

# Study on the Cooperate Mechanism between Local Government and Residents to Promote Regional Disaster Management

: A Case Study of Mitigation Effort after Typhoon No.21 in 2004 in Saijo-city, Ehime Prefecture

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## 1. Introduction

Regional Disaster Management is the issue which local government and residents need to work cooperatively. This thesis takes one case study from Saijo-city to understand the change of these factors: organizational structure, disaster management plan and awareness of municipality officers engaged in disaster management activities. In the process of shifting from the emergency response after typhoon disaster in 2004 to mitigation effort, this thesis analyzes the process of establishing the cooperative mechanism between local government and residents.

## 2. The process of establishing the cooperative mechanism for disaster management (Fig.1)

After the typhoon disaster, the disaster management section was re-organized and the number was increased from 2 to 15 persons. Until then, they had much opportunity to discuss local conditions with residents to face to face in the local community meeting and inspection activities. In the process of implementing the disaster management plan to increase the capability of disaster prevention of each resident, the municipality officers and local residents cooperated to make a hazard map and an evacuation plan. Through these processes, taking enough time to communicate with each resident, municipality officers could understand the local conditions, and they gained understanding of local residents about importance of disaster management measures. Strong solidarity among municipality officers was established and raised their awareness by conducting the disaster preparedness activities.

## 3. Results and Issues

Two results were observed through the process for promoting Regional Disaster Management in Saijo-city.

- 1) The local condition of each area was better understood by exchanging information with local residents.
- 2) Holding community meeting by sharing information enabled discussing issues and countermeasures.

The future challenge is how to improve and expand this approach and its function. Local government and residents need to make a mechanism which secures functions of disaster management for the traditional bands of community that were established by local festivals and culture.

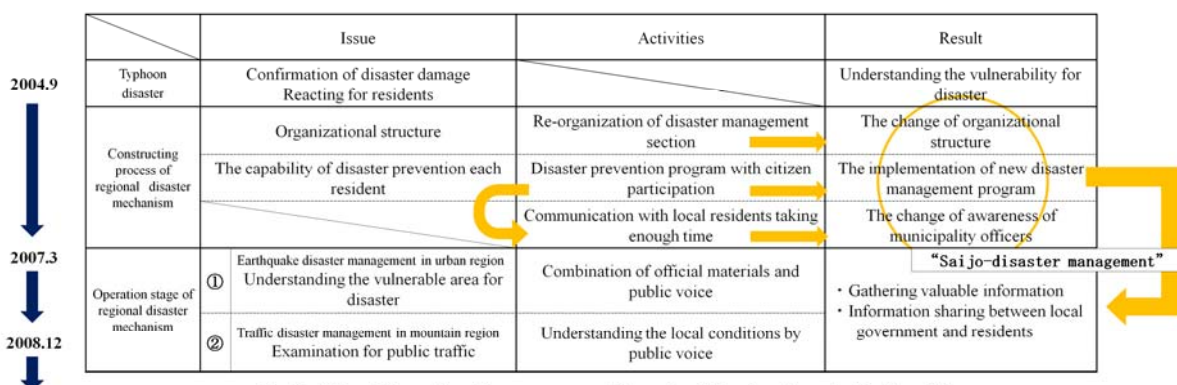


Fig.1 The Changing Process on Disaster Mechanism in Saijo-City