



# Sendai DRR Newsletter

Towards a Disaster-Resilient  
and Environmentally-Friendly City

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**Sending out and sharing of information  
on disaster risk reduction (DRR)**

Development Group  
(from left) Ms. Sana Sasaki, Ms. Yukari Kumagami, and Ms. Ami Sato  
(absent) Ms. Yui Ohata

## – Disaster Risk Reduction Brochure for Non-Japanese Residents Prepare for disasters together

### Development Group for the “Look Before You Leap” brochure 2nd grade, Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School

Since April of our first year, we have been involved in problem-solving inquiry activities during the Integrated Studies part of the Super Global High School (SGH) Program. All of us experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, when we were in our fifth year of elementary school. In our activities, we examined how support was provided to vulnerable people at the time of the earthquake, and found that foreign people from more than 15 countries had fallen victim to the earthquake and that most support systems for vulnerable people had not been improved.

When we went on a study tour abroad, we prepared materials both in Japanese and English to discuss disaster risk reduction with the local instructors and students, and read a disaster prevention pamphlet used there. Through this study tour, we noticed that the death of many foreign residents at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake was caused by a low level of awareness of disaster prevention and language issues. To improve this situation, we were determined to work to develop

disaster risk reduction brochures for non-Japanese residents both in English and Japanese from our own perspectives.

We titled the brochures “Look Before You Leap” to convey our message of “please read these pamphlets before a disaster strikes.” To create the brochures, we conducted a questionnaire survey targeting non-Japanese residents living in Sendai and participated in a disaster drill for non-Japanese residents, to examine what information is necessary for them. Consequently, a variety of information is included in the pamphlets, concerning how to prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis, how to evacuate safely, how to spend time in evacuation centers, and how to use emergency messaging services, using simple Japanese and English.

These brochures have been completed. However, we would like to

continue improving them, incorporating feedback from many people, to have as many residents as possible make use of them.



◀ Disaster Risk Reduction Brochures  
for Non-Japanese Residents  
Left: Japanese version  
Right: Overseas version

### Efforts of Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School under the Super Global High School (SGH) Program

In April 2015, Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School was designated as a Super Global High School by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Since then, it has launched problem-solving inquiry activities, aiming to develop people who can take the initiative in solving problems with a sympathetic mind for the socially vulnerable and a spirit of service to others (Global Servant Leaders). Students set a theme for their activities from the following five: education, medical welfare, food, environment, and companies.

## The 2017 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future was held



The City of Sendai hosted the second Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future on March 12, 2017. The Symposium was held for the first time in March 2016, as a follow-up event to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015, to help local multi-stakeholder groups communicate and share their disaster risk reduction efforts among themselves and expand their networks.

This year's symposium, which was held under the theme "Communicating, Sharing and Passing on Experiences," attracted a total of 1,600 people including DRR experts and officials, and local residents. The symposium consisted of six thematic sessions covering topics such as passing on earthquake disaster experiences, development of future community leaders in DRR, and people's diversity and DRR, as well as booth exhibitions and mini presentations.



# Citizens' voluntary DRR activities

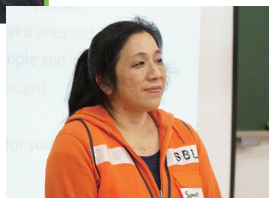


Warehouse for emergency prevention supplies



## Sumie Kanno

SBL\* / Group to Draw up a Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration, Run by Women in Iwakiri



\* An SBL is Sendai Bosai (meaning disaster preparedness) Leader who promotes public awareness of DRR and plans and implements community disaster drills in normal times, and confirms the safety of community residents, helps them evacuate, sets up and operates evacuation centers, and does other things needed in times of disaster. Currently, Sendai City has 600 SBLs.

## Protecting our residents and communities from disasters

"In 2010, a year before the Great East Japan Earthquake, I began working with other community residents from all walks of life to draw up a "Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration by the Women of Iwakiri" and conducted DRR activities, including communicating messages about the importance of self-help and mutual help in times of disaster. I began working as an SBL\* because after I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, I became acutely aware of the need for disaster prevention and drills as well as practical knowledge about evacuation center operations.

Currently, my colleagues and I are helping bring women's perspectives to our community DRR manual and focus on communicating our experiences and lessons learned from the disaster.

We have introduced the Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration by the Women of Iwakiri, which was revised to reflect our disaster experiences, at a public forum at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and through our lectures held at various venues around Japan. In February and December 2016, we introduced our activities to DRR officials from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and some other countries who visited Sendai to participate in a training course on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),

and gave them a tour of a warehouse for emergency supplies in our community.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 also underlines the importance of self-help, mutual help, and DRR activities for women and children. We will continue to communicate our experiences of and lessons learned from the disaster as well as our citizens' voluntary DRR activities to people around the world in the hope that they will be able to better protect their families and communities from disasters."



▲ Lecture at Iwakiri Junior High School  
(The JICA training course on December 9, 2016)

### Warehouse for emergency prevention supplies at Iwakiri Junior High School

This warehouse holds emergency supplies to enable about 400 evacuees to live in the evacuation centers for about two days. The emergency supplies include drinking water, crackers, instant rice and portable toilets. Sendai City stores such emergency supplies at its designated refuge areas, ward offices and other places. The city also has about 130 community DRR centers with warehouses for DRR equipment.

## English edition of the Citizen's Guide to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 completed



Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction (JCC-DRR) has published an English edition of the Citizen's Guide to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to provide a clear explanation of the Sendai Framework for DRR—international DRR guidelines—in English so that people on the citizen sector level can better understand the framework.

Using the Japanese edition published by JCC-DRR in 2016 supported by Sendai City, the City of Sendai has hosted a series of lectures on the Sendai Framework for DRR, providing its local residents with opportunities to think deeply about disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction.

When the English edition was completed in March 2017, Mr. Takeshi Komino, general secretary of CWS Japan, which shares a secretariat with JCC-DRR, commented, "We've heard from many friends and colleagues abroad about the importance of communicating the key essence of the Sendai Framework for DRR in simple language. We hope that with this English version of the booklet, further translation into various languages can be done, so as to enhance awareness among each citizen."

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