical daily life in the Waju area, visitors can learn about the region's history of fighting floodwaters and the wisdom of their predecessors. The initiative is highly commendable for several reasons: as part of disaster resilience education, the museum welcomes numerous school group visits from both inside and outside the prefecture to convey the history of flood control and the importance of disaster preparedness against water hazards; furthermore, the museum stands out for hosting tours, hands-on workshops, and events that allow people to learn about Waju lifestyle culture, history, and ancestral efforts, passing down this legacy to future generations. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Kisosansen Waju Museum

| All Water-Related Disasters in Kaizu City | Kaizu City, Gifu Prefecture |



Kaizu City



## Unveiling Waju and Flood Control History Through Unique Archives found only Here

Unveiling Waju and Flood Control History Through Unique Archives found only Here

This facility primarily focuses its exhibits on the geographical environment, the history of flood control, water hazard measures accumulated through past disasters, and the development of agriculture in low-lying lands of the Takasu Waju - a representative Waju area in the lower reaches of the Kiso Three Rivers -. Valuable historical materials are on display, including a restored replica of the “Kanamawari Shiken Monpi” (a wooden sluice gate constructed in the Meiji era to drain accumulated water from the Waju) and a restored horita (a traditional raised-bed rice field unique to Waju areas). Expert staff also provide guided commentary and learning support. Since its renovation in 2024, gamified interactive digital content has also been introduced, incorporating creative approaches that allow visitors to visually and intuitively learn about the Waju and history of flood control.



POINT

### Disseminating Knowledge Broadly Inside and Outside the Prefecture

Since opening as a history and folklore museum, the facility has passed on the origins and ingenuity of Waju communities, the history of river improvement, and Meiji-era wooden sluice gates based on valuable historical archives. The museum is highly commendable for accepting numerous school group visits from inside and outside the prefecture while conducting online classes for remote schools, effectively conveying the history of flood control and the importance of disaster preparedness regarding “Living in Low-Lying Lands”. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

# Learning Perspectives

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets, which pass down disaster memories and pass on their lessons to the future, offer three major perspectives of learning. Use these as a reference when visiting certified assets, local facilities, and initiatives.

## Perspective 1

### Recognizing Disasters

Understanding past disasters and the events that occurred locally is the first step toward building disaster resilience. Many certified projects engage in storytelling activities to pass down memories of the scale and threat of past events, alongside the key lessons learned.



## Perspective 2

### Internalizing Disaster Risk

Reframing disasters not merely as distant history, but as personal issues affecting oneself, one's family, and the community helps raise disaster awareness. Several certified projects focus on tailored disaster preparedness educational programs for young children, such as lower elementary students.



## Perspective 3

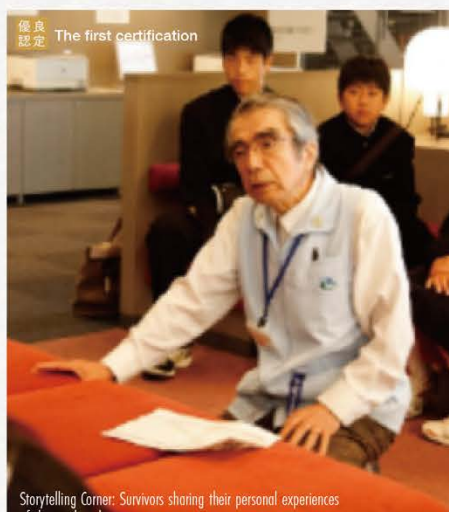
### Preparing for Disasters and Taking Action

Translating the lessons learned from disasters into tangible preparedness and action is essential. Certain certified projects offer opportunities to gain disaster preparedness knowledge, check evacuation routes and shelter locations, and participate in practical disaster drills.



## Learning Perspective 1 Examples of Certified Projects for “Recognizing Disasters”

### Passing On Memories of Disasters



Storytelling Corner: Survivors sharing their personal experiences of the earthquake.

#### The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (Hyogo Prefecture)

Visitors can learn disaster resilience lessons through talks and accessible workshops delivered by volunteer storytellers.



Guided tours at the Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU

#### Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU (Kumamoto Prefecture)

A corridor-style field museum where guides and storytellers who experienced the disaster explain the exhibits and disaster ruins.



Photo courtesy of Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum

#### Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Kesennuma Memorial Museum (Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture)

Protecting future lives by passing down lessons to younger generations, including training local junior and senior high school students as storyteller guides.

Discover what happened, understand the impact, and learn lessons for evacuation  
- connecting facilities and activities to create interconnected learning opportunities.

## Learning Perspective 2 Examples of Certified Projects for “Internalizing Disaster Risk”

Researching and Thinking About Disaster Resilience and Mitigation



**Map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories**  
(Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi Prefectures)  
Learning opportunities are provided using illustrated maps that compile local disaster folklore and firsthand experiences.



**Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum**  
(Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture)  
Features exhibits and educational opportunities to learn appropriate actions when a disaster strikes, helping visitors gain practical preparedness for the future.



**Tsunami and Storm Surge Station**  
(Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture)  
Visitors can feel the threat of waves at the “Dyna-Cube” tsunami simulation theater and gain knowledge about the Nankai Trough Earthquake and tsunamis.

See, research, and think - Maintaining spaces where people can continuously engage in these actions.

## Learning Perspective 3 Examples of Certified Projects for “Preparing for Disasters and Taking Action” Translating Lessons Learned from Disasters into Tangible Preparedness and Action



**Disaster Prevention Tourism in Kuroshio Town**  
(Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture)  
Creating personalized evacuation profiles for all residents, constructing evacuation routes and tsunami evacuation towers, and practicing evacuation drills based on those.



**Disaster Storytelling Activities at Inochi Wo Tsunagu Miraikan**  
(Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture)  
Prepares visitors for the future through fun, hands-on programs, including emergency backpack workshops and safety confirmation card crafting.



**Tenryu River Learning Center “Kawarambe”**  
(Iida City, Nagano Prefecture)  
Offers practical disaster simulation activities, such as hazard-map-based evacuation exercises and shelter rescue training led by industrial hygiene specialists.

Learn how to prepare for disasters through disaster resilience education and training programs.

# The 2nd “A Forum to Deepen Understanding”

The 2nd Forum was hosted with the aim of identifying and organizing key perspectives, essential elements, and actionable insights to be reflected in existing and future initiatives to minimize disaster casualties, through opinion exchanges and active discussions among stakeholders of certified organizations active on the front lines.



The venue (Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center)



Dr. Shosuke Sato, Chairperson, NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee (Associate Professor, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University)



## Driving Behavioral Changes Through Practical Collaboration Between NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets and River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All - Enhancing Regional Disaster Resilience

### opinion 1

#### Sharing of Information, Space, and Activities

Conducting storytelling activities during regional disaster preparedness training, visits to river basin facilities such as dams, and outreach classes; as well as sharing practical know-how among certified organizations by networking disaster assets.

### opinion 2

#### Building Partnerships with Others, including Local Residents

Involving general insurance associations and local newspapers, utilizing “My Timeline” personal evacuation plans, raising awareness among people outside the region, and expanding active participants by engaging youth.

### opinion 3

#### Collaboration with Tourism Beyond Disaster Resilience

Developing joint offerings combining general tourism facilities and disaster resiliency sites, attracting tourists, and positioning certified facilities and River Basin Disaster Resilience as key components of local tourism programs. (Expanding the scope of activities)

### opinion 4

#### Strengthening Collaboration with Schools and Other Institutions

Examples include increased attendance after being featured in elementary school supplementary readers, collaboration with prefectural construction associations and universities, reaching audiences unengaged with disaster preparedness, and utilization in corporate training programs.

### opinion 5

#### Strategies to Behavioral Change

Emphasizing that disasters can exceed the limits of flood control infrastructure and recur unexpectedly. Recognizing that driving behavioral change has no quick fix, but rather requires continuous and multifaceted efforts.

## Event Information

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>         | Thursday, March 12, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Organizer</b>    | MLIT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Participants</b> | Representatives of water-disaster-related projects from the 1st Certification round (Certified with Distinction and Certified), representatives of related River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All Councils, members of the NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee, related stakeholders, and online attendees (approx. 120 people) |
| <b>Venue</b>        | Seminar Room of Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### Participants

- Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonoja(Giant Snake) Festival
- Wakayama Landslide enlightenment center
- Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center
- Regional revitalization initiatives centered around the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum
- Fukuchiyama CityChisui (Flood Control) Museum
- Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park
- Gamadasu Dome Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall



Official Website (MLIT)



# Promoting NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

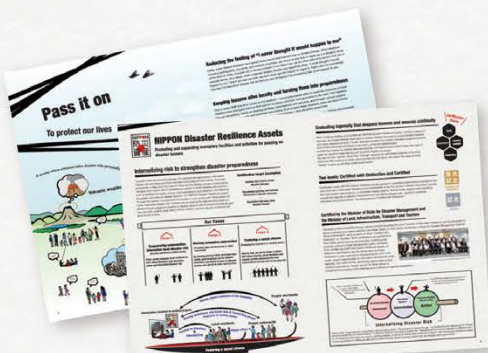


Visit our website for the latest information

The official website (River Planning Division, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, MLIT) provides links to the initiatives and related information for each certified project. It also features introductory videos explaining the purpose of NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets, as well as interviews with individuals engaged in passing down disaster lessons at the certified sites.



\*Available only in Japanese



The first pamphlet is also available.



YouTube videos



Interview articles, too!

\*Available only in Japanese



Official Website (MLIT)



Interview Articles etc.



## NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Support Center

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Support Center has been established within the Japan Innovation Center of Civil Engineering (JICE), a general incorporated foundation that serves as the Secretariat for the Council for Internalizing Disaster Preparedness, aiming to support and complement the national NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets initiatives. We provide assistance to refine, deepen, and promote these initiatives. For inquiries, please contact us via this form/ QR code.

\*Available only in Japanese



# NIPPON 防災資産

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Published : September 2026

Issued by : Advocacy, Education and Civil Society Partnership Division, Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office, Japan

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