

Regional Disaster Prevention Capability Improvement Countermeasures Focused on Social Capital

YOSHIKAWA Tomohiro, Research Coordinator for Sediment-related Disaster Prevention
MIYATAKE Hiroaki, Senior Researcher

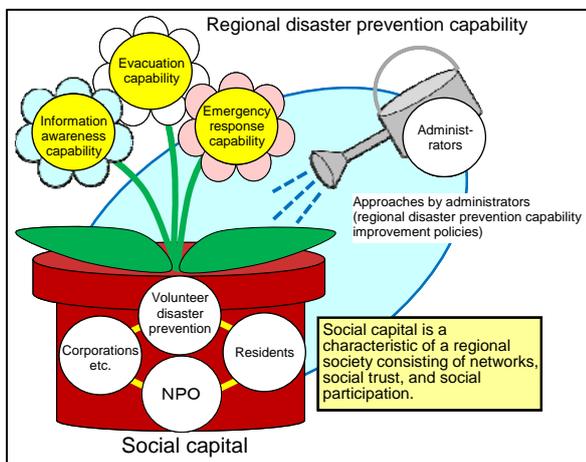
Research Center for Disaster Risk Management, Earthquake Disaster Prevention Division

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1. Social capital and regional disaster prevention capability

If knowledge and experience of disasters, supplies stocked in preparation for a disaster, nurturing personnel and organizations, and the ability to respond by evacuating or rescuing people after a disaster are likened to flowers or fruit, the soil in which the flowers grow is social capital, and administrative organizations take action to raise plants by introducing social capital in the form of watering and applying fertilizer.

This survey focused on the actions of organizations which mediate when administrators (facility managers) approach residents etc. to have them improve the disaster prevention capability of the facilities under their authority.



2. Intermediate organizations in the improvement of regional disaster prevention capabilities

The intermediate organizations which were surveyed were not organizations such as consultative councils established to implement or promote projects, rather they were cases where organizations originally established to achieve other goals play the role of a go-between and carry on continuous activities. Nineteen advanced cases nationwide were surveyed to establish typical models such as the following.

Model 1: Approaching a key person (or

organization) which performs town redevelopment projects or educational activities etc., to encourage efforts to improve disaster prevention capability as a new field of activity.

Model 2: In cases where a scholar etc. with advanced knowledge or expertise initiates activity in a region, urging others to take initiatives in imitation of or in cooperation with the scholar.

Model 3: In a region where a federation of residents' associations or other regional group functions actively, urging initiatives effectively using existing networks.

Scenarios are hypothesized for the initial period, development period, and mature period of each of these models to list precautions.

In the case of Model 1 for example, during the initial period, it is important to provide basic information to a key person, and during the development period, to ensure the successors etc. and continuity when an official is transferred to another post. In the case of Model 3, the roles of the city, town, or village are important during the development and mature period of the organization, and it was learned that in the case of a project spanning multiple cities, towns, or villages, there is correlation with project characteristics in that according to region, differences often occur.

3. Summarization and future challenges

By systematically classifying earlier cases where an intermediate organization functions as social capital, methods a facility manager uses to approach an intermediate organization in order to more efficiently improve regional disaster prevention capability could be organized with a certain degree of correlation with regional properties by project type. There is a plan to prepare guidelines to improve regional disaster prevention capability using social capital, by incorporating expertise regarding the maintenance of relationships with intermediate organizations.