

Regarding Publication of the Reflection on the Past Decade of Reconstruction Policy from the Great East Japan Earthquake

More than 12 years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Great East Japan Earthquake was not only an extremely wide-ranging and devastating disaster, it was multiple disasters also involving a nuclear power plant accident. For reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Japanese government established the Reconstruction Agency, and implemented many new efforts through trial and error, including support measures and special legislation that are unprecedented compared to past large-scale disasters.

These reconstruction efforts contain valuable lessons that should be shared not only within Japan but also with the world. It is our responsibility to collect, organize, preserve, and compile dispersed records in order to prevent the obsolescence of the lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake so they can be used to respond to large-scale disasters that may occur in the future.

Based on this idea, we have compiled a consolidated record of the transition of national systems, organizations and efforts related to reconstruction, the purpose and history of unprecedented measures, and evaluations and issues of these measures, for the ten years from the time of the disaster until the end of the first reconstruction/revitalization period, that is, until FY 2020, including efforts by the Reconstruction Agency and other ministries and agencies.

To finalize the report, we held an Expert Meeting on Reflection on the Past Decade of Reconstruction Policy in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, and we received frank opinions from members from various fields that will serve as lessons for future generations from the standpoint of those who have been involved in reconstruction policy to date or as experts. We also received opinions from municipalities who worked hard on the ground in the three disaster-stricken prefectures and coastal areas, as well as from private companies and organizations that have been engaged in reconstruction and other activities, and this enabled us to reflect on the situation in greater depth. Thank you again.

We hope that this document will be used by many people, including those in national and local governments who are actually involved in planning and implementing reconstruction policies for large-scale disasters that may occur in the future, as well as volunteers, NPOs, private companies, research institutes and other organizations who will support the reconstruction of disaster-affected areas.

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