Community Development through Learning Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction

- Human Development for Constructing Sustainable Communities

Okayama City Community Center
Introduction

Community center in Okayama City offer opportunities to learn about disaster prevention and risk reduction, both of which aim for community development based on human relationships.

The key to disaster prevention and/or risk reduction is that human relationships and resilience that can minimize the effect of disasters, which allows afflicted people help each other recover.

It is the community center that helps build relationships and offers a place of learning for the people to contribute to community development.
1.17.1995
The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
Photo from Bing Graphics
3.11.2011
The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake

Photo: Offered by Sendai City
March 13th, 2011 - A Shelter (2 days after)

March 23rd, 2011 - A Shelter (12 days after)

Learning through experiences of the the Hanshin-Awaji and the Central Niigata earthquakes
The problems we have come to realize through the two great earthquakes

- At the initial stage of suffering, the damage was too extensive for systematic support systems.

- 80% helped each other.

- Information was difficult to obtain.

- Needs time for stable support.

8,000 rescued by the police, the FD and the Self-Defenses Forces

27,000 rescued by neighbors

Improving Consciousness for Self-Help and Mutual Help is Necessary.
Disaster-Hit in Okayama

A mudslide at Tochihara area, Kume-Gun, Okayama Prefecture

From Okayama Pref, HP

A disaster in Okayama at Yokoi-Kami, Okayama City

From Bing Graphics
Okayama Citizens' Attitudes

Okayama City Attitude Survey 2013

- Prepared with stocks: 27.1%
- Non-responsive: 1.4%
- Unprepared, no stocks: 71.5%
Okayama City’s Present Activities for Disaster Prevention/Risk Reduction

Briefing session on Disaster Prevention/Risk Reduction by the Okayama City Risk Management Office
The Disaster Prevention/Risk Reduction Activities by Community Center

Education → Developing human resources
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Building up communities

Examples:
1) Disaster-Prevention Volunteer Group (Kibi CC)
2) Preparing Hazard Maps (Sonan CC)
3) Multi-National Disaster-Prevention Forum (Koki CC)
4) Okayama City Disaster-Prevention Camp Promotion Project

(*CC = Community Center)
Anti-Disaster Competency of the Area = Local Potential

For stronger Local Potential:
- get connected
- support each other
- form consensus

The Community Center acts as the coordinator to locals.
Example 1: Okayama City Disaster Prevention Volunteers’ Network

Kibi Community Center (since 2009)

Local residents taking initiative on working on Disaster Prevention Education.
Example 2: Preparing Hazard Maps
Sonan Community Center (2012)
Example 3: Multi-National Disaster Prevention Forum

Koki Community Center (Since 2012)

Community residents of various nationalities connecting and supporting each other.
Example 4: Okayama City Disaster Prevention Camp Promotion Project

From 2012–2013, 18 community centers participated.
Features and Purposes of Okayama City Disaster Prevention Camp Promotion Project

**Features**
- Anyone from any generation can join.
- Children can learn through first-hand experiences with adults in the area.
- Held on a committee system

**Purposes**
- To offer opportunities for various people to get knowledge and form consensus.
- To teach children the importance of disaster-prevention based on the local human relationship.

⇒ Cultivation of new leaders
Building up local networks
Disaster Prevention Camp in the Mitsu District
Affiliated Bodies of the Executive Committee

- Executive Committee
  - Neighborhood Association
  - Women’s Association
  - Aiiku Committee
  - Local Welfare Commissioners
  - Elementary & Jr. High Schools
  - PTA
  - City Office Branches
  - Fire Brigades
  - Library
  - Safety & Security Network
  - Community Center
Operating Structure

Mitsu Disaster Prevention Camp Executive Committee

Officers’ Meeting

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Accountant
- Division Chief
- Executive Office

General Affairs Division
Food Division
Commodities Division
Rescue and Hygiene Division
Program Examples

1) Evacuation Training:
   - Disaster prevention quiz
   - Making dishes and slippers out of newspaper

2) Emergency Food Tasting

3) Making Emergency Packs through Games

4) Making Sandbags

5) Experiencing Fire Extinguishers

6) Practicing First-Aid Treatment
1) Evacuation Training

- Disaster prevention quiz
- Making dishes and slippers out of newspaper
2) Emergency Food Tasting
3) Making Emergency Packs through Games
4) Making Sandbags
5) Experiencing Fire Extinguishers
6) Practicing First-Aid Treatment
Conclusion #1

The Disaster Prevention Camp included full-scale training that involved various local groups, together with the Executive Committee.
Conclusion #2

- The camp was a very important experience for the children.
- They worked eagerly under the guidance of many adults in the community.
The Accomplishment of Okayama City Disaster-Prevention Camp

**During Camp Preparation**
- The local groups got more conscious about Disaster-Prevention of the community.

**On Camp Day**
- Both children and adults shared an important experience of spending long time focusing on the main theme of Disaster-Prevention.

**For the Future**
- The residents gathered momentum to check and maintain the refuges in the community.
- We hope to continue this camp to increase the awareness all over the community.
The Goal of Okayama City Community Center Disaster Prevention/Risk Reduction Activities

Continuous learning at community center
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People grow to protect themselves and help each other
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The problems of the area become clear
↓
The sustainable community development

There is a wide gap in the awareness of disaster-prevention.

Only some people in a certain age group are working for the community.

The slanted street under the railroad overpass is too narrow for emergency vehicles.
Okayama City Community Centers' Future Visions

Problems to be addressed:

- Disaster prevention education.
- Point-of-view of the elderly, physically and mentally handicapped, woman and people from other countries.
- Point-of-view of people with babies or young children, and the younger generation.

**Strengthening community power is essential.**
Learning Process at Okayama City Community Center

**Disaster -hit time**

**Ordinary time**

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**Self-help**

- Check stocks, escape routes, dangerous places, etc.
- Acquiring techniques

**Mutual help**

- Cooperate with others
- Be aware of surroundings
  - Dangerous places in the neighborhood
  - Those that are difficult to escape

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**Think and Act to help each other**

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**Develop communities where we hope to live long**
Relationships to Strengthen the Community

Higher level of community power:
- to get connected
- to support each other

Community Center and communities work together in cultivating people for sustainable community development
Closing Remarks

Community center can offer opportunities for people to learn about disaster prevention, which can widen views about community problems.

Help people develop problem-solving skills and to cooperate well with others.

Cultivating people who can contribute to communities where the residents want to live for a long time.

ESD for community center to function continuously as a “center” for opening and broadening minds for the future, involving as many people as possible.
Thank you very much!