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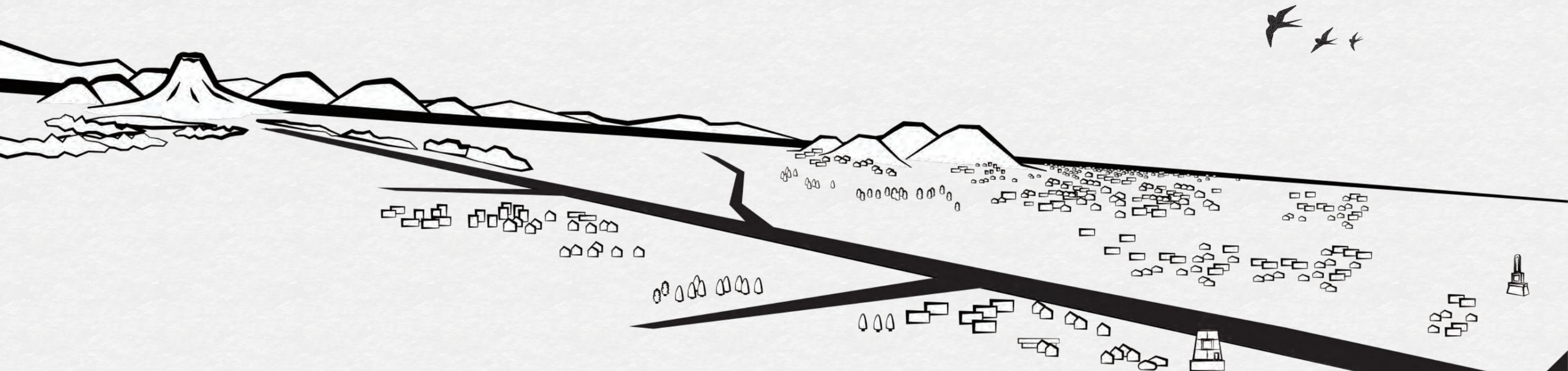
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## NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

Facilities and Actions of Past Disasters



Cabinet Office

MLIT

# CONTENTS

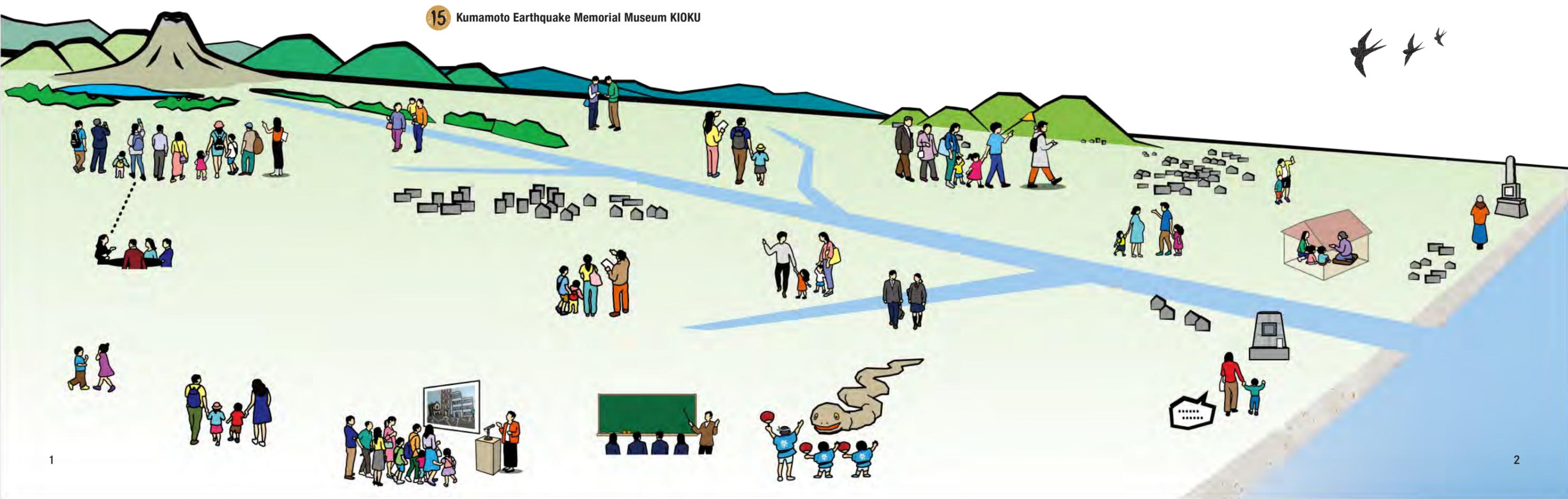
- 1 Contents
- 3 Introduction
- 5 Overview of the Certification System
- 7 Certified Projects

**優良認定** Certified with Distinction

- 10 Toya-Usu Volcano Meisters
- 10 3.11 Densho Road (Network of disaster memorial facilities)
- 11 Tsumagoi Village: Passing Down the Story of the 1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster
- 11 Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonja (Giant Snake) Festival
- 12 The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution
- 12 Wakayama Sabo Research and Education Institute (IWSRE)
- 13 Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata
- 13 Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center
- 14 Map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories
- 14 Disaster Prevention Tourism in Kuroshio Town
- 15 Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU

**認定** Certified

- 17 Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum and Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytelling Group
- 17 Atsuma Disaster Reduction Learning Program
- 18 Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark
- 18 Regional revitalization initiatives centered around the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum
- 19 Portal site for Toki and Shonai River Basin Resilience by All
- 19 Fukuchiyama City Chisui (Flood Control) Museum
- 20 Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park
- 20 Otoi Hall Disaster Memory Exhibition Room
- 21 Gamadasu Dome (Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall)
- 21 Nenbutsu-ko Manju (sweet buns) distribution
- 22 Oita Prefecture disaster data archive and field tours

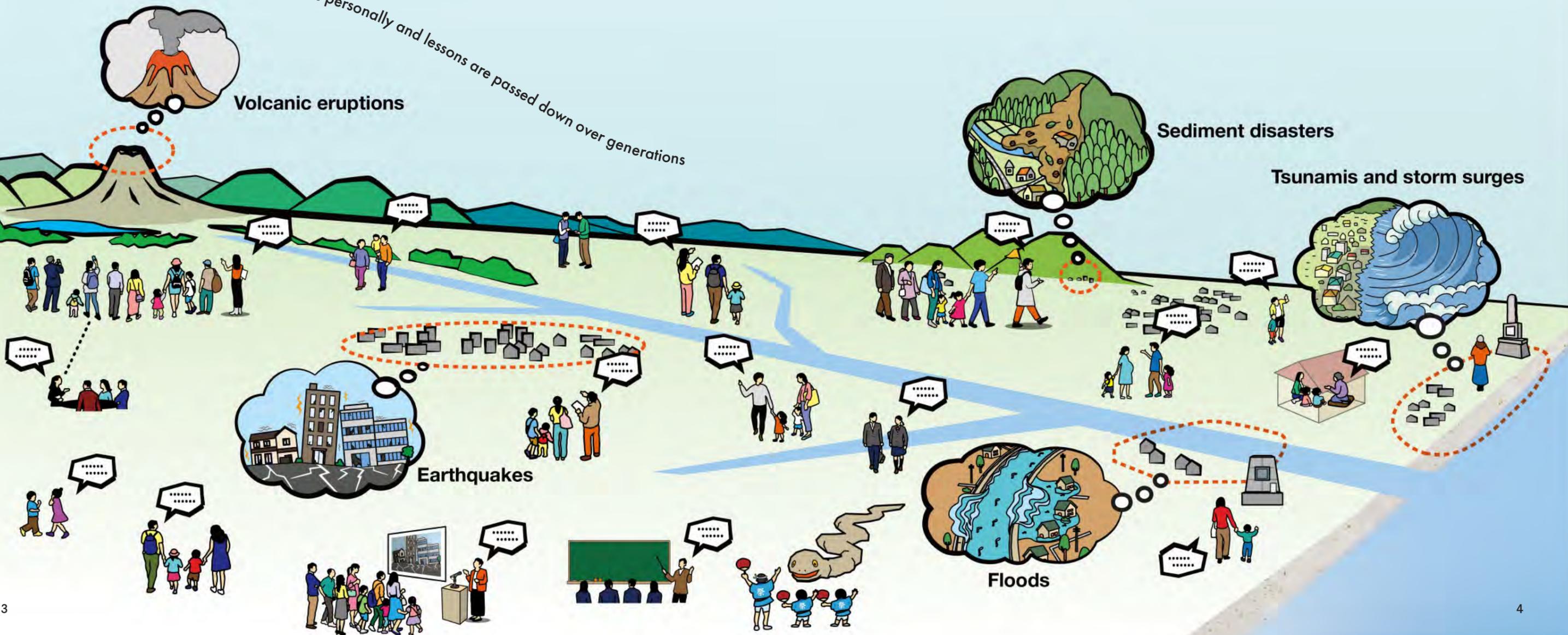


# Pass it on

## To protect our lives



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



### 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

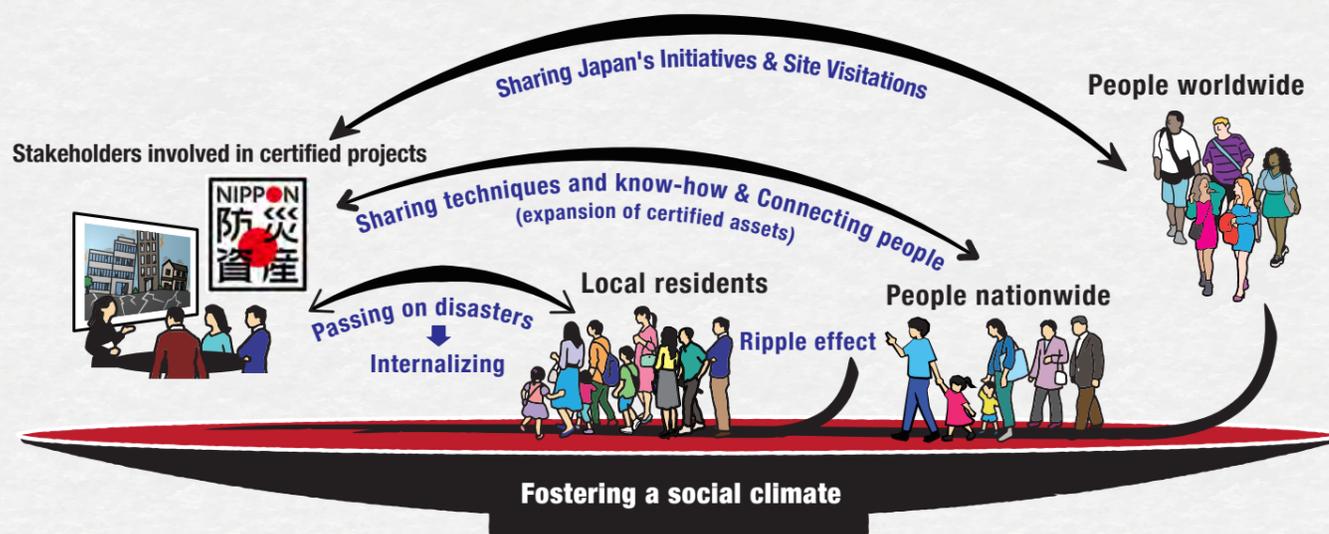
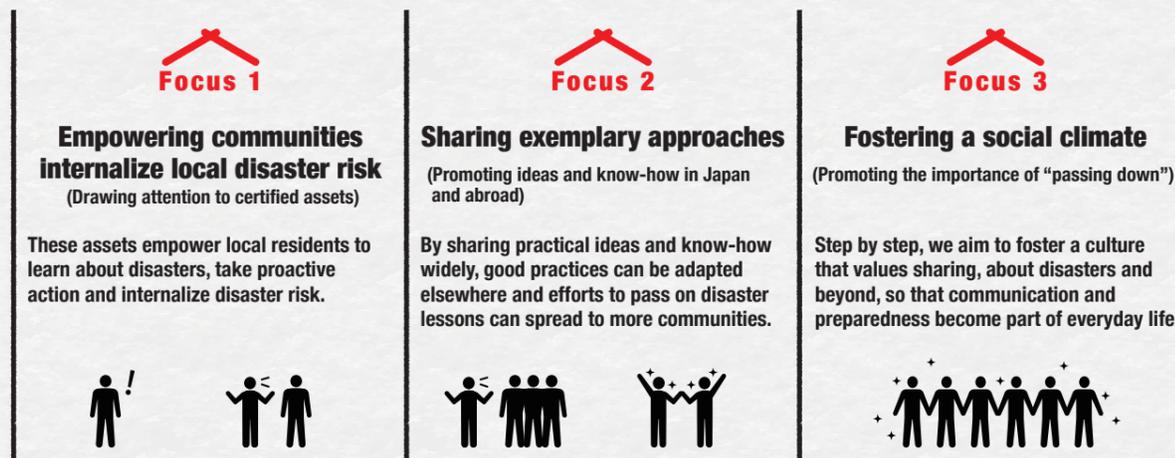
## Internalizing risk to strengthen disaster preparedness

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



## 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”.

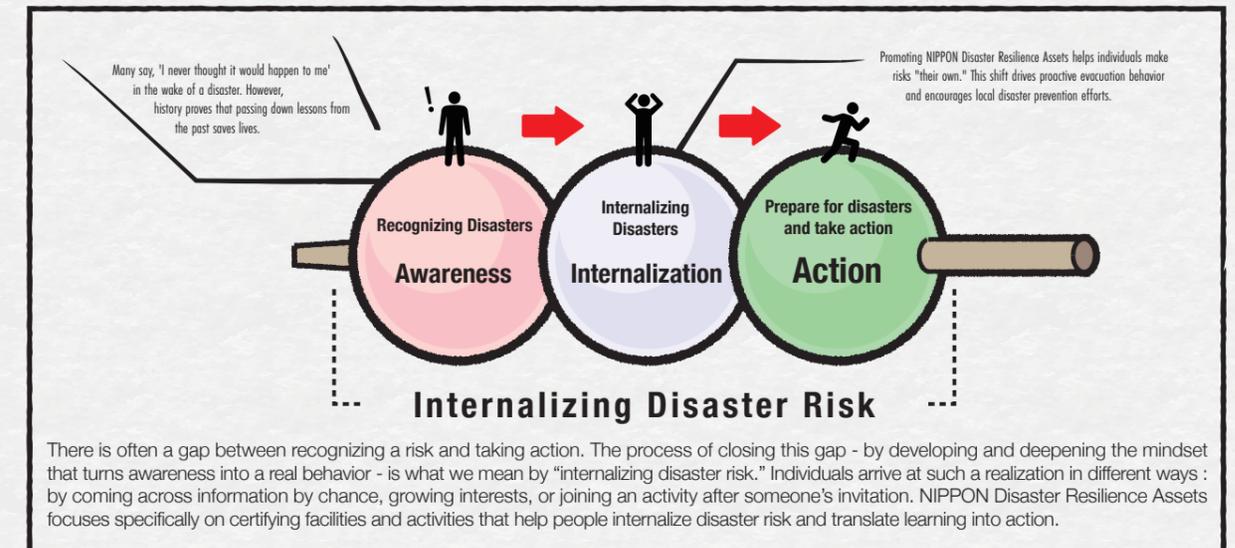


## Certified by the Minister of State for Disaster Management and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

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.



1st NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Certification Ceremony (September 5, 2024)



# Certified Projects

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Mt. Usu Eruption Disaster**  
**Toya-Usu Volcano Meisters**  
 Hokkaido Prefecture: Date City, Toyoura Town, Sobetsu Town, Toyako Town

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**The Great East Japan Earthquake**  
**3.11 Densho Road**  
 (Network of disaster memorial facilities)  
 Aomori Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**1993 Hokkaido Nansei-oki Earthquake**  
**Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum and Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytelling Group**  
 Okushiri Town, Hokkaido Prefecture

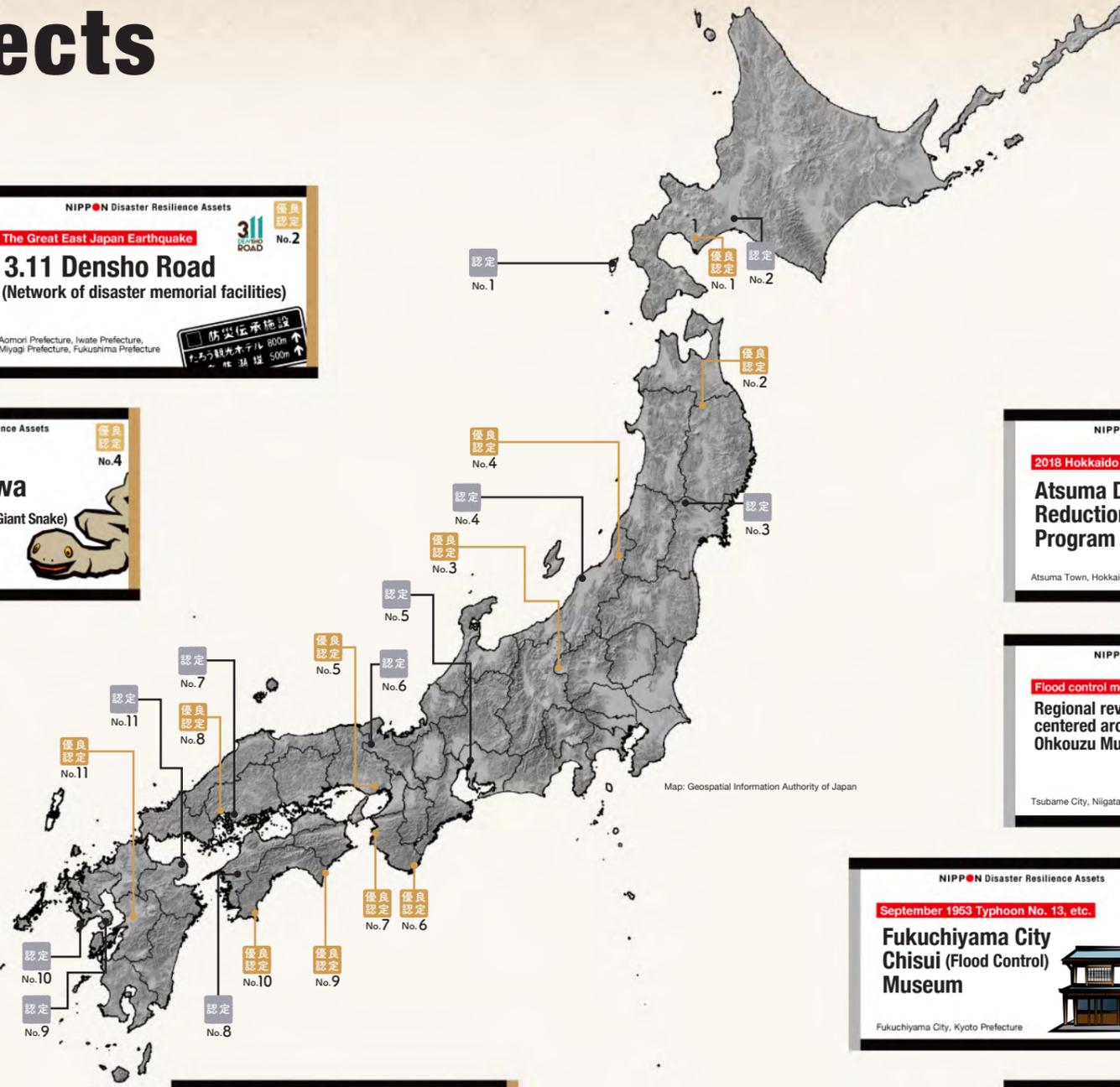
NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster**  
**Tsumagoi Village: Passing Down the Story of the 1783 Mt. Asama Eruption Disaster**  
 Tsumagoi Village, Gunma Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**August 1967 Uetsu Flood**  
**Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonja (Giant Snake) Festival**  
 Sekikawa Village, Niigata Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake**  
**Atsuma Disaster Reduction Learning Program**  
 Atsuma Town, Hokkaido

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**2008 Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake**  
**Mt. Kurikoma Area Geopark**  
 Kurihara City, Miyagi Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake**  
**The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution**  
 Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture



NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Flood control measures long the Shinano River**  
**Regional revitalization initiatives centered around the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum**  
 Tsubame City, Niigata Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Comprehensive flood control for the Toki and Shonai Rivers**  
**Portal site for Toki and Shonai River Basin Resilience by All**  
 Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood**  
**Wakayama Sabo Research and Education Institute (IWSRE)**  
 Wakayama Landslide enlightenment center Nachikatsuura Town, Wakayama Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**September 1953 Typhoon No. 13, etc.**  
**Fukuchiyama City Chisui (Flood Control) Museum**  
 Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**July 1907 and July 2018 Heavy Rainfall**  
**Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park**  
 Saka Town, Hiroshima Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Ansei-Nankai Earthquake**  
**Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata (The museum of the fire of rice sheaves)**  
 Hirogawa Town, Wakayama Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**August 2014 Heavy Rainfall**  
**Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center**  
 Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**July 2018 Heavy Rainfall**  
**Otoi Hall Disaster Memory Exhibition Room**  
 Seiyo City, Ehime Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Mt. Unzen-Fugen Volcano Eruption Disaster**  
**Gamadasu Dome Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall**  
 Shimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**All Disasters in Shikoku**  
**Map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories**  
 Tokushima Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**Tsunami disaster caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake (simulation)**  
**Disaster Prevention Tourism in Kuroshio Town**  
 Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**2016 Kumamoto Earthquake**  
**Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU**  
 Kumamoto Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**1860 Landslide Disaster**  
**Nenbutsu-ko Manju (Sweet buns) distribution**  
 Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture

NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets  
**All Disasters in Oita Prefecture**  
**Oita Prefecture disaster data archive and field tours**  
 Oita City, Oita Prefecture

優良  
認定

List of Certified Assets with Distinction (Access and Related Links)

- Available only in Japanese
- No. 1** **Toya-Usu Volcano Meisters**  
| Mt. Usu Eruption Disaster | Hokkaido Prefecture: Date City, Toyoura Town, Sobetsu Town, Toyako Town | 
  - No. 2** **3.11 Densho Road (Network of disaster memorial facilities)**  
| 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 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 Sabo Research and Education Institute (IWSRE)**  
| 2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood | Nachikatsuura Town, Wakayama Prefecture | 
  - No. 7** **Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata**  
| The 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 Tourism in Kuroshio Town**  
| The Tsunami Disaster Caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake (Simulation) | Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture | 
  - No. 11** **Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU**  
| 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake | Kumamoto Prefecture | 

優良  
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No. 1

**Toya-Usu Volcano Meisters**

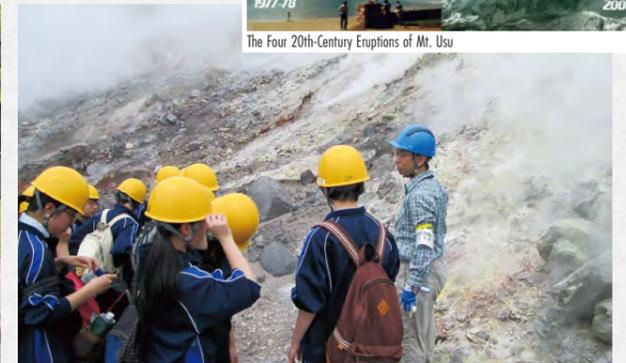
| The Mt. Usu Eruption Disaster | Hokkaido Prefecture: Date City, Toyoura Town, Sobetsu Town, Toyako Town |

**Volcano Meisters Passing on Knowledge and Memory**

This initiative keeps alive the memory of the eruptions of Mt. Usu, which have recurred every few decades since the Edo period, and passes down practical wisdom for reducing disaster impacts across generations. These efforts are sustained through the development and operation of the Toya-Usu Volcano Meister System. Located within a UNESCO Global Geopark recognized for its diverse geological, ecological, and cultural attractions, trained Meisters with accurate understanding of the area's local landscape serve as local disaster-preparedness leaders while also communicating the region's diverse attractions.



Disaster mitigation education programs led by Meisters



The Four 20th-Century Eruptions of Mt. Usu

Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark Council

**HIGH LIGHT** **Showing Local Charms Through Sustainable Initiatives**

This initiative is particularly outstanding for its sustainable framework for community engagement and capacity building. The program actively hosts educational trips and, through guided tours for visitors from other regions, effectively passes down disaster lessons while showcasing local resilience initiatives. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

優良  
認定

No. 2

**3.11 Densho Road (Network of disaster memorial facilities)**

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

**“Lessons Save Lives” United Voices of Communities, Sharing Stories**

This initiative links various disaster remains and exhibition facilities throughout the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake into a network, organizing a wide array of programs focused on “learning” and “preparedness” for disaster resilience. Efforts include improving maps and signage to enhance accessibility, preserving archival footage of how construction companies responded to the disaster, and highlighting Tohoku's enduring history and culture of overcoming disasters. By integrating physical infrastructure with the community-based Densho program, the project aims to captivate and inspire a deeper interest and disaster resilience.



Source: 3.11 Densho Road Promotion Organization official website

3.11 Densho Road Promotion Organization / Disaster Memorial Network Council

**HIGH LIGHT** **Clear concept and strong coordination**

Guided by the clear concept “Lessons save lives,” this initiative implements a wide range of disaster-preparedness activities. This program is particularly notable for establishing the Tohoku Reconstruction Tourism Promotion Network—a public-private partnership—which promotes the Tohoku Reconstruction Tourism as a premier destination for both travel and education, including for international visitors. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Source: Disaster Storytelling Network Council (official website)

優良認定

No.

3

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

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

Kanbara District Revitalization Council

HIGH LIGHT

Utilizing disaster remains and sustaining activities

The Kanbara district of Tsumagoi village excels in creating opportunities where visitors can witness and learn about volcanic disaster and recovery through the extant remains of the 1783 (Tenmei 3) Mt. Asama eruption. Additionally, it is highly commended for its resident-led storytelling activities and collaborative events with neighbouring affiliated organizations and facilities. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



"Nighttime Great Fire," depicting the 1783 Mt. Asama eruption (collection of Mr. Yoichi Misaizu, Komoro City, Nagano Prefecture)

### Passing Down the Edo-Period Volcanic Disaster Through Community Narratives

In the Kanbara district at the foot of Mt. Asama, which suffered great damage from the 1783 (Tenmei 3) eruption, ruins buried by volcanic deposits together with a locally preserved history and culture of recovery. Building on these resources, the community has created sites for learning about volcanic disasters and recovery, alongside continuing storytelling activities that have endured for more than 200 years. The stone steps, which are said to have separated life and death for villagers during the eruption, is located at Kanbara Kannon Hall. Efforts to pass down the tradition utilize these local hubs; for example, providing explanations to worshipers and organizing the Eruption Daiwa-san (hymns) by the Service Association and women's Nenbutsu-ko (Buddhist fellowship groups) to memorialize ancestors.



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



Mt. Asama Eruption Dai-Wasan (Hymn) performed by the Wasan-kai (Hymn Association) Photo courtesy of Kanbara Kannon Hall Service Association

優良認定

No.

4

### Echigo Sekikawa Taishitamonja (Giant Snake) Festival

| August 1967 Uetsu Flood | Sekikawa Village, Niigata Prefecture |

Sekikawa Village

HIGH LIGHT

Deep community impact through festivals and education

The length of the serpent, the symbol of the festival, is set at 82.8m to commemorate the date of the Uetsu Flood. All junior high school students in the village participate in the event, learning its significance through preparatory study as well. The festival is particularly exemplary for deeply embedding the lessons of past floods and a mindset of preparedness within the community, as evidenced by the residents' early, self-initiated evacuations during the heavy rains of August 2022. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Passing on Flood Lessons Through an Annual Giant Serpent Festival



Taishitamonja Festival

Photo courtesy of Sekikawa Village

Based on the village's giant serpent legend, this festival passes down the lessons of the Uetsu Flood (August 1967), which claimed many lives. Using bamboo and straw, residents from 54 communities collaborate to craft body segments, which are then connected into a single giant serpent and paraded through the village on the festival day. The serpent is recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's longest; its 82.8-meter length commemorates the date of the flood (August 28). Since its inception in 1983 with the initial aim of creating a new festival for all villagers to enjoy together, the festival and its educational activities have created an effective and sustainable way to keep flood lessons alive.

優良認定

No.

5

### The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution

| The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake | Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture |

Hyogo Prefecture

HIGH LIGHT

Rich content and authentic learning

This center particularly excels in its extensive exhibits and hands-on learning areas that incorporate survivors' testimonies of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. It also stands out for the variety of programs it offers, including talks (disaster-experience stories) and workshops delivered by volunteer storytellers, as well as seminars on disaster-preparedness for elementary and junior high school students. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Sharing Lessons Through Survivor Voices and Immersive Learning

This center was established to pass on the lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January 1995)—including the importance of disaster preparedness, the sanctity of life, and the strength of living together—and to contribute to disaster risk reduction by disseminating knowledge and technology. In addition to exhibits that provide a vivid sense of reality, such as immersive earthquake simulations using powerful video and materials linked to survivors' testimonies, the center also conducts experiments, workshops, and training programs, and hosts storytelling sessions led by survivors. It offers substantial programs for children, provides multilingual guidance, and also supports field investigations and assistance for disaster response.



Storytelling Corner: Survivors sharing their personal experiences of the earthquake



The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution



Photo courtesy of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution

優良認定

No.

6

### Wakayama Sabo Research and Education Institute (WSRE)

| 2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood | Nachikatsuura Town, Wakayama Prefecture |

Wakayama Sabo Research and Education Institute(WSRE)

HIGH LIGHT

Original content tailored to the audience

The center is highly commended for its extensive storytelling activities conducted by survivors who created hand-drawn kamishibai to pass on lessons learned from the 2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood. It is also recognized for its proactive engagement in awareness campaigns targeting neighbourhood associations, voluntary disaster-preparedness organizations, and administrative bodies, both inside and outside the prefecture. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Hand-Drawn Storytelling That Urges Early Evacuation to Save Lives

Established in Nachikatsuura Town, which suffered severe damage from the 2011 Kii Peninsula Great Flood, this center researches sediment disasters and promotes public awareness through a cooperative effort among related organizations. The center also supports disaster-preparedness learning by delivering outreach classes to elementary and junior high schools across Wakayama Prefecture and actively welcomes school trips from inside and outside the prefecture. Moreover, survivors of the Kii Peninsula Great Flood have created hand-drawn kamishibai (picture-story shows) to pass on the lesson learned, and they continue to conduct storytelling activities.



Storytelling activities with handmade Kamishibai



Handmade Kamishibai are also available on YouTube Photo courtesy of Wakayama Sabo Research and Education Institute (WSRE)



Exterior of IWSRE

優良認定

No.

7

## Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata

| The Ansei Nankai Earthquake | Hirogawa Town, Wakayama Prefecture |

Hirogawa Town Board of Education

HIGH LIGHT

Practical preparedness and passing on lessons

Beyond communicating the threat of tsunamis, the facility provides specific response methods for various daily situations (e.g., walking through town or driving) and presents practical wisdom for protecting oneself from earthquake tsunamis. The center is also recognized for the efforts of the Hirogawa Town Japan Heritage Guide Association in conducting the Goryo Storyteller Junior Program for local elementary school students, demonstrating a dedicated commitment to passing disaster lessons to the next generation. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Exterior of Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata

### Guides and Storytellers Passing On Lessons and Memories of the Ansei-Nankai Earthquake

This center comprises two facilities: a memorial museum dedicated to the achievements and lessons of Goryo Hamaguchi, who saved many villagers by setting fire to inamura (rice straw bundles) to signal the evacuation route to high ground during the Ansei-Nankai Earthquake tsunami of 1854. The second facility is the Tsunami Disaster Prevention Education Center, which teaches the threats of earthquake tsunamis and daily preparedness. The facility offers guided tours of the Hiromura Embankment, which Goryo Hamaguchi built using his personal funds after the disaster, alongside storyteller programs tailored for elementary school students. It also plays a vital role in the community's

Inamura-no-Hi Festival—an event held to raise awareness of earthquakes and tsunamis disaster prevention—by lighting bonfires to illuminate the evacuation route.



Hiromura Embankment



Inamura-no-Hi Festival

Photo courtesy of Hirogawa Town

優良認定

No.

8

## Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center

| August 2014 Heavy Rainfall | Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture |

Hiroshima City - Bairin School District Council of Reconstruction town development

HIGH LIGHT

Strong resolve of survivors and community unity

The facility's establishment was driven by the hardships endured by the affected residents, their resolve to pass on lessons to future generations, and the local community's strong sense of unity and shared commitment. It is particularly noteworthy that it demonstrates a truly community-driven approach, as the facility is operated by the survivors themselves and features resident-led training sessions. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Exterior of the Hiroshima City Torrential Rain Disaster Memorial Center

### Driving Community Resilience Through Survivors' Stories and Local Initiatives

The center was established to pass on lessons and knowledge gleaned from natural disasters, including the Torrential Rain Disaster of August 2014, providing opportunities to learn about disaster prevention and mitigation while promoting the development of disaster-resilient communities. Its background is rooted in the Mondragon Recovery Exchange Center, a preceding community space opened by the survivors under the theme of "Recovery and Passing on Disaster Lessons." The museum was constructed as a recovery and exchange hub based on the proposals in the Plan for Recovery Community Development submitted by the affected communities. It carries forward the original theme and spirit of "Recovery and Passing on Disaster Lessons." through various content, including videos, exhibits, and public lectures, and is operated by an organization established by the survivors as its designated manager.



Elementary school students participating in tabletop disaster simulation exercises



Storytelling activities by survivors

Photo courtesy of Hiroshima City

優良認定

No.

9

## Map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories

| All Disasters in Shikoku | Tokushima Prefecture, Kagawa Prefecture, Ehime Prefecture, Kochi Prefecture |

Shikoku Disaster Prevention Eighty-Eight Stories: Awareness Promotion Research Group

HIGH LIGHT

User friendliness and educational integration

Through the boards of education in Shikoku's four prefectures, the maps are distributed to elementary and junior high schools, while on-site visits and online tours are conducted to evaluate their effectiveness. It is especially commendable that a PDCA cycle has been established and is continually utilized to improve and support learning methods and awareness tools. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Illustrated Maps Organizing 88 Disaster Stories for Education and Outreach

This initiative compiles stories and firsthand experiences that remain across Shikoku into illustrated maps, which are then used to raise disaster awareness and support educational activities. The illustrations are friendly and easy to follow, making the maps popular among a wide range of users, including young children. The maps have also sparked diverse practical uses, such as kamishibai (picture-story shows), radio programs, and sightseeing tours. Linked to digital content and accompanied by guidance on instructional methods, the materials are highly user-friendly for school settings. The initiative also undertakes academic evaluations of its educational impact.



Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories booklet cover



Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories maps for the four prefectures of Shikoku



The Hanging-head Jizo of Higashi-Kuroda: Site visit following the Tokushima Edition Map



Field investigation following the Kagawa Edition Map (Mt. Gokenzan)



Kuruta card creation by local high school students



Learning disaster prevention utilizing the giant map of Shikoku Disaster-Prevention 88 Stories

優良認定

No.

10

## Disaster Prevention Tourism in Kuroshio Town

| The Tsunami disaster projected caused by the Nankai Trough Earthquake (Simulation) | Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture |

Kuroshio Town

HIGH LIGHT

Embracing Local Marine Culture and Shifting Mindset

To foster a mindset that "evacuation saves lives"—with the fundamental goal of zero non-evacuees—the public and private sectors collaboratively conduct repeated disaster prevention workshops to create personalized evacuation plans for all residents in inundation zones. Based on these profiles, evacuation routes and towers have been built while also conducting evacuation drills. Crucially, the provision of these learning opportunities through disaster tourism (such as overnight nighttime evacuation drill programs) is an outstanding example of the town's commitment to fostering the ability to think and act independently. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Learning to Survive the Tsunami - Rethinking How We Live with the Sea

In anticipation of a massive tsunami from the Nankai Trough Earthquake, Kuroshio Town offers disaster resilience tourism that combines preparedness learning with hands-on experiences of the sea's natural bounty. "Don't give up. If it shakes, evacuate — faster to a safer place," is the guiding principle to ensure zero non-evacuees. Integrating both physical measures (such as tsunami evacuation towers) and organizational measures (such as experiential learning), this tourism approach provides learning opportunities that foster the ability to act and think independently, and to reflect on how people coexist with nature.



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



Nighttime Evacuation Drill Program

Photo courtesy of Kuroshio Town Tourism Network

優良認定

No.

11

## Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU

| 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake | Kumamoto Prefecture |

Kumamoto Prefecture

HIGH LIGHT

Preserving disaster remains and building a network of sites

Within this corridor-style field museum, explanations of exhibits and disaster remains are provided by guides, as well as talks by storytellers. It is especially commendable that the initiative implements learning programs that allow participants to tour the disaster sites and various hubs while studying specific disaster responses and preparedness. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Overview map

### An Open-Air Museum Connecting Disaster Sites Across the Landscape

This corridor-style field museum extensively connects 58 preserved disaster sites located along the fault zone that surfaced after the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, allowing visitors to tour them, along with 16 regional hubs and two core hubs. One core hub is the former Tokai University Aso Campus. Here, the preserved disaster site, which features a damaged building with an exposed fault line preserved together, stands next to the Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum, KIOKU. The museum is also actively engaged in passing on the legacy through the provision of learning programs and the training of storytellers and guides. Furthermore, extensive efforts are being made to encourage people to tour the area through the utilization of collaborative apps (such as the ONE PIECE Kumamoto Reconstruction Project.)



Guided tours at the Kumamoto Earthquake Memorial Museum KIOKU



Disaster prevention training at the prefectural disaster prevention center

Photo courtesy of Kumamoto Prefecture

\ Active discussion and exchange /

### “A Forum to Deepen Understanding”

The first Forum on furthering the NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets was hosted by the Cabinet Office and MLIT on February 21, 2025. Participants included stakeholders involved in the Certified with Distinction assets and members of the Selection Committee, alongside approximately 140 Online observers. Various opinions were exchanged focusing on four key themes: sustaining activities, further community engagement, conveying lessons, and turning lessons into action. Discussions highlighted the importance of developing human resources, collaborating with school education, and the necessity of diversifying target audiences, including the elderly and non-Japanese individuals.



## NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets

認定

### List of Certified Assets (Links to Access and Related Information)

Available only in Japanese

No. 1

#### Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum and Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytelling Group

| 1993 Hokkaido Nansei-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 Tokigawa and Shonai River Basin Resilience by All

| Comprehensive Flood Control for the Tokigawa and Shonai Rivers | Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture |



No. 6

#### Fukuchiyama City Chisui (Flood Control) Museum

| September 1953 Typhoon No. 13 and other floods | Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture |



No. 7

#### Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park

| July 1907, 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 |



認定

No.

1

### Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum and Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytelling Group

| 1993 Hokkaido Nansei-Oki Earthquake | Okushiri Town, Hokkaido Prefecture |

#### Passing On First-hand Disaster Experience and Post-Disaster Reconstruction Knowledge

This center exhibits the archives and photographs from the 1993 Hokkaido Nansei-Oki Earthquake, a disaster that caused catastrophic damage to the west coast and southern region of Okushiri Island due to large-scale slope failures and a tsunami that reached up to 29 meters. A group of storytellers, established in 2012, works to preserve and pass on lessons learned from the disaster. Drawing from their first-hand experiences and subsequent recovery efforts, these members—including town hall staff and residents from the time—share specialized knowledge directly with municipal officials across the nation and students on school trips. Through these accounts, vital know-how for building disaster-resilient communities is provided, and comprehensive disaster prevention education for children is supported.



Activities by the Tsunami Storytelling Group

Okushiri Town Board of Education / Okushiri Island Tsunami Storytellers

HIGH LIGHT

Storytellers with specialized knowledge and firsthand experience

This center is highly regarded for its group of storytellers, whose members possess specialized knowledge and firsthand experience of the 1993 Hokkaido Nansei-oki Earthquake and the subsequent recovery. The group is commended for its active involvement in providing know-how for building disaster-resilient communities and supporting comprehensive learning activities to enhance children's disaster-awareness. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Exterior of Okushiri Island Tsunami Memorial Museum



Exhibition Gallery Interior

Source: Okushiri Tsunami Memorial Museum official website

認定

No.

2

### Atsuma Disaster Reduction Learning Program

| 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake | Atsuma Town, Hokkaido |

#### Survivor Guidance and Youth Storytellers in Community Learning

This program disseminates lessons learned from the 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake. Testimonies are shared by residents of Atsuma Town and local high school students, covering the immediate aftermath, life in evacuation, and the ongoing recovery of both individuals and the town. In addition to digital content documenting the disaster response and recovery, the program offers guided tours and hands-on activities, such as evacuation center management simulations and cardboard bed assembly. These initiatives are designed to engage both adults and younger generations.



Source: Atsuma Disaster Reduction Learning Program official website

Atsuma Town Tourism Association

HIGH LIGHT

Sustained activities through regional collaboration

Local high school students participate as storytellers together with residents of Atsuma Town who experienced the earthquake. The program is highly regarded for its sustained, community-rooted initiatives designed to prevent disaster lessons from fading. These efforts are supported by collaboration among the local tourism association, the board of education, and other organizations to develop guided tour routes and conduct regular study sessions for the guides. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



認定

No.

4

### Regional revitalization initiatives centered around the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum

| Flood control measures along the Shinano River | Tsubame City, Niigata Prefecture |

#### River Museum on Flood Control History and Preparedness

The Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum exhibits the history and mechanisms of the Ohkouzu Diversion Channel, which protects the Echigo Plain from flood damage. Leveraging a vast collection of approximately 15,000 related materials and 5,000 books, the facility conveys the history of flooding and flood control on the Shinano River. The museum also works to help visitors view flood risk as a personal concern through disaster prevention education, including guided tours and community outreach classes. Marking the channel's centennial in 2022, partnerships were expanded to include local shopping districts to revitalize the region, aiming to further promote an understanding of the importance of the Ohkouzu Diversion Channel and disaster prevention.



Guided tours by elementary school students



CObservation room utilized as a restaurant in collaboration with local shopping districts  
Photo courtesy of Shinano River Office

Shinano River Office, Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau Secretariat, Friends of Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum (NPO)

HIGH LIGHT

Building broad relationships with community

This center represents the foundation of disaster prevention in Niigata, a region that has striven for coexistence with rivers while overcoming major floods such as the 1896 Yokota Breach. The facility disseminates lessons from historical and modern disasters, sharing unfiltered facts including setbacks and failures. The center is highly regarded for its collaborative efforts with the community. Through tours and disaster prevention education, it allows visitors to connect with the struggles of their predecessors, inspiring them to view disaster risks as a personal concern and consider their own necessary actions. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Guided tours by volunteers



Exterior of the Shinano River Ohkouzu Museum

認定

No.

5

## Portal site for Toki and Shonai River Basin Resilience by All

| Comprehensive flood control for the Toki and Shonai River | Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture |

Toki and Shonai River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All Council

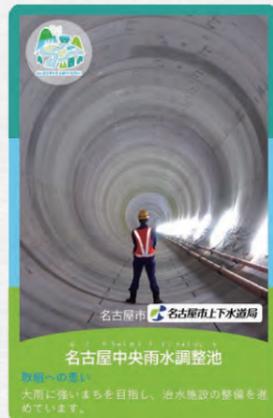
HIGH LIGHT

Designed to be enjoyable and intuitive

This portal website offers educational resources for children to learn about disaster prevention and River Basin Management, alongside specialized tools for educators such as instructional guides, lesson plans, and worksheets. The site is regarded for its ability to foster deep learning through engaging content, serving as an excellent entry point that sparks interest in the topic and encourages users to internalize disaster risks. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Digital platform for watershed-based flood management education

This website offers a comprehensive collection of educational content regarding River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All and water disaster prevention. In addition to introducing initiatives in the Shonai River basin, the site offers downloadable educational materials tailored to local disaster case studies. By incorporating feedback from educators, the site features enhanced resources for teachers—including instructional guides and lesson plans—as well as materials for children’s independent study and research projects. Through initiatives like the River Basin Management Certification, it encourages users to internalize disaster risks.



River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All Cards (39 variations) to raise broader awareness of the initiatives

Source: Portal site of Toki and Shonai River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All



A diverse range of content designed to be enjoyable and informative, fostering in-depth learning and understanding of River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All. (Available only in Japanese)

Certification of River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All issued upon answering all questions correctly

Teacher's Guide for materials targeting 4th to 6th-grade students

認定

No.

6

## Fukuchiyama City Chisui (Flood Control) Museum

| September 1953 Typhoon No.13 and other floods | Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture |

Fukuchiyama City

HIGH LIGHT

Architecture that tells its own story

The Flood Control Memorial Hall is renovated featuring flood prevention architecture from the Meiji period, with original defense equipment on display. It is highly regarded for the building itself serving as a historical resource that passes down the lessons of past floods, as well as for its preservation and presentation of video testimonies from survivors. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Historic building preserving flood experiences and mitigation practices

This memorial hall was established to mark the 50th anniversary of the September 1953 Typhoon No.13, which left 36 people dead or missing, with the mission of passing down the records of the disaster to future generations. The facility features video testimonies of flood survivors and introduces the evolution of flood control measures from the past to the present, alongside various seasonal exhibitions. Fukuchiyama has a long history of battling floods, including catastrophic events during the Meiji period that nearly destroyed the town. The memorial hall preserves this legacy within a building of immense historical value, originally constructed in the 1880s.



Exterior of the Memorial Hall



Exhibits inside the Memorial Hall



Emergency pulley system for lifting belongings during floods  
Source: Fukuchiyama Flood Control Memorial Hall official website



Video testimony from flood survivors

認定

No.

7

## Saka Town Natural Disaster Memorial DENSHO Park

| July 1907 and July 2018 Heavy Rainfall | Saka Town, Hiroshima Prefecture |

Saka Town

HIGH LIGHT

Symbolic Monuments and Visual Archives

The visual archives include powerful testimonies from survivors, rescue workers, and relief workers, raising disaster awareness and instilling a deep sense that these events must be passed down to future generations. Furthermore, the park is commended for hosting study tours for other municipalities and private organizations, as well as for its collaborative disaster education programs with local schools. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Public park of disaster education and training

This disaster prevention park was established as a site for education, training, and memorializing victims. Its mission is to pass down lessons from the July 2018 Heavy Rain Event to future generations while strengthening residents’ disaster awareness and preparedness. The grounds feature a giant boulder carried by the 2018 floodwaters, a Flood Monument, a stone monument from the heavy rains of July 1907, and the Saka Town Disaster Densho Hall, which serves as both a temporary evacuation shelter and an education center. The facility is actively used for disaster learning by local schools, community-led workshops, and training visits from other municipalities.



Exterior of Saka Town Disaster Densho Hall located inside the park



Symbolic giant boulder and historical flood monument



Example of Video Archives

Photo courtesy of Saka Town

認定

No.

8

## Otoi Hall Disaster Memory Exhibition Room

| July 2018 Heavy Rainfall | Seijo City, Ehime Prefecture |

Seijo City

HIGH LIGHT

Community-wide Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Learning

These exhibition rooms clearly trace the trajectory of recovery efforts from the immediate aftermath to the rebuilding of lives, providing a comprehensive overview of the journey to reconstruction. Furthermore, the site is commended for its community-wide approach for disaster prevention and mitigation learning, specifically through guided tours of disaster sites in Nomura Town led by citizen storytellers and activities to pass down their firsthand experiences. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)

### Immersive exhibition for reliving flood disasters and learning for the future

Originally constructed as a sumo arena and hot spring facility, Otoi Hall houses an exhibition room established following the July 2018 Heavy Rain Event. The exhibits chronicle the history of regional disasters, the impact of the July 2018 disaster, and the subsequent journey toward recovery, alongside vital lessons for disaster prevention. To engage modern visitors, the facility features immersive disaster simulations using VR and AR technologies. Furthermore, local storytelling groups lead guided walks through disaster sites within Nomura Town, ensuring their firsthand experiences are passed down to future generations.



平成30年7月豪雨 災害伝承展示室



Storytelling by Storytellers 018 Nomura, a local citizens' group



Exterior of Otoi Hall

Source: Seijo City and Seijo City Tourism and Products Association official website

認定

No.

9

## Gamadasu Dome (Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall)

| Mt. Unzen-Fugen Volcano Eruption Disaster | Shimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture |

Nagasaki Prefecture

HIGH LIGHT

Experimental all-in-one museum

This museum preserves well-documented records of the Mt. Unzen-Fugen volcanic eruptions and utilizes them to create intuitive exhibits that facilitate easy learning of volcanic disaster prevention for visitors. Furthermore, the site is highly commended for serving as a central hub for various disaster legacy activities, including educational lectures by storytellers and on-site guided tours that pass down the history of the disaster. (NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets Selection Committee)



Japan's first interactive volcano museum Gamadasu Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Disaster Memorial Hall)

### Learning through play and stories at volcano museum

As Japan's first experiential volcano museum, Gamadasu Dome conveys vital lessons from the devastating Mt. Unzen-Fugen volcanic eruptions of the 1990s. The facility highlights the natural and cultural heritage of the Shimabara Peninsula, showcasing both the power of nature and the blessings it provides to the region. It also features family-friendly initiatives such as the "Children's Geopark," where children can connect with nature through play, and the "Wonder Lab" for hands-on science workshops. Furthermore, the museum actively preserves history through storytelling programs—including nationwide traveling exhibitions—where storytellers pass down first-hand accounts of life during the disaster.



Lectures by storytellers



Field guided tours

Source: Mt. Unzen Volcano Disaster Memorial Hall Official Website

認定

No.

10

## Nenbutsu-ko Manju (sweet buns) Distribution

| 1860 Landslide Disaster | Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture |

Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City

HIGH LIGHT

Ingenuity in linking disaster risk to daily life

This initiative is highly valued for its continuity over 160 years since its origin following a disaster in the Edo period. More significantly, it possesses a record of zero casualties in the district during the July 1982 Heavy Rain. (NIPPON Disaster Prevention Assets Selection Committee)

### Connecting daily life and disaster risk with 160 years of Manju distribution

Manju distribution



Kanehari (Gong-striking ceremony) in front of the Bato Kannon statue  
Photo: Sanzen-Gochi Neighborhood Association, Nagasaki City

In Sanzen-Gochi, the Nenbutsu Prayer Manju Distribution is an event held on the 14th of every month—a tradition honoring the 33 lives lost in a debris flow caused by heavy rains in May 1860. By distributing these sweet buns from house to house, memories of the tragedy and disaster awareness are shared and passed down within families and now, this practice has continued over 160 years. Participants chant Buddhist prayers while ringing a gong—a ritual known as Kanehari—at the Bato Kannon statue enshrined in the affected area. They then take turns distributing the manju to every household. This monthly custom links sediment disaster risk to daily life, helping residents proactively cultivate their own disaster awareness.

認定

No.

11

## Oita Prefecture disaster data archive and field tours

| All Disasters in Oita Prefecture | Oita City, Oita Prefecture |

Center for Education and Research of Disaster Risk Reduction and Redesign, Oita University (CERD)

HIGH LIGHT

Integration of education and archive expansion

The digital archive features extensive disaster records, including historical photos from the prefectural archives and newspapers, alongside news footage that enables a realistic grasp of disaster risks. This initiative is highly acclaimed for its continuous expansion of content while simultaneously providing disaster education for university students. (NIPPON Disaster Prevention Assets Selection Committee)



Contents utilized by high school disaster prevention leader trainings

### Large-Scale Digital Disaster Archive for Education

This digital archive was created following the frequent occurrence of large-scale disasters such as the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rains of 2014 and 2017. It allows users to view over 5,600 disaster records spanning approximately 1,300 years on a map, complete with photos and videos. Field tours for high school students utilize this content alongside local knowledge holders who convey the extent of the damage and disaster lessons. The content is being expanded through surveys of disaster memorial monuments and the collection of video testimonies of past disasters, and its use as a tool for disaster education is being advanced through linkage with the Oita Disaster Prevention App.



Learning the extent of damage and disaster lessons from storytellers during field tours



Proposals from the youth: High school and university students

Support Desk

## 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. This center aims to support and complement the national NIPPON Disaster Resilience Assets initiatives. We provide assistance to refine and further the initiatives. For inquiries, please contact us via this QR code.

