

Chapter 2 General Remarks (Following Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency)

Section 1 Progress in Recovery and Reconstruction

Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the government established the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters to promote initial and emergency measures. In June 2011, the Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (Act No. 76 of 2011; hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Act”) was enacted and the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as the “Reconstruction Headquarters”) was established under the national government, creating a system to promote recovery and reconstruction in earnest.

In the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake determined by the NERHQ in July 2011,¹ the reconstruction period was set at 10 years, and the initial 5 years when demand for reconstruction increased were positioned as the “concentrated reconstruction period.” Subsequently, in May 2015, in accordance with the Prime Minister’s directive of “aiming for reconstruction that can serve as a model for regional revitalization at a new stage,” the latter 5 years of FY2016 to FY2020 were designated as a “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” (later renamed “the first Reconstruction / Revitalization Period”).²

In this section, we review the characteristics of the historical background at the time the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, the nature of the resulting damage and so forth. based on a comparison with those of the past large-scale disasters, the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Then, we sort out the progress of recovery and reconstruction during the 10 years of the concentrated reconstruction period and the first reconstruction/revitalization period after the enactment of the Basic Act.

1. Historical Background and Nature of Damage

(1) Historical Background

1) Demographic Trends

As of October 1, 2010, just before the Great East Japan Earthquake, the total population of Japan was 128,057,352, which had remained almost unchanged from 127,767,994 in 2005 (0.2% increase), the lowest rate of increase since the start of the national census in 1920. Over the past five years, after peaking at 128.08 million in 2008, the number decreased slightly in 2009 and increased slightly in 2010. Subsequently, in 2015, the number fell to 127,094,745, the first decline in the survey's history (0.8% decrease). The annual trend during this period has reflected an ongoing decrease since 2011, when it resumed its decline.³

On the other hand, the 3 disaster-stricken prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima all entered a phase of population decline as of the 2010 survey. As of 1995, the population of Iwate Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture was 1,419,505 and 2,133,592, respectively, showing a slight upward trend (0.2% increase and 1.4% increase) over the 5 years from 1990. However, as of 2000, the population of Iwate Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture was 1,416,180 and 2,126,935, respectively, showing a downward trend (0.2% decrease and 0.3% decrease). Meanwhile, the population of Miyagi Prefecture, which was 2,328,739 in 1995, was on an increasing trend over the 5-year

¹ Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (decided by the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters on July 29, 2011).

² “Overview of the Concentrated Reconstruction Period and Recovery and Nature of Reconstruction Projects from FY2016” and “Name of Reconstruction Period” (Reconstruction Agency, May 12, 2015).

The name of this period was repositioned as “the first Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” in accordance with the positioning of FY2021 to FY2025 as the “the second Reconstruction / Revitalization Period in the “Reconstruction Efforts after FY2021” (decided by the Reconstruction Promotion Council on July 17, 2020).

³ All dates are October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “2005 Census,” “2010 Census,” “2015 Census” and “Long-Term Time-Series Data (2000-2020).”

period from 1990 (3.6% increase). It was also on an increasing trend in 2000, when it was 2,365,320 (1.6% increase). However, the population decreased slightly in 2005 (0.2% decrease), and has continued to decrease slightly since then.⁴

As described above, in 2011, the year of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the population of Japan as a whole shifted from a static state to a declining phase. In particular, the population of the three disaster-stricken prefectures was already declining even before that.

Figure 2-1-1 Demographic Trends in Japan and the 3 Disaster-Stricken Prefectures (2005-2015)

	2005	2010	2015
Nationwide	127,767,994 (+0.7%)	128,057,352 (+0.2%)	127,094,745 (-0.8%)
Iwate Pref.	1,385,041 (-2.2%)	1,330,147 (-4.0%)	1,279,594 (-3.8%)
Miyagi Pref.	2,360,218 (-0.2%)	2,348,165 (-0.5%)	2,333,899 (-0.6%)
Fukushima Pref.	2,091,319 (-1.7%)	2,029,064 (-3.0%)	1,914,039 (-5.7%)

* Changes from the previous survey are shown in parentheses.

Conversely, when the Great Kanto Earthquake struck in 1923, the total population of Japan was 58,119,000, and was on the rise from the previous year by about 730,000.⁵ In Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture, where the damage was concentrated, the number decreased only between 1922 and 1923, when the earthquake occurred, but increased continuously in the period before and after the earthquake. In Tokyo and Yokohama City, where the population is concentrated, the trend over the next 5 years showed a decrease in 1925 after the earthquake, but continued to increase again afterwards.⁶

Figure 2-1-2 Demographic Trends in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture (Unit: People)

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Tokyo	3,831,000	3,984,000	3,859,000	4,186,000
Kanagawa Pref.	1,359,000	1,381,000	1,354,000	1,374,000

Figure 2-1-3 Demographic Trends in Tokyo and Yokohama City (Unit: People)

	1920	1925	1930	1935
Tokyo	2,173,201	1,995,567	2,070,913	5,875,667
Yokohama City	422,938	405,888	620,300	704,290

Additionally, when the Great Kanto Earthquake struck in 1995, the total population of Japan was 125,570,000, and was on the rise from the previous year by about 300,000.⁷ In Hyogo Prefecture, where the damage was concentrated, the number decreased only between 1994 and 1995, when the earthquake occurred, but increased continuously in the period before and after the earthquake. Also, in Kobe City, where the population is concentrated, the trend over the next 5 years showed a decrease in 1995 after the earthquake, but continued to increase again

⁴ All dates are October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “1990 Census,” “1995 Census” and “2000 Census.”

⁵ The total population and prefectures at the time of the Great Kanto Earthquake are as of October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “Estimated Population of Japan (1920-2000).”

⁶ The population of municipalities affected by the Great Kanto Earthquake is as of October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications “1920 Census,” “1925 Census,” “1930 Census,” and “1935 Census”

⁷ The point in time is as of October 1. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “1995 Census.”

afterwards.⁸

Figure 2-1-4 Demographic Trends in Hyogo Prefecture (Unit: People)

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Hyogo Pref.	5,457,000	5,469,000	5,402,000	5,421,000

Figure 2-1-5 Demographic Trends in Kobe City (Unit: People)

	1990	1995	2000	2005
Kobe City	1,477,410 (+4.7%)	1,423,830 (-3.6%)	1,493,398 (+4.9%)	1,525,393 (+2.1%)

* Changes from the previous survey are shown in parentheses.

As described above, both the total population of Japan and the major disaster-affected areas of the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake were on an increasing trend. However, the Great East Japan Earthquake was the first large-scale disaster to be encountered as Japan as a whole moved into a phase of population decline. In particular, Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures were hit by the disaster at a time when the population decline was markedly progressing.

2) Elderly Demographics

As for the percentage of the population aged 65 or older, the nationwide trend before and after the Great East Japan Earthquake was 20.2% in 2005, 23.0% in 2010 and 26.6% in 2015. The 3 disaster-stricken prefectures had also been on an increasing trend since before the earthquake. However, the rate of increase in Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures in particular exceeded that of the entire country.⁹

Figure 2-1-6 Trends in Elderly Demographics in the Three Disaster-Afflicted Prefectures (Unit: People)

	2005	2010	2015
Iwate Pref.	339,957 (24.6%)	360,498 (27.2%)	386,573 (30.4%)
Miyagi Pref.	470,512 (20.0%)	520,794 (22.3%)	588,240 (25.7%)
Fukushima Pref.	474,860 (22.7%)	504,451 (25.0%)	542,384 (28.7%)

* Percentage of population is denoted in parentheses

The national elderly population increased slightly before and after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. However, the total population has also been on the rise, and the percentage has decreased slightly. Additionally, In Tokyo, the actual number increased and the percentage decreased continuously before and after the earthquake. In Kanagawa Prefecture, both the actual number and the percentage increased after the earthquake in 1925 and both decreased in 1930, and the actual number increased and the percentage decreased slightly in 1935. In Tokyo and Yokohama City, where the population is concentrated, both the actual number and the percentage decreased before and after the earthquake. As this shows, except immediately after the earthquake, the elderly population was on an increasing trend, but the percentage was on a decreasing trend due to the population itself being an increasing trend.

⁸ The population of municipalities affected by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake is as of October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “1990 Census,” “1995 Census,” “2000 Census” and “2005 Census.”

⁹ All dates are October 1 of each year. Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “2005 Census,” “2010 Census” and “2015 Census.”

Figure 2-1-7 Trends in Nationwide Elderly Demographics before and after the Great Kanto Earthquake
(Unit: People)

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Nationwide	2,972,000 (5.2%)	2,990,000 (5.2%)	3,009,000 (5.2%)	3,019,000 (5.1%)

* Percentage of population is denoted in parentheses

Figure 2-1-8 Elderly Demographic Trends in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture (Unit: People)

	1920	1925	1930	1935
Tokyo	117,564(3.18%)	122,248 (2.73%)	138,906 (2.57%)	163,598 (2.57%)
Kanagawa Pref.	56,886(4.30)	61,587 (4.35)	60,718 (3.75)	65,772 (3.58)

* Percentage of population is denoted in parentheses

Figure 2-1-9 Demographic Trends in Tokyo and Yokohama City (Unit: People)

	1920	1925	1930
Tokyo	61,206 (2.82%)	48,486 (2.43%)	-
Yokohama City	12,597 (2.98%)	10,947 (2.70%)	-

* Percentage of population is denoted in parentheses

Both the actual number and the percentage of the elderly population increased before and after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and a similar trend was observed in Hyogo Prefecture. However, the percentage in Hyogo Prefecture was lower than the national value. In other words, although the elderly population has started to increase, progress in the disaster-affected areas has been relatively slow.

Figure 2-1-10 Trends in Elderly Demographics Nationwide and in Hyogo Prefecture (Unit: People)

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Nationwide	16,900,000 (13.55%)	17,585,000 (14.06%)	18,277,000 (14.56%)	19,017,000 (15.11%)
Hyogo Pref.	728,000 (13.26%)	757,000 (13.73%)	764,000 (14.14%)	795,000 (14.70%)

* Percentage of population is denoted in parentheses

As described above, compared with the Great Kanto Earthquake, which occurred in a situation where the proportion of the elderly population was on a declining trend nationwide, including the disaster-stricken areas, and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which occurred mainly in Hyogo Prefecture, where the proportion of the elderly population was on an increasing trend but is not as high as that nationwide, the Great East Japan Earthquake was a large-scale disaster that occurred in an area where the population was aging in particular.

3) Financial Situation

The fiscal strength index of local governments (the average over the past 3 years of the figure obtained by dividing standard fiscal revenue by standard fiscal demand) shows that, while the prefectural average in 2010 was 0.49, it was 0.31 for Iwate Prefecture, 0.52 for Miyagi Prefecture, and 0.45 for Fukushima Prefecture, indicating that the fiscal strength of all prefectures except Miyagi Prefecture is lower than the average.¹⁰

Additionally, in the same year, the national average of the financial strength index of municipalities was 0.53, Iwate Prefecture was 0.33, Miyagi Prefecture was 0.53, and Fukushima Prefecture was 0.47, indicating that except for Miyagi Prefecture, the financial strength of municipalities is lower than the average.

Furthermore, looking at the coastal municipalities of the 3 disaster-afflicted prefectures and the 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster, all of the 12 coastal municipalities in Iwate Prefecture, about half of the 15 coastal municipalities in Miyagi Prefecture, and half of the 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima Prefecture have a financial strength index lower than the national average. As this shows, except for some areas around Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture and other locations, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in areas with relatively low financial strength.

Figure 2-1-11 Financial Strength Index of 3 Disaster-afflicted Prefectures, Municipalities (2010)

Iwate Pref.	Financial Strength Index	Miyagi Pref.	Financial Strength Index	Fukushima Pref.	Financial Strength Index
Miyako City	<i>0.34</i>	Sendai City	0.86	Tamura City	<i>0.33</i>
Ofunato City	<i>0.41</i>	Ishinomaki City	<i>0.50</i>	Minamisoma City	0.62
Kuji City	<i>0.39</i>	Shiogama City	<i>0.52</i>	Town of Kawamata	<i>0.35</i>
Rikuzentakata City	<i>0.27</i>	Kesennuma City	<i>0.42</i>	Town of Hirono	1.12
Kamaishi City	<i>0.46</i>	Natori City	0.75	Town of Naraha	1.04
Town of Otsuchi	<i>0.31</i>	Tagajo City	0.73	Town of Tomioka	0.89
Town of Yamada	<i>0.27</i>	Iwanuma City	0.79	Village of Kawauchi	<i>0.27</i>
Town of Iwaizumi	<i>0.15</i>	Higashimatsushima City	<i>0.43</i>	Town of Okuma	1.40
Village of Tanohata	<i>0.13</i>	Town of Watari	0.56	Town of Futaba	0.81
Village of Fudai	<i>0.14</i>	Town of Yamamoto	<i>0.38</i>	Town of Namie	<i>0.45</i>
Village of Noda	<i>0.17</i>	Matsushima City	<i>0.50</i>	Village of Katsurao	<i>0.13</i>
Town of Hirono	<i>0.22</i>	Town of Shichigahama	0.62	Village of Iitate	<i>0.23</i>
		Town of Rifu	0.83		
		Town of Onagawa	1.28		
		Town of Minamisanriku	<i>0.30</i>		

* Municipalities in italics are below the national average of 0.53.

Regarding the financial strength index prior to 1995, when the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred, the national average for 1992 to 1994 was 0.49. Meanwhile, the figure for Hyogo Prefecture was 0.68, exceeding the national average.¹¹

4) Considerations in Reconstruction Based on Historical Background

As described above, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in a social situation unprecedented in the history of Japan, where the population is declining and aging and the financial situation is tight compared with the situation upon past large-scale earthquakes. It was necessary to take this situation into account when implementing reconstruction measures. Additionally, it has also been pointed out that the Great East Japan Earthquake was different from previous earthquakes in that it was a disaster that occurred in the midst of the reorganization of municipalities and the reduction of staff and the expansion of administrative areas as a result of the great merger in

¹⁰ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "FY 2010 Principal Financial Indicators of Local Governments."

¹¹ "Survey of Local Government Finance," Financial Management Division, Local Public Finance Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

the Heisei period.¹²

Against this background, the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council discussed the fact that the disaster-affected areas are areas where the population has decreased and the aging of the population has progressed. In its recommendations, it stated the necessity of “looking at structural changes in Japan’s economy and society, such as the aging and declining population” in a reconstruction plan with an eye to the future vision of the region. It also stated with respect to the securing of financial resources for reconstruction that “Japan’s fiscal situation is significantly worse than at the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake” and that “Many of the local governments affected by the disaster have low financial capacity, and many municipalities suffered catastrophic damage to their entire towns, including the functions of their government offices.”¹³

Additionally, the basic principles of reconstruction stipulated in the Basic Act are “Initiatives should be made for leading policies to contribute to solving the challenges faced by our country, such as the declining birthrate and aging population and the declining population (omitted).” It was decided that the government’s basic policy for reconstruction would include the necessity of “building new regions to cope with the aging and declining population.”^{14,15}

(2) Mode of damage

1) Great East Japan Earthquake

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred at 2:46 PM on March 11, 2011 off the coast of Sanriku (about 130 km east-southeast of the Oshika Peninsula) registered a moment magnitude of 9.0, the largest ever recorded in Japan. The maximum seismic intensity was 7 in the northern part of Miyagi Prefecture (Kurihara City), and upper 6 to lower 6 was observed over a wide area that included Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, and Chiba Prefectures. It is estimated that the epicenter of the earthquake covered a wide area of approximately 450 km in length and 200 km in width. Tsunamis were observed in coastal areas nationwide, including the Pacific coast of the Tohoku region. This caused extensive damage over a wide area, including flooding of 561 km² along the Pacific coast from Aomori Prefecture to Chiba Prefecture.¹⁶

As a result of the earthquake and tsunami, 19,765 people died in 13 prefectures (including disaster-related deaths) and 2,553 people are still missing in 6 prefectures. Additionally, 122,039 houses were completely destroyed in 9 prefectures and 283,698 houses were partially destroyed in 13 prefectures. The estimated stock damage of buildings, lifelines, social infrastructure, etc. was about 16.9 trillion yen.¹⁷

Among those people, there were 5,145 fatalities in Iwate Prefecture, 10,570 fatalities in Miyagi Prefecture and 3,935 fatalities in Fukushima Prefecture for a total of 19,650 fatalities in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures, accounting for about 99% of the whole. Additionally, 5 cities in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures (Rikuzentakata City: 1,606 fatalities, Ishinomaki City: 3,553 fatalities, Kesennuma City: 1,219 fatalities, Higashimatsushima City: 1,133 fatalities and Minamisoma City: 1,050 fatalities) reported more than 1,000 deaths. In terms of numbers of houses completely destroyed as well, the numbers were 19,508, 83,005, and 15,469, respectively, bringing the total across the 3 disaster-affected prefectures to 117,982, or about 97% of the whole.

Furthermore, the earthquake and tsunami caused the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power

¹² Observations by Committee Member Yoshiaki Kawata, etc. at the 2nd Meeting of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council (April 23, 2011).

¹³ Observations by Subcommittee Chair Jun Iio, etc. at the 1st Meeting of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council (April 20, 2011).

¹⁴ Article 2, item (iv) of the Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

¹⁵ See the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake” below.

¹⁶ “Japan Meteorological Agency Technical Report No. 133, Investigation Report on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake” (December 2012, Japan Meteorological Agency) and “Area of Inundation by Tsunami (Summary Values) (Report No. 5)” (April 18, 2011, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan). The flooded area is the total of 62 municipalities across 6 prefectures: Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Chiba.

¹⁷ The damage situation as of March 1, 2023 according to “2011 Great East Japan Earthquake (Report No. 163)” (March 9, 2023, Fire and Disaster Management Agency) and “Estimates of Damage Caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake” (Cabinet Office, June 24, 2011).

Station, which resulted in the release of radioactive materials. On April 12, 2011, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency announced that this was equivalent to Level 7 of INES based on an estimate of the amount of radioactive materials released into the atmosphere from nuclear reactors.^{18,19}

As a result of this accident, an evacuation order was issued based on the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156 of 1999). Many residents were forced to evacuate, various industries were damaged, and harmful rumors were spread over a wide area such as the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry and tourism industry. In this and other ways, it was an unprecedented complex disaster.

2) Great Kanto Earthquake

The Taisho Kanto Earthquake, which occurred at 11:58 AM on September 1, 1923, is estimated to have had a magnitude of 7.9 and recorded a seismic intensity of 6 in Saitama, Chiba, and Yamanashi Prefectures as well as in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture. Because the epicenter of the earthquake was in Sagami Bay, tsunamis were observed all over Japan. In particular, tsunamis with a height of several meters occurred around Sagami Bay and the southern tip of the Boso Peninsula.²⁰

Collapsed buildings, fires, and tsunamis resulting from the earthquake caused the largest human damage in Japan since the Meiji period, with 105,385 people dead or missing. In addition, housing damaged was caused, with 109,713 houses completely destroyed and 102,773 houses partially destroyed. Among them, 68,660 people were killed or missing in Tokyo and 26,623 in Yokohama, accounting for a total of 95,283, or about 90% of the whole.²¹

3) Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

The 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake that occurred at 5:46 on January 17, 1995 registered a magnitude of 7.3. A seismic intensity of 7 was recorded in Kobe City, Ashiya City, Nishinomiya City, Takarazuka City, the Town of Hokudan, the Town of Ichinomiya, and the Town of Tsuna. A seismic intensity of 6 was recorded in Kobe City and Sumoto City. No tsunami was caused by this earthquake.²²

The earthquake left 6,434 dead, 3 missing, 104,906 houses completely destroyed and 144,274 houses partially destroyed (as of May 19, 2006). Additionally, when broken down by municipality, the number of deaths in Kobe City was 4,564, that in Nishinomiya City was 1,126, that in Ashiya City was 442, that in Takarazuka City was 117, and that for the entirety of Hyogo Prefecture including other municipalities was 6,400 (as of November 11, 2000). Regarding the number of deaths, Hyogo Prefecture accounted for about 99% and Kobe City for about 71% of the whole at that time.²³

4) Comparison of the Three Great Earthquakes

In comparisons of the three major earthquakes, it has been pointed out that in the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, most of the damage was concentrated in specific municipalities, while in the Great East Japan Earthquake, the damage was widely dispersed mainly in the three prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and

¹⁸ International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale.

¹⁹ INES level 7 is the heaviest assessment and is the same as that of the Chernobyl Power Station accident. However, this is estimated to be about 10% of the amount of radioactive material discharged in the accident.

“Application of the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) to the Accident and Trouble at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake,” Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, April 12, 2011

²⁰ “Report of the Expert Committee on Passing on Disaster Lessons, 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake,” July 2006, Central Disaster Prevention Council

Moreover, because the seismic intensity scale in 1923 was 7 levels from 0 to 6, the Japan Meteorological Agency recorded a maximum seismic intensity of 6. However, in the report, it was pointed out that there was a high possibility that the seismic intensity reached 7 or higher, especially in the Sagami and Ashigara Plains and the southern part of the Boso Peninsula. The maximum tsunami height was recorded as 12 m in Atami and Izu-Oshima, and 9 m near Tateyama.

²¹ Same as above.

²² The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (Final Report), May 19, 2006, Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

²³ The breakdown of municipalities is as of January 11, 2000. “Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Reconstruction Journal” (February 23, 2000, Prime Minister's Office, Hanshin-Awaji Reconstruction Headquarters Secretariat).

Fukushima.²⁴

Additionally, a comparison of the causes of death shows that 90.6% of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake were drowned by tsunami, 87.1% of the victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake were burned to death by fire, and 83.3% of the victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake were crushed to death or destroyed by collapsed houses.²⁵

Furthermore, the unprecedented feature of the Great East Japan Earthquake is that it was not only a natural disaster such as an earthquake and tsunami, but also a complex disaster including a nuclear power plant accident.

As shown above, we have outlined the historical background and damage conditions at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Hereinafter, we divide the period after the enactment of the Basic Guidelines into the following periods and summarize the progress of recovery and reconstruction during the 10 years of the concentrated reconstruction period and the first reconstruction/revitalization period.

- ① From the establishment of the Reconstruction Headquarters to the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency (from June 2011 to February 2012)
- ② From Establishment of Reconstruction Agency to Formation of Second Abe Cabinet (February 2012 to December 2012)
- ③ From Establishment of Second Abe Cabinet to End of Concentrated Reconstruction Period (December 2012 to March 2016)
- ④ First half of the first reconstruction/revitalization period (April 2016 to March 2019)
- ⑤ Latter half of the first reconstruction/revitalization period (from April 2019 to March 2021)

²⁴ Observations by Committee Member Yoshiaki Kawata, etc. at the 2nd Meeting of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council (April 23, 2011).

²⁵ “Records of the Great East Japan Earthquake” (March 2013, Fire and Disaster Management Agency).

2. Concentrated reconstruction period

(1) From the establishment of the Reconstruction Headquarters to the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency

[From June 2011 to February 2012]

The Basic Act was enacted on June 20, 2011, about 3 months after the disaster, and promulgated and enforced on June 24. The period between the establishment of the Reconstruction Headquarters and the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency on February 10 of the following year was a period during which evacuation centers were dismantled and rehabilitated, government policies were established under the Reconstruction Headquarters, and a framework for reconstruction was developed, including the enactment of the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (Act No. 122 of 2011), the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, and the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Act No. 25 of 2012).

1) Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction

(Current situation)

In June 2011, about 3 months after the disaster, major lifelines and public services had almost been restored in disaster-affected areas, and efforts were being made to remove disaster waste near residential areas. Although educational activities had resumed and the provision of emergency temporary housing had begun, more than 300,000 victims had still been evacuated, and there were approximately 24,000 victims in shelters nationwide. The estimated production value of industrial establishments in the tsunami-flooded areas was about 90% lower than the same month in the pre-earthquake record year.

In addition, in the area affected by the nuclear disaster, the area within a 20-km radius of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station was designated as a “no-entry zone” where entry was prohibited in principle, the area outside a 20-km radius where the cumulative radiation dose for 1 year after the accident could reach 20 mSv (mSv) was designated as a “planned evacuation zone” where evacuation was required, and the other area within a 20-30-km radius where shelter-in-place or evacuation was required in the event of an emergency was designated as an “emergency evacuation preparation zone.”

(Efforts)

Under these circumstances, the government promoted the start of construction of construction-type emergency housing and the securing of rental-type emergency housing for the early resolution of evacuee displacement, and promoted the appropriate and efficient disposal of disaster waste in cooperation with the national, prefectural and municipal governments based on the “Disaster Waste Management Guidelines for the Great East Japan Earthquake” established in May 2011. As a result, all evacuation centers in Iwate Prefecture were closed in October that year, Miyagi Prefecture in December that year, and Fukushima Prefecture in February 2012, and the number of residents in emergency temporary housing exceeded 300,000. Almost all disaster waste near residential areas had been removed by around August 2011, but the removal/disposal ratio of total disaster waste remained at around 6% as of February 2012.

Additionally, in order to prevent the isolation of disaster victims in evacuation shelters and emergency temporary housing, etc., efforts were made to grasp the needs of residents, to provide places for exchange, to provide services such as lifestyle counseling, and to build support systems such as safeguarding through emergency employment creation projects. In December 2011, the Miyagi Mental Care Center was established.

The Industrial Reconstruction Organization was established in each prefecture to purchase receivables for disaster-affected businesses as a measure against double indebtedness, and temporary stores and factories were lent free of charge. In addition, since the first adoption of the disaster recovery project for joint facilities, etc., of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Association (group subsidy) in August 2011, a number of group subsidy programs have been solicited and adopted. In February 2012, industrial production in the entire disaster-affected area had generally recovered to levels outside that area due to the rapid recovery of supply chains, etc. However, the estimated value of production in the tsunami-flooded areas was about 40% lower than the same month in the pre-disaster record year, and full-scale industrial reconstruction remained a challenge.

Regarding the preparation of plans for reconstruction in disaster-affected municipalities, the national government,

in a project under its direct control, provided support by means such as surveying tsunami flooded areas, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and the evacuation situation of residents, and providing the results. Additionally, the decision was made to compile and regularly present restoration project plans and timetables for various public infrastructures from August 2011.

In response to the nuclear disaster, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Handling of Environmental Contamination by Radioactive Substances Discharged from the Accident at a Nuclear Power Station Caused by the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake that Occurred on March 11, 2011 (Act No. 110 of 2011, hereinafter referred to as the “Act on Special Measures Concerning Radioactive Contamination”) was enacted in August 2011, and cold shutdown of the accident reactor was achieved that December.

During that time, with regard to evacuation orders, the “emergency evacuation preparation zones” were lifted in September 2011. Based on the decision of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on December 26 that year, the decision was made to successively revise the “no-entry zones” and “planned evacuation zone” into “areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders,” “restricted residential areas” and “difficult-to-return zones.” As of February 2012, the total number of evacuees in Fukushima Prefecture was approximately 160,000. Efforts were made to facilitate their return, support long-term evacuees, and eliminate health concerns caused by radiation.

2) Main Actions of the National Government, etc.

a. Enforcement of the Basic Act (June 24, 2011)

Toward the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the national government established the “Office for Preparation of a Bill for Reconstruction of the Affected Areas, etc.” in the Cabinet Secretariat on April 5, 2011, about one month after the disaster. The office served as the secretariat for the Reconstruction Design Council held from April 14, and deliberated on the draft law on organizations related to reconstruction.

In this manner, about two months after the disaster on May 13, 2011, the Cabinet decided on the “Legislative Bill for the Basic Guidelines and Organization for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake” and submitted it to the Diet. However, it was pointed out that the draft law was late in its submission, lacked provisions concerning the financial resources for reconstruction, and was a rehash of the “Act on Basic Policy and Organization for Reconstruction of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake” (Act No. 12 of 1995). On May 18, the Liberal Democratic Party submitted to the Diet a basic bill for the reconstruction and revitalization of the Great East Japan Earthquake. On May 19, New Komeito announced the outline of the “Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.”

Under these circumstances, the ruling and opposition parties held a series of consultations. On June 9, 2011, the Democratic Party of Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party, and New Komeito jointly submitted the draft for the “Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake”. The bill was passed and enacted at a plenary session of the House of Councillors on June 20, and was promulgated and enforced on June 24.

As basic measures, the Basic Act stipulates the securing of funds for reconstruction and the development of a system of special zones for reconstruction. As a result, considerations got underway, and laws that included “Act on Special Measures concerning Securing Financial Resources Necessary to Implement Measures for Reconstruction Following the Great East Japan Earthquake” (Act No. 117 of 2011), the “Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Accounts” (Act No. 15 of 2012), and the “Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake” (Act No. 122 of 2011) were enacted.

Additionally, pursuant to the provisions of the Basic Act, the Reconstruction Headquarters was established; the Reconstruction Design Council, which had convened in accordance with a cabinet decision, had basis in laws; and the formulation, etc. of the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake came to be. The Reconstruction Headquarters held a total of 12 meetings, starting with the first meeting on June 28, 2011 and ending with the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency.

Furthermore, the Basic Act stipulates the basic policy for the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, which stipulates that the Reconstruction Agency will be established as early as possible to handle the planning, drafting, and overall coordination of measures for the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake as well as the administration, etc. related to the implementation of these measures. Considerations by the national government were put in motion based on this policy.

b. Decisions on the recommendations of the Reconstruction Design Council (June 25, 2011)

On June 25, 2011, the day after the Basic Act went into effect, the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council, which now had basis in laws, decided on the “Proposal for Reconstruction: Hope Amid Tragedy” and submitted the proposal to Prime Minister Naoto Kan. In that proposal, the following were indicated:

- The concept of “disaster mitigation” that minimizes damage in the event of a disaster is important, not the idea that a major natural disaster can be completely contained. It is necessary to emphasize not only protection based on physical infrastructure but also measures based on non-physical infrastructure such as disaster prevention education whose basis lies in concept of “escape.”
- Municipalities that are closest to residents and understand the characteristics of the region should be the main actors in reconstruction. The national government should present an overall policy for reconstruction and make efforts to draw out the capabilities of municipalities to the maximum. Prefectures should play a role in responding to wide-area administrative issues as regional governments.
- The basic idea is that reconstruction cannot be discussed without talking about financial resources, and that financial resources cannot be discussed without a picture of reconstruction. In light of Japan’s financial and population situation, financial resources for recovery and reconstruction should be secured through solidarity and burden-sharing among the entire generation living today, without delaying the burden to the next generation.
- As major preconditions for the reconstruction of the areas affected by the nuclear power plant disaster, the national government should take responsibility for putting the nuclear power station accident under control as soon as possible, and respond to emergency measures, restoration measures, and reconstruction from the nuclear disaster, and that the entire nation should share the recognition that the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake will not end until the land of Fukushima is restored.

c. Formulation and Revision of the 2011 Basic Guidelines (July 29, 2011)

At the first Reconstruction Headquarters meeting held on June 28, 2011, Prime Minister Naoto Kan instructed that the recommendations of the Reconstruction Design Council should be respected to the maximum extent possible and that basic reconstruction policies should be compiled. Furthermore, at an informal meeting of cabinet ministers held on July 8, 2011, regarding the “special reconstruction zone system” and “easy-to-use grants,” which were two of the draft items to be considered in the Basic Principles, a statement was made to the ministers that the measures under their jurisdiction should be examined without being bound by conventional ideas when examining the specific mechanisms, and that the mechanisms should be truly useful for the reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas.

Based on these instructions, local governments in the disaster-affected areas also exchanged opinions, and at the fourth Reconstruction Headquarters meeting on July 29, the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (hereinafter referred to as the “2011 Basic Guidelines”) were adopted. In the 2011 Basic Guidelines, the following were indicated:

- The reconstruction period shall be 10 years, and the first 5 years when demand for reconstruction increases shall be designated as the “concentrated reconstruction period.”
- The scale of measures and projects to be implemented during the concentrated reconstruction period shall be estimated to be at least 19 trillion yen for the national and local governments, and at least 23 trillion yen for 10 years.
- As a means of securing financial resources during the concentrated reconstruction period, in addition to the supplementary budget, cut expenditures, sell off state property, review special accounts, personnel expenses for public servants, secure additional non-tax revenues, and secure temporary tax measures. As for tax measures, consider a basic, etc. tax from various angles.
- Reconstruction bonds issued as a temporary bridge to cover the preceding expansion and reconstruction demand shall be managed separately from existing government bonds, and the redemption period shall be considered in the future, taking into account the concentrated reconstruction period and the reconstruction period.
- Funds for local reconstruction shall be definitely allocated by adding local allocation tax, etc., to the portion of the local burden that would still be incurred even if measures were taken with national funds.

Additionally, it was established that a draft of the overall plan for the Reconstruction Agency (tentative name) would be finalized by the end of this year and a bill to establish the organization would be submitted to the Diet as soon as possible thereafter. Further, it was established that the national government will coordinate with local governments and set up a forum for consultation as soon as possible regarding reconstruction from the nuclear

disaster.

Moreover, the 2011 Basic Guidelines was revised on August 11 that year.

This revision was to add a statement to the effect that the funds for reimbursement would be considered following their addition to the funds for recovery and reconstruction projects during the concentrated reconstruction period in light of the fact that the three secretaries-general of the Democratic Party of Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party, and New Komeito stated in the confirmation letter of August 9 that “Temporary pension funds used as financial resources in the first supplementary budget for FY2011 will be covered by reconstruction bonds when the third supplementary budget is compiled.”

d. Establishment of the Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (August 27, 2011)

In response to the 2011 Basic Guidelines, which set forth the establishment of a forum for consultation on reconstruction from the nuclear disaster, the “Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster” was established on August 27, 2011 by the Minister of State for Reconstruction for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, and its first meeting was held. The Council was chaired by the Minister of State for Reconstruction for the Great East Japan Earthquake. Its members consisted of the Minister of State for Restoration from the Nuclear Power Plant Accident and Prevention of Recurrence, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary from the national government as well as the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, the Chairperson of the Fukushima Prefectural Assembly, the Mayor of Fukushima City, the Mayor of the Village of Otama, the Mayor of the Town of Tomioka, the Mayor of the Town of Futaba, the Mayor of the Village of Iitate, the President of the Federation of Fukushima Prefectural Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the President of the Central Committee of Fukushima Agricultural Cooperatives. At the Council meeting, Fukushima Prefecture made a request for the enactment of a special law on the revitalization of areas affected by the nuclear disaster.

Since then, the Council has held up to the fourth meeting until it was enacted under the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima. The second meeting (October 17, 2011) dealt with funds, the lifting of the emergency evacuation preparation zones, compensation, and so forth. The third meeting (January 8, 2012) dealt with the Fukushima Prefecture Reconstruction Plan, the review of the areas under evacuation orders, compensation, decontamination, the status of deliberations on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, etc. The fourth meeting (February 4, 2012) dealt with the opening of the Reconstruction Agency, the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, etc.

e. Enactment of the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake (December 7, 2011)

Article 10 of the Basic Acts stipulates that “At the request of local governments in the disaster-affected area, the national government shall promote efforts for the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake that are carried out by making the most of the originality and ingenuity of the regions by utilizing a system that applies special measures on regulations and other special measures in limited areas, and shall comprehensively review the system of special zones for reconstruction necessary for this purpose and promptly take legislative measures.” The 2011 Basic Guidelines also stipulated “establish a special reconstruction zone system that will implement proposals from disaster-affected areas in an integrated and prompt manner, such as drastic exceptions to regulations and systems in limited areas and economic support” and “establish easy-to-use and flexible grants that enable local governments to implement various measures necessary for reconstruction under their own reconstruction plans.”

In light of these developments, the national government proceeded with its considerations. On October 28, 2011, the Cabinet decided on the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and submitted it to the Diet. In the deliberations by the Diet, proposals for new regulations and special measures, the obligation to respect the results of consultations between the national and local councils, and matters related to reconstruction grants were revised. On December 7, 2011, the bill was unanimously passed and enacted by the General Plenary Session of the House of Councillors, promulgated on December 14, and enforced on December 26.

According to the provisions of the Act, local governments in the disaster-affected areas can apply special measures for various regulations and procedures and tax and financial support measures if they prepare a reconstruction promotion plan and receive approval from the Prime Minister. Additionally, it was decided that when a Reconstruction and Development Plan is prepared and made public after consultation and other necessary procedures, it will be deemed that the Basic Land Use Plan, etc. has been revised and the permission for land use has been granted. Further, it was established that by preparing a Reconstruction Grant Funded Project Plan and submitting it to the Prime Minister, Reconstruction Grants could be granted within the scope of the national budget

to be allocated to the expenses required for the implementation of projects, etc. pertaining to the submitted plan. Moreover, the Act was substantially amended in 2014 and 2020 after its enactment.

f. Enactment of the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act (December 9, 2011).

In accordance with the basic policies for the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency and the basic policies for 2011 as stipulated in the Basic Act, the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Preparation Office established in the Cabinet Secretariat on August 25, 2011 proceeded with deliberations. On November 1, 2011, the Cabinet approved the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Bill and submitted it to the Diet. In the deliberations by the Diet, there were discussions on the significance and role of the Reconstruction Agency, its organizational structure, the Minister for Reconstruction's authority to make recommendations, the location of the organization, and other issues. The revised bill was approved and enacted at the General Plenary Session of the House of Councillors on December 9, 2011, and promulgated on December 16. The enforcement date was stipulated as "the date specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding four months from the date of promulgation." However, a supplementary resolution stipulated that "the Reconstruction Agency shall be inaugurated by March 11, 2012 at the latest."

With the enforcement of the Act, the Reconstruction Headquarters and the Reconstruction Design Council, which had led the national government's reconstruction efforts since the disaster, would be abolished, and these functions would be taken over by the Reconstruction Agency, the Reconstruction Promotion Council consisting largely of all Ministers of State, and the Reconstruction Promotion Council consisting of experts.

g. Determination of Basic Approach for the review of Evacuation Orders (December 16, 2011)

On March 11, 2011, the national government issued an evacuation order to residents within a 3-km radius of the TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station (moving them to within a 20-km radius on the 12th, the following day) and a shelter-in-place order for residents within a 10-km radius (moving them to within a 20 to 30-km radius on March 15) because the possibility of radioactive materials leaking into the surrounding areas increased due to the loss of the cooling function of the reactors at the plant. Subsequently in April that year, the national government established no-entry zones, planned evacuation zones, and emergency evacuation preparation zones in 12 municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture.

During this period, efforts were made to resolve the accident at the nuclear power plant itself. On December 16, 2011, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters confirmed that the reactor was put into cold shutdown and that the goal of Step 2, "the release of radioactive materials is controlled and the radiation dose is greatly reduced," had been achieved and completed. In response to this situation, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters (December 26) decided on the "Basic Concept for the Review of No-Entry Zones and Areas under Evacuation Orders Following the Completion of Step 2 and Issues for Future Consideration" in order to improve the environment for the return of residents and promote the reconstruction and revitalization of the region. Prime Minister Noda stated that "Considering the fact that many residents are continuing to endure a long and difficult life as evacuees after about nine months have passed since the accident occurred, upon reviewing the area, we will proceed to respond meticulously while fully understanding the intentions of municipalities and residents."

Since then, the areas under evacuation orders have been reviewed in sequence in accordance with the situation of each of the 12 municipalities affected by the nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture based largely on the compilation of domestic and international scientific knowledge and evaluations on low-dose exposure as well. By August 2013, the following zones have been determined: difficult-to-return zone, restricted residential areas, areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders.

Figure 2-1-12 Changes in areas under evacuation orders

	Name of zone	Scope	Overview
April 2011 Establishment of zone	No-entry zone	Within a 20-km radius of a nuclear power plant	Off-limits in principle, no lodging
	Planned evacuation zone	Areas where the annual cumulative dose exceeds 20 mSv	Entry is allowed, lodging is prohibited in principle.
	Emergency evacuation preparation zone	Within a 30-km radius of a nuclear power plant	Preparation for evacuation; entry and lodging allowed.
August 2013 Zoning review completed	Difficult-to-return zone	Areas where the annual cumulative dose exceeds 50 mSv	Off-limits in principle, no lodging
	Restricted residential areas	Areas where the annual cumulative dose is 20-50 mSv	Entry allowed, some business activities allowed, lodging prohibited in principle
	Areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders	Areas where it can be ascertained with certainty that the annual cumulative dose is 20 mSv or less	Entry allowed, business activities allowed, lodging prohibited in principle

[Reference: Administrative Records]

Figure 2-1-13 Progress of Reconstruction Headquarters (Administrative Records) (June 24, 2011 to February 10, 2012)

Month and day	Actions by the Reconstruction Headquarters	Actions in the field, etc.
2011		
June 24	○Basic Act enforced; Reconstruction Headquarters and Local Response Headquarters started up	
June 25	○The Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council (12th meeting) convened; decided on “proposals for reconstruction” and handed them over to Prime Minister Naoto Kan	
June 27	○Minister Matsumoto Appointed Minister in Charge of Reconstruction ○The Secretariat of the Reconstruction Headquarters commence activities (Sankaido Building)	○Local Response Headquarters in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures commence activities
June 28	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (1st meeting) convened; and Prime Minister Naoto Kan ordered the formulation of basic policies by the end of July	○Transport ratio of disaster waste to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities reaches 32%
June 29		○Fukushima Local Response Headquarters (1st meeting) convened
June 30		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (1st meeting) convened ○Miyagi Local Response Headquarters (1st meeting) convened ○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 24,000
July 1		○34,470 temporary housing units completed
July 2	○Minister Matsumoto paid visit to Governor of Fukushima Prefecture	
July 3	○Minister Matsumoto paid visit to Governors of Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures	
July 4		○“Meeting to exchange opinions on how administrative services should be provided to evacuees” held in Fukushima Prefecture
July 5	○Minister Hirano replaces Minister Matsumoto as Minister in Charge of Reconstruction	
July 8	○Prime Minister Kan gives instructions on “Draft Items for Consideration” for the formulation of Basic Reconstruction Policies at an informal meeting of cabinet ministers	
July 9	○Minister Hirano attended a “meeting to exchange opinions with municipalities” held in Kuji City, Iwate Prefecture ○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governors of Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures	
July 11		○“Meeting to exchange opinions with municipalities affected by the nuclear power plant accident (local tax system, etc.)” held in Fukushima Prefecture
July 12		○Transport ratio of disaster waste to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities reaches 38%
July 14		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 18,000
July 15		○38,950 temporary housing units completed
July 16		○“Meeting to exchange opinions with municipalities affected by the nuclear power plant accident” held in Fukushima Prefecture
July 18	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governor of Fukushima Prefecture	
July 19		○Each Local Response Headquarters held “meetings to exchange opinions with prefectures and municipalities on basic policies” in Iwate Prefecture (Kamaishi City), Miyagi Prefecture (Sendai City), and Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima City)
July 21	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (2nd meeting) convened; “Outline of Basic Policy” was prepared	
July 22	○“Guidelines for Land Use Adjustment for Smooth Guidance and Promotion of Private Sector Reconstruction Activities in Tsunami-Affected Areas” formulated	

July 23	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Sendai City and Shiogama City in Miyagi Prefecture	
July 24	○Minister Hirano paid visit to the Towns of Watari and Yamamoto in Miyagi Prefecture and Soma City and Minamisoma City in Fukushima Prefecture	
July 26	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (3rd meeting) convened; project scale, issues with financial resources, etc. discussed	○Japan Self-Defense Forces withdraw from Iwate Prefecture ○Transport ratio of disaster waste to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities reaches 43%
July 28		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 13,000
July 29	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (4th meeting) convened; “Basic Policy” determined	○43,390 temporary housing units completed
August 1		○Japan Self-Defense Forces withdraw from Miyagi Prefecture
August 2	○Minister Hirano makes remarks at an informal meeting of cabinet ministers on the formation of a Reconstruction Plan Formulation Support Team and a request for the preparation of the Reconstruction Project Plan and Timetable	
August 4	○Project team on the housing environment in emergency temporary housing, etc. (1st meeting) convened	
August 5		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (2nd meeting) convened
August 6	○Minister Hirano gives a lecture in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture on the revival of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Tohoku ○Minister Hirano paid visit to Sukagawa City, Fukushima Prefecture	
August 9		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 47%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 78% of waste is removed
August 10		○Fukushima Local Response Headquarters (2nd meeting) convened
August 11	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (5th meeting) convened; “Basic Policy” revised	○The Iwate Prefectural Government formulates Great East Japan Earthquake Tsunami Reconstruction Plan and abolishes disaster response headquarters ○The Fukushima Prefectural Government formulates its reconstruction vision ○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 8,600
August 12	○“Handbook on Reconstructing Livelihood (Vol. 3)” and “Temporary Housing Guide” issued	○Miyagi Local Response Headquarters (2nd meeting) convened; “Briefing Session on Basic Policy to Prefectures and Municipalities” held at the headquarters
August 19	○“Business Recovery Handbook (Vol. 3)” issued	○47,240 temporary housing units completed ○“Briefing Session on Basic Policy to Prefectures and Municipalities” held by the Iwate Local Headquarters in Ofunato City (using the occasion of the 3rd general meeting of the Iwate Association of Coastal Municipalities for Reconstruction)
August 20	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Iwaki City in Fukushima Prefecture and Kitaibaraki City, Hitachinaka City, and Mito City in Ibaraki Prefecture	
August 21	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture	
August 22		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (3rd meeting) convened
August 23		○“Briefing Session on Basic Policy to Prefectures and Municipalities” held by the Iwate Local Headquarters in Morioka City ○“Briefing Session on Basic Policy to Prefectures and Municipalities” held by the Fukushima Local Headquarters in Fukushima City
		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 51%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 83% of waste is removed
August 25	○“Reconstruction Agency Establishment Preparation Office” established	○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 6,800

August 26	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (6th meeting) convened (jointly held with the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters and the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters); compilation of project plans and timetables by each ministry, etc. carried out	○Miyagi Prefectural Government announces draft of disaster recovery plan ○48,612 temporary housing units completed
August 27	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (1st meeting) convened in Fukushima City (Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Minister Hirano attended)	
August 30		○Removal of scattered disaster waste near residential areas completed in all municipalities
August 31		○Dispatch of Japan Self-Defense Forces for earthquake disaster ends
September 1	○Disaster prevention drills (safety confirmation) conducted at the Reconstruction Headquarters Secretariat	
September 5		○49,124 temporary housing units completed
September 8	○Prime Minister Noda paid visit to the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture and attended a “Meeting to Exchange Opinions with Municipalities” held in Fukushima City (both accompanied by Minister Hirano) following visit to Fukushima Prefecture	○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 3,400
September 10	○Prime Minister Noda paid visit to Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture and Rikuzentakata City in Iwate Prefecture (accompanied by Minister Hirano)	
September 11	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (7th meeting) convened (jointly held with the Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters and the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters); present status of restoration, efforts to address major issues, etc. reported on	
September 12		○Miyagi Local Response Headquarters (3rd meeting) convened
September 13	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (1st meeting) convened in Fukushima City	
September 16	○Duties transferred from the “Earthquake Disaster Volunteer Cooperation Office”!	
September 19	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture (exchanged opinions with evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture; inspected disaster prevention and collective relocation promotion project)	
September 20	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (8th meeting) convened; financial measures for restoration and reconstruction and the third supplementary budget for FY2011 discussed	○50,099 temporary housing units completed ○Announcement of future prospects for evacuation centers (14) outside the 3 disaster-stricken prefectures (11 planned to be closed by the end of FY 2011)
September 21		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 56%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 88% of waste is removed
September 22		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 2,800
September 28		○Fukushima Local Response Headquarters (3rd meeting) convened
September 30	○Project team on the housing environment in emergency temporary housing, etc. (2nd meeting) convened; report on the results of a questionnaire on areas such as the residential environment of facilities, etc. and concerns released	○Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters lifts emergency evacuation preparation zones
October 2	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governor of Fukushima Prefecture	
October 3		○50,834 temporary housing units completed
October 4		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (4th meeting) convened
		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 58%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 89% of waste is removed

October 5		○Visits to municipalities by Nuclear Power Station Accident Municipality Reconstruction Assistance Team commence
October 6		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 1,700
		○Opinion exchange meeting held with Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture and mayors of related municipalities in Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture
October 7	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (9th meeting) convened; third supplementary budget for FY2011 and other matters reported on ○Minister Hirano remarks on review of the Project Plan and Roadmap for Reconstruction Measures at an Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting ○Minister Hirano, together with Minister Edano, paid visit to the Chairperson of Keidanren and requested cooperation from the business community in reconstruction, the promotion of the establishment of facilities in Fukushima, etc.	○All evacuation shelters in Iwate Prefecture closed
October 12	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Miyako City and The towns of Yamada and Otsuchi in Iwate Prefecture (for discussions on reconstruction plans, etc.)	
October 15	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Soma City, Minamisoma City and the Town of Shinchi in Fukushima Prefecture	
October 17	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (2nd meeting) convened in Fukushima City (Minister Hirano attended)	○51,492 temporary housing units completed
October 18		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 60%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 90% of waste is removed
October 19		○Miyagi Prefectural Government formulates disaster recovery plan
October 20		○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Iwate Prefecture
		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 1,100
October 21	○Project team on the housing environment in emergency temporary housing, etc. (3rd meeting) convened; “Response based on the results of a questionnaire survey on the housing environment in emergency temporary housing (interim report)” announced ○Third supplementary budget draft for FY2011 decided on by the Cabinet	○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures
October 23	○Minister Hirano paid visit to the Mayor of the Town of Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture at Futaba Town Hall, Saitama Branch Office, Kazo City	
October 24		○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Ibaraki Prefecture
October 25		○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Aomori Prefecture
October 27		○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Chiba Prefecture
October 28	○Third supplementary budget draft for FY2011 submitted to Diet ○Cabinet decided on the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and submitted it to Diet	
October 29	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Town of Hirono and Village of Kawauchi, Fukushima Prefecture and inspected no-entry zones (Towns of Naraha and Tomioka) from inside a car	
October 30	○Minister Hirano visited Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture and exchanged opinions with the Deputy Governor of Aomori Prefecture, the Mayor of Misawa City, the Mayor of the Town of Oirase, the Mayor of Hachinohe City, the Deputy Mayor of the Town of Hashikami and disaster victims	

October 31		○51,712 temporary housing units completed
November 1	○Cabinet decided on bill on establishment of the Reconstruction Agency and submitted it to Diet	○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 61%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 90% of waste is removed
November 2		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 930
November 5	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Ninohe City, Village of Noda, Village of Fudai, Village of Tanohata Village and Iwaizumi Town, Iwate Prefecture, where he exchanged opinions with local mayors and residents of temporary housing	
November 10	○The Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council (13th meeting) convened; present status of reconstruction, efforts for major issues, etc. reported on	
November 11		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (5th meeting) convened
November 14		○51,886 temporary housing units completed
November 15		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 63%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 92% of waste is removed
November 16	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (2nd meeting) convened in Fukushima City	
November 17		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 780
November 20	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Towns of Onagawa and Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture, where he exchanged opinions with local mayors and residents of temporary housing	
November 21	○Third supplementary budget for FY2011 passed ○Act on Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake enacted	
November 24		○“Briefing Session on Reconstruction-Related Programs, etc.” held in Tochigi Prefecture
November 26	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governor of Miyagi Prefecture and to Higashimatsushima City	
November 27	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governor of Iwate Prefecture and to Ichinoseki City	
November 28		○52,041 temporary housing units completed
November 29	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (10th meeting) convened; review of project plans and timetables of each ministry, etc. conducted	○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 65%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 95% of waste is removed
November 30	○“Handbook on Reconstructing Livelihood (Vol. 4)” and “Business Recovery Handbook (Vol. 4)” issued	
December 1		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 700
December 3	○Minister Hirano attended “Futaba Regional Rally for Full Compensation for Nuclear Damage” held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture	
December 7	○Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake enacted	
December 9	○Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act enacted	
December 10	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Governor of Fukushima Prefecture and presents “Outline of a Special Bill for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima”	
December 12		○Miyagi Local Response Headquarters (4th meeting) convened
December 13	○Project team on the housing environment in emergency temporary housing, etc. (4th meeting) convened	○52,120 temporary housing units completed ○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 67%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 95% of waste is removed

December 14		○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures
December 15		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 680
December 16		○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Iwate Prefecture
December 18	○Minister Hirano attended exchange of opinions with Governor of Fukushima Prefecture and mayors of related municipalities in Nuclear no-entry zone, etc.	○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (6th meeting) convened
December 19		○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Chiba Prefecture
December 20	○“Lifestyle Guide (Winter Edition)” issued	○Japan Self-Defense Forces withdraw from Fukushima Prefecture
December 21		○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Aomori and Ibaraki Prefectures
December 26	○Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake enforced	○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 68%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 95% of waste is removed
December 27	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (11th meeting) convened; draft of “Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction” determined	○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Tochigi Prefecture
December 30	○Meeting of Experts on Prevention of Isolation and Mental Care of Disaster Victims held	○52,182 temporary housing units completed
December 30		○All evacuation shelters in Miyagi Prefecture closed
2012		
January 3	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Mayors of the Towns of Okuma and Namie, Fukushima Prefecture	
January 4	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Mayors of the Towns of Tomioka and Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture	
January 6	○Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction decided on by the Cabinet	○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Niigata Prefecture
January 8	○Prime Minister Noda paid visit Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture, and after exchanging opinions with Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, attended Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (3rd meeting) (visit and exchange of opinions accompanied by Minister Hirano).	
January 10	○Prime Minister Noda paid visit to facilities eligible for group subsidies, etc. in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture and Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture and exchanged opinions with residents of temporary housing (accompanied by Minister Hirano)	
January 12		○The number of people in evacuation shelters nationwide becomes approx. 610
January 13		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 69%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 95% of waste is removed
January 15	○Minister Hirano paid visit to Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture	○“Briefing Session on Special Reconstruction Zones and Grants” held in Hokkaido
January 17	○Recovery and Reconstruction Support System Database released	
	○“Tax Support Handbook” (revised edition) issued	○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 69%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 96% of waste is removed

January 23	○Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Headquarters (12th meeting) convened; establishment of Reconstruction Agency (date and location of installation) decided on; status of deliberations on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (tentative name) and the proposed budget for reconstruction in FY2012 reported on, including current status of major issues and response policies and current status of reconstruction and efforts for major issues	
January 27		○Iwate Local Response Headquarters (7th meeting) convened
January 28	○Minister Hirano exchanged opinions with Governor of Fukushima Prefecture in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture, then attended symposium titled “Course to the Future of Tohoku Revitalization” in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture	
January 31		○The ratio of disaster waste transported to temporary storage sites in coastal municipalities becomes 70%; where scattered disaster waste is concerned, 96% of waste is removed
February 4	○Minister Hirano attended Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (4th meeting)	
February 9		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans approved for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 1), Miyagi Prefecture and related municipalities (Miyagi No. 1)
February 10	○Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act enforced; Reconstruction Agency inaugurated (Minister Hirano appointed as Minister for Reconstruction; Senior Vice-Ministers Matsushita, Suematsu and Nakatsuka appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Tsugawa, Kori, Yoshida and Okushi appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction.) ○Cabinet decided on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima and submitted it to Diet	○Regional Bureaus of Reconstruction (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures), branch offices (Miyako, Kamaishi, Kesennuma, Ishinomaki, Minamisoma and Iwaki Cities) and offices (Aomori and Ibaraki Prefectures) established

Sources: “Progress of the Reconstruction Headquarters (Administrative Records) (Unfinished Draft)” (as of February 9, 2012) and “Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (Unfinished Draft)” (as of December 31, 2018)

(2) From Establishment of Reconstruction Agency to Establishment of Second Abe Cabinet

(February to December 2012)

The period between the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency on February 10, 2012 and the formation of the second Abe Cabinet in response to the results of the 46 general election of members of the House of Representatives held on December 16 that year was a period during which the establishment of the Special Account for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the start of distribution of reconstruction grants, the establishment of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima and other efforts took place, and the formulation of individual project plans and the commencement of projects for reconstruction began in earnest.

1) Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction

(Current situation)

In March 2012, about 1 year after the disaster, the supply of emergency temporary housing was progressing disaster-affected areas, evacuation shelters were mostly dissolved and the development and use of temporary shops and factories were progressing. However, the number of evacuees still exceeded 300,000, and the resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that were damaged in the 3 prefectures was at around 50%, perpetuating a grim picture of employment.

Additionally, in areas affected by the nuclear disaster, decontamination work and the restoration of infrastructure were being carried out in conjunction with the review of no-entry zones and other areas based on the decision of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on December 26, 2011. However, the number of evacuees from areas under evacuation orders exceeded 110,000, with approximately 70% evacuating within the prefecture and approximately 30% evacuating outside the prefecture.

(Efforts)

Against this background, the Reconstruction Agency was established in February 2012 to take over the functions of the Reconstruction Headquarters. As a temporary organization until March 2021, the Reconstruction Agency was expected to play a central role in planning, coordinating and implementing national policies on reconstruction, as well as serving as a central point of contact for local governments.

Up to about 316,000 people (as of April 2012) were living in the emergency temporary housing. In response to concerns that the community might become weak and isolated, the Iwate Mental Care Center and the Fukushima Mental Care Center were established in February 2012 to provide counseling to the victims and continue to provide support for their mental health and to create a sense of purpose in their lives, as well as to conduct other efforts.

With regard to public infrastructure, alongside the commencement of reconstruction projects in earnest. In August 2012, the construction of the first disaster prevention collective relocation promotion project started in Iwanuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, and the construction of the first public housing for disaster victims was completed in Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture. Plans for individual reconstruction community development projects were also being increasingly formulated and implemented, and unprecedented generous support through reconstruction grants got underway.

In February 2012, the Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake was established to revitalize industries and livelihoods. That April, efforts such as matching and hands-on support were promoted, and the industrial production index of the entire disaster-affected area remained at the same level as before the earthquake. However, there were still problems to be solved for full-scale industrial reconstruction. Also, agricultural output in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures recovered to a level exceeding that before the earthquake. Simultaneously, almost all fishing ports became able to partially unload fish. In June 2012, trial fishing operations in Fukushima Prefecture also commenced.

In response to the nuclear disaster, the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima ("Fukushima Special Measures Act") was enacted in March 2012 to prescribe areas such as the basic policy for carrying out the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima under the responsibility of the national government. That July, the Basic Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima based on the Act was decided on by the Cabinet. Since April 2012, the government has been successively reviewing areas under evacuation orders in each of the 12 municipalities (Tamura City, Minamisoma City, Town of Kawamata, Town of Hirono, Town of Naraha, Town of Tomioka, Town of Kawauchi, Town of Okuma, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie, Village of Katsurao and Village of Iitate) affected by the nuclear disaster. Also, decontamination implementation plans in special areas based on the Decontamination Special Measures Act were successively formulated, and full-scale decontamination got underway.

2) Main Actions of the National Government, etc.

a. Enforcement of the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act (February 10, 2012)

The enforcement date of the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act was specified as within four months from its promulgation on December 16, 2011. A supplementary resolution to the same Act stipulated that the Reconstruction Agency should be inaugurated by March 1, 2012 at the latest. However, preparations for the establishment were rushed further, and the Act was enforced on February 10, 2012, at which time the Reconstruction Agency was inaugurated and started operations.

The head office was located in the same Sankaido Building (Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo) as the secretariat of the Reconstruction Headquarters, the Regional Bureau of Reconstruction and its branch offices were located in the three disaster-affected prefectures, and its offices were located in Aomori and Ibaraki Prefectures. As of April 1, 2012, the number of permanent staff was 310, comprising 201 at the Headquarters and 109 at the Regional Bureau of Reconstruction. In May 2016, after the end of the concentrated reconstruction period, the head office was relocated from the Sankaido Building to Central Government Building No. 4 (Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo).

b. Holding of Memorial Ceremony for the First Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (March 11, 2012)

On January 20, 2012, prior to the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, the “Implementation of a Memorial Ceremony for the First Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake” was decided on by the Cabinet, and the Preparation Office for the Memorial Ceremony for the First Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake was established in the Cabinet Office Minister's Secretariat.

There had never been a government-sponsored memorial service for a natural disaster. However, given that the Great East Japan Earthquake affected a wide area and caused an extremely large number of victims, among other factors, on March 11, 2012, a memorial service was held at the National Theatre in Tokyo in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, with the Prime Minister as the executive committee chairperson and the Cabinet Office as the secretariat, with the participation of representatives from various fields. Since then, a government-sponsored memorial service has been held at the same venue from the second to the tenth anniversary. Note that in March 2020, the ninth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the memorial ceremony was cancelled due to the spread of the novel coronavirus. Instead, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's Official Residence.

c. Enactment of Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (March 30, 2012)

The Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake was enacted in December 2011, and various other legislative measures were also taken for recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. However, measures based on these were mainly targeted at earthquake and tsunami disaster-affected areas, and did not take into account the areas affected by the nuclear disaster. For that reason, Fukushima Prefecture also called for the need to establish a special law, and it was specified in the “2011 Basic Guidelines for Reconstructing from the Great East Japan Earthquake” that “The national government will coordinate with local governments, establish a forum for discussions for reconstruction from the nuclear disaster as soon as possible, and consider legal measures and reach a conclusion quickly to take adequate measures for reconstruction, including measures for regional revitalization and compensation for damage.”

At the 1st meeting of the Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (August 27, 2011), the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture made a request for the enactment of a special law for regional revitalization specifically for Fukushima Prefecture. Minister of State for Reconstruction Hirano stated that he would expedite the formulation of this special law.

In light of these circumstances, the Secretariat of the Reconstruction Headquarters spearheaded deliberations, and after coordinating with local governments in the Council, within the government and with the ruling parties, the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima was decided on by the Cabinet and submitted to the Diet on February 10, 2012. The main contents of the bill were special measures for the reconstruction and revitalization of areas where evacuation orders have been lifted, measures for the elimination of health concerns caused by radiation and the realization of a living environment where people can live with peace of mind, special measures for the reconstruction and revitalization of industry following the nuclear disaster and measures for the intensive promotion of efforts that contribute to the creation of new industries.

In the deliberations by the Diet, the government's draft was considered to be insufficient, and was amended to include provisions on the social responsibility of the national government, reconstruction for each resident, the

exemplification of the health management survey by Fukushima Prefecture and the addition of financial measures. On March 30, 2012, the draft was unanimously approved and enacted by the plenary session of the House of Councillors, and promulgated on the following day, March 31, and was enforced with certain exceptions.

Under this Fukushima Special Measures Act, the government established the Basic Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima and, based on a proposal from the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, formulated a Plan for Reconstruction and Revitalization of zones where Evacuation Orders have been lifted or are to be lifted under which the national government was to develop public facilities and restore the functions of public and public facilities. In Fukushima Prefecture, special measures on regulations and procedures were applied by preparing an industrial reconstruction and revitalization plan for the purpose of industrial reconstruction and revitalization and obtaining the approval of the Prime Minister. Furthermore, a priority promotion plan was prepared for the development of research and development bases for renewable energy-related industries and pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, which the national government was to promote it in an integrated manner after obtaining the approval of the Prime Minister. Simultaneously, the Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster, which had been conventionally held, was designated as a legal council.

Note that the Fukushima Special Measures Law was substantially revised four times since its enactment until the end of the first reconstruction/revitalization period.

Figure 2-1-14 Major Amendments to the Fukushima Special Measures Act

Enactment Date	Amended Act	Item
April 26, 2013	Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Act No. 12 of 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of living bases for long-term evacuees (Establishment of subsidy for formation of living bases) • Reconstruction and revitalization of public infrastructure (Enhancement of areas subject to national government agency for public works projects) • Further promotion of the establishment of new businesses through special provisions on taxation, etc. (Addition for new business operators, etc.)
April 24, 2015	Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Act No. 20 of 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a collective reconstruction and revitalization base development system • Establishment of the Subsidy for Improvement of Returning Environment • Special Provisions on Taxation to Support Business Resumption (Reserve for Fukushima Resumption Investment, etc.)
May 12, 2017	Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Act No. 32 of 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a planning system for promoting the reconstruction and revitalization of specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA) • Reinforcement of structure for joint public-private teams • Legalization of the promotion of the “Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework” • Measures to eliminate harmful rumors
June 5, 2020	Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. (Act No. 46 of 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of migration, etc. in addition to repatriation • Acceleration of the resumption of agricultural business • Promotion of industrial clusters centered on the implementation of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework • Measures to address harmful rumors • Establishment of a system in which Fukushima Prefecture prepares a plan for the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima and receives approval of the national government

[Reference: Administrative Records]

Figure 2-1-15 Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (February 10, 2012 to December 26, 2012)

Month and day	Actions by the Reconstruction Agency	Actions in the field, etc.
2012		
February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act enforced; Reconstruction Agency inaugurated (Minister Hirano appointed as Minister for Reconstruction; Senior Vice-Ministers Matsushita, Suematsu and Nakatsuka appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Tsugawa, Kori, Yoshida and Okushi appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction.) ○Cabinet decided on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima and submitted it to Diet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Regional Bureaus of Reconstruction (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures), branch offices (Miyako, Kamaishi, Kesennuma, Ishinomaki, Minamisoma and Iwaki Cities) and offices (Aomori and Ibaraki Prefectures) established
February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (Ministerial Conference) (1st meeting) convened; major issues for reconstruction discussed 	
February 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Miyagi Prefecture (1st meeting) convened
February 19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Iwate Prefecture (1st meeting) convened
February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake established ○Municipalities subject to the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake were added (Town of Shikabe, Kayabe County, Hokkaido; Town of Yakumo, Futami County; Noda City and Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture; and Village of Nozawaonsen, Nagano Prefecture). ○Status of implementation of Great East Japan Earthquake recovery and reconstruction budget published 	
February 27		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of opinions held between Minister Hirano and four municipalities (Tamura City, Minamisoma City, Town of Kawamata and Village of Iitate)
March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (1st Round) issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Aomori Prefecture and 4 cities/towns in the prefecture (Aomori No. 1) and Sendai City (Miyagi No. 2) approved
March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Operations of Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake commence 	
March 9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Ibaraki Prefecture and 13 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Ibaraki No. 1) approved
March 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of opinions held among towns/villages in Futaba region, Fukushima Prefecture and national government
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Memorial Ceremony for the First Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater) 	
March 16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Fukushima Prefecture (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 1) approved
March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (meeting of experts; 1st meeting) convened; reconstruction issues discussed 	
March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Briefing Session for Foreign Corporations and Diplomatic Corps on Special Reconstruction Zones, etc. (Tokyo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Shiogama City (Miyagi No. 3) and Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 4 and No. 5) approved
March 24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Iwate Prefecture (2nd meeting) convened
March 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Miyagi Prefecture (2nd meeting) convened
March 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Establishment of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Promulgated on March 31) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 2) approved
March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 344,000 ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (776 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 417 facilities ○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 152,000

April 2	○Establishment of the “Corporate Partnership Promotion Office”	
April 10		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Miyagi Prefecture (Miyagi No. 6) approved
April 20		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Fukushima Prefecture and 59 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Fukushima No. 2 and No. 3) and for Aizuwakamatsu City (Fukushima No. 4) approved
April 22		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (5th meeting) convened (1st statutory Council meeting)
		○Exchange of opinions held among towns/villages in Futaba region and national government
April 27	○Number of disaster-related deaths from Great East Japan Earthquake (preliminary figures) published	○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Fukushima Prefecture)
May 11	○Study Group on Disaster-Related Deaths (1st meeting)	
May 15		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Miyagi Prefecture)
May 16		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Iwate Prefecture)
May 18	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (2nd meeting) convened; review of project plans and timetables of each ministry, etc. conducted	
May 25	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (2nd Round) issued	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Miyagi Prefecture and 30 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 1) approved
May 30	○Minister Hirano paid a visit to Kingdom Thailand; delivered keynote speech at East Asia Conference of the World Economic Forum on response to large-scale disasters; also held talks with Thai government ministers	
June 1		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (3rd meeting) convened
June 4	○Parliamentary Vice-Minister Yoshida appointed as Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction in place of Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister Matsushita following Cabinet reshuffle	○Council meeting held among towns/villages in Futaba region, Fukushima Prefecture and national government (at administrative level)
June 5	○Parliamentary Vice-Minister Wakaizumi appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Reconstruction	
	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (2nd meeting) convened; field survey and reconstruction issues discussed	
June 9		○Council meeting held among towns/villages in Futaba region, Fukushima Prefecture and national government
		○Council meeting held among local governments affected by nuclear disaster (excluding towns/villages in Futaba region), Fukushima Prefecture and national government
June 12		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Miyagi Prefecture and 17 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 7) approved
June 21	○Child Disaster Victims Support Act enacted	
June 22		○Council meeting held among towns/villages in Futaba region, Fukushima Prefecture and national government (at administrative level) (2nd meeting)
June 23		○Exchange of opinions held with evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture in Yamagata Prefecture
		○Exchange of opinions held with regional public bodies accepting evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture in Yamagata Prefecture
June 26	○Report published on methods for ascertaining	○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Misawa City (Aomori No. 2) approved
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 347,000
		○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 22 districts [As of May 1, 2012]
		○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (776 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 472 facilities
		○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 196,000

July 1		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (6th meeting) convened
July 5	○Minister Hirano delivered keynote speech at World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku	
July 7		○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Miyagi Prefecture (3rd meeting) convened
July 8		○Exchange of Opinions between the National Government and Iwate Prefecture (3rd meeting) convened
July 12	○Study Group on Disaster-Related Deaths (2nd meeting)	
July 13	○Basic Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima decided on by the Cabinet	
July 27		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 8) and Minamisoma City (Fukushima No. 5) approved
August 1	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (3rd meeting) convened; interim report discussed	
August 3	○Liaison Committee on Land Boundary Rights and Other Issues Related to Recovery and Reconstruction established	○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Kamaishi City (Iwate No. 3) and Fukushima Prefecture and 59 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Fukushima No. 6) approved
August 5		○First disaster prevention collective relocation promotion project initiated (Iwanuma City, Miyagi Prefecture)
August 7	○Roadmap for public infrastructure in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders (Minamisoma City, Tamura City, Village of Kawauchi and Town of Hirono) published	
August 8		○First disaster public housing completed in Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture
August 10		○First living environment improvement project based on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima completed in Town of Naraha
August 17		○First survey on residents' attitudes toward evacuees, etc. from first nuclear power station accident conducted jointly by municipalities, Fukushima Prefecture and national government initiated in Village of Katsurao
August 19		○Council meeting held among towns/villages in Futaba region, Fukushima Prefecture and national government
August 21	○Study Group on Disaster-Related Deaths (3rd meeting); report on disaster-related deaths	
August 24	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (3rd Round) issued	
August 28		○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 2) modified and approved
September 4	○“National Policy on Efforts for Nuclear Disaster Victims and Local Governments in Evacuation Areas Due to the Nuclear Power Plant Accident” (Grand Design) published	
September 14	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (4th meeting) convened; draft of interim report discussed ○Indicators for full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure set and published	
September 19	○Briefing Session for Foreign Corporations and Diplomatic Corps on Special Reconstruction Zones, etc. (Tokyo)	
September 22		○Council for the Study of Living Centers for Long-Term Evacuees (Comprised of the national government, Fukushima Prefecture, evacuation source municipalities, host municipalities, etc.) (1st meeting)

September 28	○“Reconstruction Promotion Council FY2012 Interim Report” published	○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Ibaraki Prefecture and 9 cities/towns in the prefecture (Ibaraki No. 1) and for Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 8) modified and approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Town of Shichigahama (Miyagi No. 9) and Miyagi Prefecture and 11 cities/towns in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 10) approved
September		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 330,000 ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 102 districts [As of September 1, 2012] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (800 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 528 facilities ○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 229,000
October 2	○Senior Vice-Minister Kikawada and Senior Vice-Minister Konno appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction in place of Senior Vice-Minister Suematsu and Senior Vice-Minister Yoshida following Cabinet reshuffle	○Ministerial briefing by Reconstruction Cooperation Team held ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Hachinohe City (Aomori No. 2) approved ○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Miyagi Prefecture) (until October 28) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Ibaraki Prefecture and 40 cities/towns in the prefecture (Ibaraki No. 2) approved
October 3	○Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Maekawa appointed as Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction in place of Senior Vice-Minister Nakatsuka and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Kaneko, Hashimoto and Kagaya appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of Reconstruction in place of Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Wakaizumi, Tsugawa and Ogushi following Cabinet reshuffle	
October 9	○Minister Hirano delivered keynote speech at Sendai Conference on Disaster Prevention and Development	
October 11		
October 12		
October 16	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (3rd meeting) convened; “Reconstruction Promotion Council FY 2012 Interim Report” explained; requested for efforts to address issues for reconstruction issued each ministry; Nuclear Disaster Reconstruction Promotion Team established	
October 27		
October 30		
November 2	○Roadmap for public infrastructure in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. (Village of Iitate and Town of Naraha) published ○Number of disaster-related deaths from Great East Japan Earthquake (as of September 30, 2012) published	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Iwaki City (Fukushima No. 7) and Minamisoma City (Fukushima No. 8) approved
November 5	○“Case Studies of Cooperation among Various Stakeholders in Reconstruction” published ○“Reconstruction from the Perspective of Gender Equality: Reference Case Studies” published	
November 9	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (5th meeting) convened, reported by 3 prefectures and relevant ministries and agencies on status of reconstruction efforts, etc. ○Nuclear Disaster Recovery Promotion Team (1st meeting) convened; outline of implementation of residents' intention survey in the disaster-affected municipalities, fact-finding survey on evacuation upon TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, etc. explained and discussed	
November 12	○Request issued to Nuclear Regulation Authority and the Director-General of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency for assessment of surrounding area of TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, etc.	
November 13		

November 22	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet	○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Fukushima Prefecture) (until November 15) ○Participating companies for “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program decided on (Miyagi Prefecture)
November 27	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (4th meeting) convened; decision on “Basic Concept on Future Reconstruction Budgets,” etc.	○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Iwate Prefecture) (until November 29)
November 28		○First meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Ishinomaki City
November 30	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (4th Round) issued	
December 2		○Exchange of opinions held between national government and Miyagi Prefecture in Sendai City and between national government and Iwate Prefecture in Morioka City
December 4		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (southern Iwate and northern Miyagi Prefectures) (until December 6)
December 13	○Case studies of activities by volunteers, NPOs, public interest corporations, etc. published	
December 14	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (6th meeting) convened; reports from experts; reported on status of efforts for reconstruction from nuclear disaster including Fukushima; etc. ○Roadmap for public infrastructure in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. (Town of Tomioka) published	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Miyagi Prefecture and 34 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 1) modified and approved; Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Tagajo City (Miyagi No. 12) and Higashimatsushima City (Miyagi No. 13) approved
December 21		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Bandai-machi (Fukushima No. 9) approved
December 26	○Minister Nemoto appointed as Minister for Reconstruction with inauguration of Abe Cabinet	

Source: “Progress of Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (Unfinished Draft)” (as of December 31, 2018)

(3) From Formation of Second Abe Cabinet to End of Concentrated Reconstruction Period

(From December 2012 to March 2016)

The period from the establishment of the second Abe Cabinet on December 26, 2012 to the end of the concentrated reconstruction period in March 2016 is a period during which reconstruction is in the process of moving to a new stage, including working towards accelerating reconstruction, strengthening measures to support disaster victims, etc. by reviewing the reconstruction funding framework, positioning the latter 5 years of the 10-year reconstruction period are designated as the “Reconstruction and Revitalization Period” and formulating basic policies for reconstruction from FY2016 onward.

1) Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction

(Current situation)

In December 2012, a little less than 2 years after the disaster, in addition to most of the evacuees in the disaster-affected areas moving to emergency temporary housing, etc., major lifelines and public services were almost restored except for areas where houses and other structures were washed away and no-entry zones. Additionally, industrial production in disaster-affected areas as a whole has been recovering, with the difference between the disaster-affected and non-affected areas narrowing. On the other hand, the number of residents living in temporary stores and factories reached its peak in December 2013, and the reconstruction of housing and industrial reconstruction in the tsunami-flooded areas had become issues. As for disaster waste, 86% of it was transported to temporary storage sites, and 34% of it was fully processed and disposed of.

In the areas affected by the nuclear disaster, the evacuation areas were reviewed in 6 municipalities (Village of Kawauchi, Tamura City, Minamisoma City, Village of Iitate, Town of Naraha and Town of Okuma) out of 11 municipalities designated as no-entry zones and planned evacuation zones by December 2012 in consideration of the reduction of air dose rates and other factors. In addition, decontamination under the direct control of the national government commenced in 4 municipalities. At that time, the number of evacuees in Fukushima Prefecture as a whole was approximately 159,000, and the number of evacuees from areas under evacuation orders, etc. was approximately 111,000.

(Efforts)

Under these circumstances, the second Abe administration got off the ground in December 2012. The government worked to accelerate reconstruction by revising the financial resource framework in January 2013, then followed this with the establishment of the Tokyo-Fukushima 2 Headquarters structure through the establishment of the Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization General Bureau and other bodies that February, the revision of the financial resource framework in January 2015, and other efforts. In March 2016, the government decided on the basic policy for reconstruction during the Reconstruction and Revitalization Period.

With regard to disaster victims, in addition to expectations that their evacuation would be prolonged, there were concerns about various inconveniences, etc. in settling their lives even if they moved into disaster public housing or other facilities. For this reason, in November 2013, the “Task Force on Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims” was established, chaired by the Minister for Reconstruction. This task force examined the existing measures of the Cabinet Office and each Ministry, and that December, the “Policy Package on Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims” was compiled. Also, in addition to implementing information support projects for voluntary evacuees outside the prefecture, in FY2015, the government established a general subsidy for health and livelihood support for disaster victims so that more flexible and effective support can be implemented according to the needs of disaster-affected municipalities as the stage of reconstruction progresses. In doing so, it endeavored to strengthen support for disaster victims.

In February 2013, the Ministry of Reconstruction established the Task Force for the Acceleration of Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development under the direction of the Minister for Reconstruction in order to accelerate the reconstruction community development projects in response to problems such as land whose owners who are not yet known and sluggish bids. The Task Force published 5 measures for that acceleration. In May 2014, the Act on Special Reconstruction Zones was amended to ease the requirements for expropriation of land. By the end of FY2015, the construction initiation rate and completion rate for disaster prevention collective relocation and land readjustment projects had reached 99% and 45%, respectively, and the construction initiation rate and completion rate for disaster public housing had reached 97% and 58%, respectively. Additionally, the disposal of disaster waste and tsunami deposits was completed by March 2014 except for some areas in Fukushima Prefecture, In March 2015, the Joban Expressway was fully opened.

For disaster-affected business operators, in addition to support for the resumption and continuation of business

activities by, for example, starting a subsidy for the establishment of businesses in tsunami-affected areas in FY2013, the “Strategy for Industrial Reconstruction and Creation” was compiled in June 2014 to help encourage creative efforts and challenges by those operators.

In response to the nuclear disaster, the government compiled the “Early Return and Settlement Plan” in March 2013 in order to realize the return of residents as soon as possible for the reconstruction of the evacuated areas. It also established the Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grant to support the securing of living bases. Additionally, in June 2014, the “Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework” was compiled to present a vision for the future of the region. Also, in August 2015, Soso Fukushima established a joint public-private reconstruction team to start providing individual support to disaster-affected business operators.

During this time, the review of areas under evacuation orders was completed in August 2013. Additionally, the government lifted the evacuation order for Tamura City in April 2014 and the Village of Kawauchi that October. In September 2015, it lifted the evacuation order for the Town of Naraha, the first municipality in which all residents had evacuated. That March, the trial delivery of removed soil, etc. to interim storage facilities (Towns of Okuma and Futaba) commenced.

2) Main Actions of the National Government, etc.

a. Decision on Scale and Financial Resources for Future Recovery and Reconstruction Projects (January 29, 2013)

In the 2011 Basic Guidelines, the scale of the project was set at the range of 19 trillion yen at minimum during the concentrated reconstruction period. However, approx. 17.5 trillion yen was allocated in the budget up to FY2012 and approx. 3.3 trillion yen in the draft budget for FY2013. Furthermore, as of January 2013, approx. 2.7 trillion yen was expected to be definitely implemented in FY2014 and FY2015.

Amid this situation, on January 10, 2013, the Reconstruction Promotion Council convened for the first time since the establishment of the second Abe Cabinet. Prime Minister Abe issued the following instructions:

- In order for the Reconstruction Agency to demonstrate its true value as a control tower, the structure and efforts should be rigorously examined and thoroughly reviewed based on the Genba-oriented approach (bottom-up approach). In particular, in order to overcome the current situation in Fukushima Prefecture, where reconstruction and decontamination work are carried out based on a vertical hierarchy, a structure should be developed to mobilize the power of relevant ministries and agencies under the leadership of the Minister for Reconstruction, who is in charge of the general coordination of revitalization following the Fukushima nuclear power station accident.
- A two-head office system, meaning a two-head office system consisting of the Tokyo Head Office and the Fukushima Head Office rather than the Tokyo Head Office and the Fukushima Office, should be established so that decisions that include the Reconstruction Agency senior executives can be made on the ground regarding comprehensive planning and promotion of reconstruction in Fukushima.
- The reconstruction budget frame of 19 trillion yen over 5 years should be reviewed to dispel concerns about securing the budget, and the use of funds should be tightened so as not to invite criticism such as misappropriation.
- Steps and targets should be set for housing reconstruction, community development and the securing of livelihoods. In addition, acceleration measures should be specified and strongly promoted. At that time, the criticisms and requests of the disaster-affected areas regarding various systems, etc. should be listened and respond to flexibly.
- Plans for early return and settlement should be prepared so that disaster victims have hope for the future. As a concrete effort, in order to promote early return, measures that can support free efforts according to the actual conditions of the region should be realized as part of economic measures. For efforts to continue living in Fukushima Prefecture with peace of mind and the securing of living bases for people forced to evacuate for a long time, measures should be taken at an early stage to fully respond to the voices of people from disaster-affected areas.
- Decontamination from cutting corners betrays the trust of disaster victims and cannot be tolerated. In order to prevent such problems from occurring, measures should be taken at an early stage to ensure thorough verification and prevention of recurrence. Additionally, for decontamination as well, the government should make concerted efforts under the comprehensive planning and promotion of the Minister for Reconstruction, who is in charge of the general coordination of revitalization following the Fukushima nuclear power station accident.
- The Minister for Reconstruction, with the cooperation of the relevant Ministers, should promptly compile efforts aimed at the acceleration of reconstruction, starting with those mentioned above.

- Moreover, for the Reconstruction Promotion Council as well, the new appointment of members is requested to study and deliberate on the progress of reconstruction.

Based on these instructions, at the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council that convened on January 29, the “scale and financial resources for future recovery and reconstruction projects” was decided on. According to the decision, the scale of the recovery and reconstruction projects for the concentrated reconstruction period was expected to be at least approx. 23.5 trillion yen, and financial resources would be secured in the amount of approx. 25 trillion yen in total, including approx. 19 trillion yen already secured plus approx. 4 trillion yen from the expected sale of shares of Japan Post and approx. 2 trillion yen from the surplus in the settlement of accounts for FY2011, etc.

b. Establishment of the Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization General Bureau (February 1, 2013)

Based on the Prime Minister's instructions at the meeting of Reconstruction Promotion Council on January 10, 2013, the Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization General Bureau was established in Fukushima City with the Prime Minister's approval on February 1 of the same year. The members of the Bureau consisted of the Minister for Reconstruction, the Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction, the Senior Vice-Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry and the Senior Vice-Minister for the Environment. In addition, assigned to the Secretariat under the Bureau were the Executive Secretary (Previously, a former administrative vice minister of the Reconstruction Agency was appointed), the Administrative Vice-Minister of the Reconstruction Agency, the Director-General of the Reconstruction Agency, the Director-General of the Fukushima Regional Bureau of Reconstruction, the Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear Disaster Local Response Headquarters, the Director-General of the Fukushima Regional Environment Office and so forth. As a result, it was decided that the local organization should be operated in an integrated manner for the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima, starting with its decontamination, and that the harmful effects of a vertical hierarchy should be eliminated and a system should be established in which immediate decisions can be made at the local level.

Additionally, on the same day, based on the decision of the Minister for Reconstruction, the Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization Headquarters was established in Tokyo, with the Minister for Reconstruction serving as the head of the Headquarters and director-general-level members of relevant ministries and agencies serving as the headquarters members, thereby strengthening the central government functions related to the reconstruction of Fukushima. As a result, the “Fukushima and Tokyo Two Head Office System” was established for the comprehensive planning and promotion of the reconstruction of Fukushima.

c. Convening of Fukushima International Research Industry City (Innovation Coast) Framework Association (January 21, 2014)

In the Fukushima Hama-dori district, the local economy had been formed based on the business activities of nuclear-related companies. For this reason, with the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant, it was necessary to create new technologies and new industries to rebuild the industrial base of the area. Additionally, in order to proceed smoothly with the decommissioning, it was necessary to push forward with the placement of R&D bases, prototypes and production bases for parts, materials, consumables, etc., training and education bases for researchers and engineers engaged in them and the development of various services and infrastructure for living and transportation in consideration of new residents such as researchers and related industries as well.

To clarify the direction of regional industrial policies that should be addressed in nuclear disaster-affected areas, the Fukushima International Research Industry City (Innovation Coast) Framework Association convened on January 21, 2014 as a private round-table discussion by Kazuyoshi Akaba, Director General of the Nuclear Disaster Local Response Headquarters (Senior Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry). The Framework Association was composed of Director-General Akabane, Deputy Governor of Fukushima Prefecture Masao Uchibori, local governments, TEPCO, universities, research institutes, related organizations and local branch offices of relevant ministries and agencies. The report was compiled on June 23, 2014.

Subsequently, based on the report, on November 4, 2014, the Nuclear Sufferers Life Support Team and Nuclear Disaster Local Response Headquarters compiled the “Efforts towards the Concretization of the Fukushima International Research Industry City (Innovation Coast) Framework.” Further, they indicated that they would establish an individual study group for each individual project that required verification and study spearheaded by relevant ministries and agencies, business operators, experts and other parties while involving the Fukushima Prefectural Office.

d. Review of Reconstruction Funding Framework (January 14, 2015)

In the “future scale and financial resources of recovery and reconstruction projects,” which was decided by the Reconstruction Promotion Council on January 29, 2013, the framework for the scale and financial resources of measures and projects was to be reviewed as necessary. Amid such circumstances, the project cost up to the initial budget for FY2014 was approx. 22.5 trillion yen and the project cost in the supplementary budget for FY2014 and the initial budget for FY2015 was approx. 3.1 trillion yen. The scale of measures and projects to be implemented during the concentrated reconstruction period was expected to be approx. 25.6 trillion yen. Additionally, approx. 750 billion yen was expected in project costs for the amount of reserve funds used in FY2014 and FY2015.

Relative to this, the FY2015 Budget Estimate Decision on January 14, 2015 indicated that, in addition to the approx 25 trillion yen already secured, a total of approx. 26.3 trillion yen was estimated by securing approx 1.3 trillion yen from settlement surplus, etc.

e. Overview of Concentrated Reconstruction Period and Nature of Recovery and Reconstruction Projects from FY2016 published (May 12, 2015)

At the Reconstruction Promotion Council meeting held on March 10, 2015, Prime Minister Abe gave the following instructions:

- As the final year of the concentrated reconstruction period approaches, it is necessary to present a framework for reconstruction assistance beyond FY2016 as soon as possible.
- For the basic mindset behind it, the framework should be one for the latter five years of the reconstruction period so that disaster-affected areas can engage in projects with prospects and should lead to the “self-reliance” of those areas so that they can play a leading role in the revitalization and growth of Japan in its new stage, and necessary support should continue to be properly provided while attuning to the feelings of disaster victims.
- It is requested that work begin on a review of efforts to date.
- A framework for future reconstruction assistance will be properly formulated in time for work aimed at the FY2016 budget estimate request.

Based on this, on May 12, 2015, the Reconstruction Agency, published the “Overview of the Concentrated Reconstruction Period and Recovery and Nature of Reconstruction Projects from FY2016.” This overview summarized the current situation, etc. and future efforts in the following fields: support for disaster victims, restoration of public infrastructure, Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development, the revitalization of industries and livelihoods, reconstruction and revitalization from the nuclear disaster, creation of a new Tohoku region and other support.

Additionally, with regard to the reconstruction funding framework, it was established that while it was necessary to indicate in advance the project scale and financial resources for the 5 years from FY2016 as well, just as during the concentrated reconstruction period, since more than 4 years had passed since the earthquake, it was also necessary to appropriately forecast the progress of projects each year.

Furthermore, since FY2016, with respect to core reconstruction projects and reconstruction projects originating from the nuclear disaster, the government has continued the extraordinary measure of reducing the effective burden on disaster-affected municipalities to zero through the Special Grant Tax for Disaster Reconstruction. At the same time, for reconstruction projects that simultaneously serve to address issues common to the whole country (such as regional development measures and preparations for future disasters) it was established that disaster-affected municipalities would also bear a certain amount of the burden.

Simultaneously, it was announced that the 5-year period starting from FY2016 would be named the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period.”

f. “Cabinet Decision on Scale and Financial Resources for Recovery and Reconstruction Projects in the Reconstruction Period Including 5-Year Period from FY2016” (June 30, 2015)

Based on the overview of May 12, 2015, the Reconstruction Agency also heard the opinions of the three disaster-affected prefectures. On June 9 that year, the “Estimated Project Costs for FY2016-FY2020 Announced by the Three Disaster-Stricken Prefectures” was published. At the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council on June 24, “Recovery and Reconstruction Projects from FY2016” was decided on. Based on the project scale indicated

in the decision, the cost of reconstruction projects during the concentrated reconstruction period is expected to be approx. 25.5 trillion yen and the cost of reconstruction projects during the first reconstruction/revitalization period approx. 6.5 trillion yen. The total cost of reconstruction projects during the 10-year reconstruction period is expected to be approx. 32 trillion yen.

Additionally, with regard to reconstruction funds, the approx. 26.3 trillion yen that had been earmarked to that point was expected to actually generate an income of roughly 28.8 trillion yen. In addition, a maximum of roughly 3.2 trillion yen was to be secured through transfers from the general account, etc., with approx. 32 trillion yen to be secured over the 10-year reconstruction period. The scale and financial resources of these projects were decided on in the form of the “Cabinet Decision on Scale and Financial Resources for Recovery and Reconstruction Projects in the Reconstruction Period Including 5-Year Period from FY2016” on June 30, 2015.

g. Formulation of the 2016 Basic Guidelines (March 11, 2016)

In the “Recovery and Reconstruction Projects from FY2016” (decided on by the Reconstruction Promotion Council on June 24, 2015), the 2011 Basic Guidelines were to be reviewed as necessary by the end of FY2015 based on the basic framework specified in the decision. Based on this, at the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council on March 10, 2016, a draft of the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake From the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period”” which clarifies matters to be focused on during the period of reconstruction and revitalization while taking into account factors such as existing policies and the progress of reconstruction was decided upon. On the following day on March 11, the Cabinet decided on those Guidelines (“2016 Basic Guidelines”).

In the 2016 Basic Guidelines, it was stated that the reconstruction of the disaster-affected regions (earthquake/tsunami) were entering a new stage heading toward the “completion” of the 10-year reconstruction period. Additionally, it was stated that while decontamination and other efforts and reconstruction such as lifting of evacuation orders were steadily progressing in the areas affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima Prefecture, the needs of local communities and individuals were becoming more diverse along with the progress, and meticulous support corresponding to these needs was becoming necessary.

[Reference: Administrative Records]

Figure 2-1-16 Progress of Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (December 26, 2012 to March 31, 2016)

Month and day	Actions by the Reconstruction Agency	Actions in the field, etc.
2012		
December 26 December 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minister Nemoto appointed as Minister for Reconstruction with inauguration of Abe Cabinet ○Senior Vice-Ministers Tani, Hamada, Akiba and Terada appointed as Senior Ministers for Reconstruction; Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Nagashima, Kameoka, Tokuda and Shimajiri appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction 	
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 321,000 [As of December 6, 2012] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 188 districts [As of November 30, 2012] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (800 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 528 facilities [As of September 30, 2012] ○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 253,000 [As of November 30, 2012]
2013		
January 10 January 11 January 15 January 21 January 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (5th meeting) convened: Prime Minister Abe's instructions for accelerating reconstruction issued ○Task Force for Accelerating Decontamination and Reconstruction established; discussions on specific efforts to accelerate decontamination and reconstruction in integrated manner with directors-general of relevant ministries and agencies held ○Supplementary budget draft for FY2012 decided on by the Cabinet ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (6th meeting) convened; decision made to review reconstruction funding framework; fundamental strengthening of the Fukushima response system, immediate efforts to accelerate reconstruction based on Prime Minister's instructions, etc. reported on ○Budget draft for FY2013 decided on by the Cabinet ○FY2013 Tax Reform Outline decided on by the Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Exchange of opinions held between national government and Iwate Prefecture in Morioka City and between national government and Miyagi Prefecture in Sendai City ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Ibaraki Prefecture and 5 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Ibaraki No. 3) approved
February 1 February 6 February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization Headquarters established (for the purpose of having the Minister for Reconstruction direct director-general-level members of relevant ministries and agencies to strengthen central functions of the government with respect to the reconstruction of Fukushima) ○Parliamentary Vice-Minister Sakai appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Reconstruction in place of Parliamentary Vice-Minister Tokuda ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (7th meeting) convened; FY2012 deliberation report compiled ○FY2012 Deliberation Report submitted by Chairperson of Reconstruction Promotion Council to Minister for Reconstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization General Bureau established in Fukushima City (with the purpose of creating a so-called "Fukushima and Tokyo Two Head Office System" headed by Minister for Reconstruction while strengthening control tower function of the Reconstruction Agency for the reconstruction of Fukushima following the nuclear disaster functions for implementing measures in the field strengthened; system for making prompt decisions in the field established) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans approved for Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 14), 5 cities/towns in Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima Nos. 10-15), Hitachi City (Ibaraki No. 4) and Hitachinaka City (Ibaraki No. 5)

February 13		○Second meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kesennuma City
February 15	○Fukushima Reconstruction and Revitalization Headquarters (1st meeting) convened	
February 17		○Exchange of opinions held among municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster, Fukushima Prefecture and the national government
		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster
February 22	○Task Force for Accelerating Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development (1st meeting) convened	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans approved for 2 cities/towns in Iwate Prefecture (Iwate Nos. 4 and 5), 3 cities/towns in Miyagi Prefecture (Miyagi Nos. 15-17), 1 town in Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima No. 16), 4 cities/towns in Ibaraki Prefecture (Ibaraki Nos. 6-9), and 1 city in Chiba Prefecture (Chiba No. 1)
February 27	○Senior Vice-Minister Tani attended Forum on Reconstruction Assistance and Investment in Japan held in Paris	
March 6	○Task Force for Accelerating Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development (2nd meeting) convened	
March 7	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (7th meeting) convened, early return and settlement plan and package of measures to accelerate housing reconstruction and reconstruction community development reported on	
	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of December 31, 2012) published	
March 8	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (5th Round) issued	
March 11	○Memorial Ceremony for the Second Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater)	
March 15	○Package of measures to support victims of nuclear disaster published	
	○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. (Town of Namie, Village of Katsurao and Town of Kawamata) published	
March 19	○Plan for Reconstruction and Revitalization of Zones where Evacuation Orders have been lifted or are to be lifted decided on	
March 26	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (8th meeting) convened; first meeting with new members	○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 2) modified and approved
		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Kamaishi City (Iwate No. 6), Iwanuma City (Miyagi No. 18), Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 19) and Miyagi Prefecture (Miyagi No. 20) approved
March 27	○Provisional budget for FY2013 decided on by the Cabinet	
March 29	○Provisional budget for FY2013 passed	
	○Report on measures to prevent disaster-related deaths in Fukushima Prefecture published	
March		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 313,000 [As of March 7, 2013] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 216 districts [As of March 8, 2013] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (820 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 567 facilities [As of December 31, 2012] ○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 271,000 [As of January 31, 2013]

April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Package of measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including damage caused by harmful rumors, published ○Local governments notified of extension of provision period of emergency temporary housing in connection with Great East Japan Earthquake 	
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Task Force for Accelerating Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development (3rd meeting) convened 	
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Measures to Accelerate Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” (second round) published 	
April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Free expressway access for mothers and children who evacuated due to nuclear power station accident, etc. announced (measures implemented from April 26, 2013 to March 31, 2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 7), Miyagi Prefecture and 10 cities/towns in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 21) and Sendai City (Miyagi No. 22) approved
April 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Fukushima Prefecture)
April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Task Force Accelerate Decontamination and Reconstruction convened ○“55 Challenges in Disaster-Affected Areas: Example cases of Corporate Reconstruction Projects” published 	
April 23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Miyagi Prefecture (Miyagi No. 23) approved
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (9th meeting) convened; common issues for creation of “New Tohoku” discussed under theme of “secure society to watch over growth of energetic and healthy children” 	
April 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Priority Promotion Plan based on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima approved ○Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima enacted (enforced on May 10) ○Update of Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of March 31, 2013) published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Ishinomaki City (Miyagi No. 24) approved
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Local governments were notified again of extension of provision period of emergency temporary housing, utilization of vacant housing units, etc. in connection with Great East Japan Earthquake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Kamaishi Branch Office of Iwate Regional Bureau of Reconstruction relocated
May 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minister Nemoto visited Ukraine and meets with Minister of Environment and Natural Resources as well as visited site of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, etc. 	
May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Results of Residents’ Intention Surveys for Residents of Municipalities Affected by Nuclear Disaster in 2012 published 	
May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of disaster-related deaths from Great East Japan Earthquake (as of March 31, 2013) published 	
May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○FY2013 budget passed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Authority for budget execution related to Project for Supporting the Revival of Hope in Local Communities (Project for Accelerating Return and Revitalization of Evacuation Areas in Fukushima) transferred to Fukushima Regional Bureau of Reconstruction
May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (10th meeting) convened; discussions on “Results of interviews with three prefectures regarding the ‘New Tohoku,’” “Vibrant super-aged society based on the ‘elderly standard’” and “Society that utilizes regional resources with high power of communication” held 	
May 17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Mito City (Ibaraki No. 10) approved

May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Support results of support projects for corporate collaboration projects announced ○“Government financial support that can be utilized by NPOs, etc.” updated and published ○Information on “Reconstruction Efforts by Diverse Actors” compiled and published 	
May 25		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Miyagi Prefecture)
May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (11th meeting) convened; discussions on “Sustainable Energy Society (Autonomous and Distributed Energy Society)” and “Advanced Society through the Introduction of Robust and Highly Resilient Social Infrastructure (System)” and discussion aimed at compiling interim report held ○“Recovery and Reconstruction Status Visible Here” on Reconstruction Agency website enhanced ○Industrial Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan based on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima approved 	○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 8) approved
May 30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Miyagi Regional Bureau of Reconstruction announces implementation of sales promotion support project (from late May 2013 to March 2014) ○Implementation of first livings environment improvement project in area covered by Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima decided on
June 1-2		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Iwate Prefecture)
June 5	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (12th meeting) convened; “Toward the Creation of a New Tohoku (Interim Report)” compiled; way forward discussed	
June 7	○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. revised and published	
June 9		○Council for the Study of Living Centers for Long-Term Evacuees (2nd meeting) convened
June 10		○Liaison Council for Responding to Industrial Waste Generated in Areas under Evacuation Orders (1st meeting) convened
June 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 2) modified and approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Kesenuma City (Miyagi No. 25) approved
June 14	○Number of disaster public housing units for nuclear disaster victims compiled and published	
June 19	○Task Force for Accelerating Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development (4th meeting) convened	
June 25	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (6th Round) issued	
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 298,000 [As of June 6, 2013] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 325 districts [As of May 31, 2013] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (825 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 608 facilities [As of March 31, 2013] ○Number of jobs in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures since the earthquake: 312,000 [As of April 30, 2013]

July 2	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (8th meeting) convened; progress of measures to accelerate reconstruction reported on; future policy development based on interim report of the Reconstruction Promotion Council toward the creation of a “New Tohoku” explained	
July 5	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (1st Round) issued	○Reconstruction promotion plans for Fukushima Prefecture and 59 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Fukushima No. 2) modified and approved ○Reconstruction promotion plans for Fukushima Prefecture and 59 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Fukushima No. 17) approved ○Reconstruction promotion plans for Fukushima Prefecture and 30 cities/towns/villages in the prefecture (Fukushima No. 18) approved
July 23	○Guidelines for Public Offering of Leading Model Projects for “New Tohoku” published	
July 30	○Update of Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of June 30, 2013) published	
July 31	○Status of implementation of Great East Japan Earthquake recovery and reconstruction-related expenses for FY2012 published	
August 2		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Town of Oirase (Aomori No. 4) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Kamaishi City (Iwate No. 9) approved ○Reconstruction promotion plans for 5 cities/towns/villages in Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima Nos. 19-23) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Takahagi City (Ibaraki No. 11) approved
August 8	○Areas under evacuation orders (planned evacuation zones) in Town of Kawamata reviewed (review of no-entry zones and planned evacuation zones designated in April 2011 completed) ○Dissemination of actions related to housing acquisition in line with consumption tax hike (housing recovery benefit system) commenced	
August 11		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster
August 27		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 10) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Katori City (Chiba No. 2) approved
August 30	○Progress (contract status) of Reconstruction Grant Program for FY2011-2012 published ○“Basic Policy on Promotion of Measures to Support Lives of Disaster Victims” (draft) published; solicitation of opinions commenced	
September 2-8	○Minister Nemoto paid visits to Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Netherlands to exchange opinions on advanced projects that would serve as reference for efforts toward creating “New Tohoku”	
September 4		○Local Promotion Headquarters for Interim Storage Facilities (Secretariat: Interim Storage Facilities Development Promotion Office) established in Fukushima City
September 13		○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Iwate Prefecture (Iwate No. 8) modified and approved ○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plans for Miyagi Prefecture and 10 cities/towns in the prefecture (Miyagi No. 21) modified and approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Shiogama City (Miyagi No. 26) approved
September 17		○Iwate Prefecture-National Council (Meeting on relaxation of restriction on conversion of farmland pertaining to power generation business using renewable energy (wind and geothermal))

September 20	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (Grants for the Establishment of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees) (1st Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	
September 25	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (13th meeting) convened; progress of the “New Tohoku” (selection of model projects, etc.), report on state of reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake (draft outline), etc. discussed	
September 27		○Reconstruction promotion plans for Ibaraki Prefecture and 40 cities/towns/villages in Ibaraki Prefecture (Ibaraki No. 12) approved
September 30	○Senior Vice-Ministers Aichi and Okada appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction in place of Senior Vice-Minister Akiba and Terada and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Koizumi and Fukuoka appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction in place of Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Nagashima and Shimajiri	
September		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 286,000 [As of September 12, 2013] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 334 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 143 [As of August 31, 2013] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (830 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 626 facilities [As of June 30, 2013]
October 4	○Start of “Work for Tohoku” (Project to Build Human Resources Platform for Reconstruction) efforts announced	
October 8	○Selection results for Leading Model Projects for “New Tohoku” published	○Project results report (final report) on first meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Ishinomaki City published ○Project results report (interim report) on second meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kesennuma City published ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Town of Minamisanriku approved (Miyagi No. 27)
October 11	○“Basic Policy on Promotion of Measures to Support Lives of Disaster Victims” decided on by the Cabinet and reported to Diet	
October 19	○“Measures to Accelerate Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” (third round) published	
October 25	○Establishment of the “New Tohoku” Public-Private Partnership Promotion Council (with Reconstruction Agency as secretariat) announced; member solicitation commenced	
October 29		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Miyagi Prefecture and 35 cities/towns/villages approved (Miyagi No. 28) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Town of Yamamoto, Miyagi Prefecture approved (Miyagi No. 29)
October 30	○Update of Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of September 30, 2013) published	
November 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (2nd Round) issued	○Overview of proceedings of national and local council meeting (September 17) in Iwate Prefecture published ○Participating companies for 3rd (7, Town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture) and 4th (December 4, Town of Yamamoto and Watari, Miyagi Prefecture) “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching programs decided on

November 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Kamisu City, Ibaraki Prefecture approved (Ibaraki No. 13) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans submitted by Motomiya City, Iwaki City, Shirakawa City, Date City, Town of Aizubange, Town of Tanagura and Town of Hanawa in Fukushima Prefecture approved (Fukushima Nos. 24-32) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans submitted by Shiogama City, Kurihara City and Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture approved (Miyagi Nos. 30-32) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans submitted by Ichinoseki City and Oshu City in Iwate Prefecture approved (Iwate Nos. 11 and 12)
November 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Third regional workshop for “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture
November 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (2nd Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Holding of fifth (January 29, 2014, Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture) and sixth (February 6, 2014, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture) “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching programs announced
November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet 	
November 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Task Force on Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims (1st meeting) convened 	
November 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Follow-up on package of measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, published 	
November 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas for lifting evacuation orders, etc. revised and published 	
November 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (7th Round) issued ○Roadmap based on the “Early Return and Settlement Plan” (Town of Hirono, Town of Naraha and Village of Kawauchi) published 	
December 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Center of Advanced Projects for KIKAN” established in Village of Kawauchi, Futaba County, Fukushima Prefecture
December 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Supplementary budget draft for FY2013 decided on by the Cabinet 	
December 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Policy Package for Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims” published 	
December 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“New Tohoku” Public-Private Partnership Promotion Council established 	
December 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters decided on “Toward the Acceleration of Fukushima Reconstruction from the Nuclear Disaster” at Cabinet meeting 	
December 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Supplementary budget draft for FY2014 decided on by the Cabinet ○FY2014 Tax Reform Outline decided on by the Cabinet 	
December 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Roadmap based on the “Early Return and Settlement Plan” (Tamura City) published 	
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 274,000 [As of December 12, 2013] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 335, districts where construction has started: 215 districts [As of November 30, 2013] ○Status of resumption of operations at damaged seafood processing facilities (830 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 626 facilities [As of June 30, 2013]

2014		
January 9	○“Measures to Accelerate Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” (fourth round) published	
January 10	○Revive Japan Cup winners decided	
January 17	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (9th meeting) convened; efforts and results of 1 year and policy of efforts for FY2014 reported on	
January 21	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (3rd Round) issued	
	○“New Tohoku” Housing Design Case Studies published	
January 27	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (14th meeting) convened; current state of reconstruction and efforts and New Tohoku discussed; discussions aimed at recommendations also held	
January 31		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture covering application for interest subsidies approved (Iwate No. 13) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans submitted by Shirakawa City, Sukagawa City, Minamisoma City, Town of Tadami and Village of Tamagawa in Fukushima Prefecture approved (Fukushima Nos. 33-38) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan to Take Special Measures for the Extension of the duration of emergency temporary buildings submitted by Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture approved (Miyagi No. 33) ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan submitted by Sendai City and Town of Murata, Miyagi Prefecture covering interest subsidies approved (Miyagi Nos. 34 and 35)
February 10	○Update of Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of December 31, 2013) published	
February 14	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (3rd notice) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees published	
February 12	○Governor of Fukushima Prefecture submitted proposal to Minister of Environment and Minister for Reconstruction regarding review of interim storage facility plan and managed disposal site utilization plan drafts	
February 18	○Package of measures on communication of radiation risks for repatriation compiled and published	
February 20		○Results of holding sixth “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program (Fukushima City, February 6) announced
February 21		○Project results report (final report) on second meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kesennuma City published
February 22		○Joban Expressway (between Hirono Interchange and Joban-Tomioka Interchange) re-opened
February 28	○Unofficial decision of dispatches from private companies announced for “Work for Tohoku” (Project to Build Human Resources Platform for Reconstruction)	○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima No. 2) approved

March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (8th Round) issued ○Results of follow-up on “Measures to Accelerate Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” (first through third rounds) published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (4th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published 	
March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (10th meeting) convened; was lifting of orders in areas under evacuation orders in Tamura City, Fukushima Prefecture confirmed ○Free expressway access for mothers and children who evacuated due to nuclear power station accident, etc. extended to March 2027 	
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Memorial Ceremony for the Third Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater) 	
March 14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan to take special measures for the Extension of the duration of emergency temporary buildings submitted by Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture approved (Miyagi No. 24)
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Status of Reconstruction Three Years after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Recent Efforts (March 2014 Version)” compiled and published 	
March 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of nationwide evacuees, etc. (number by prefecture and facility of location) updated ○Response to submission of proposal by Governor of Fukushima Prefecture to Minister of Environment and Minister for Reconstruction regarding review of interim storage facility plan and managed disposal site utilization plan drafts 	
March 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Status of securing land for post-nuclear disaster public housing published 	
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Acceleration of Revitalization) (1st Round) issued ○Lifting of orders on areas under evacuation orders (Tamura City) 	
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (4th Round) issued 	
April 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minami-Rias Line on Sanriku Railway opened in entirety
April 6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Kita-Rias Line on Sanriku Railway opened in entirety
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters convened; implementation of preparatory lodging in Village of Kawauchi decided on 	
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Toward the Creation of a New Tohoku” (recommendations) compiled and published at the Reconstruction Promotion Council (15th meeting) 	
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Partial Amendment to the Great East Japan Earthquake Special Zone Bill enacted (Acceleration of land acquisition) 	
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Fukushima Prefecture, Town of Okuma and Town of Futaba requested to hold briefing session for residents regarding the interim storage facility; holding of briefing session agreed upon with understanding of both town assemblies (Approved by both town assemblies on May 1) 	
May 4-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minister Nemoto paid visits to Spain and Norway to conduct exchange of opinions on advanced projects that would serve as reference for efforts toward creating “New Tohoku,” etc. 	
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (5th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published 	

May 27	○“Measures to Accelerate Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” (fifth round) published	
June 10	○“Strategy for Creating Industrial Reconstruction” compiled at Second Meeting of Task Force on Promotion of Industrial Reconstruction	○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Iwate No. 8) approved ○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Ibaraki No. 12) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate Nos. 14-16) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima Nos. 39-44) approved; modifications to Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18 and No. 35) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 14) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Aomori No. 5) approved
June 13		
June 17	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Acceleration of Revitalization) (2nd Round) issued	
June 20	○Plan for Reconstruction and Revitalization of Zones where Evacuation Orders have been lifted or are to be lifted revised and published ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. revised and published	
June 23	○“Guidelines for Strengthening Countermeasures for Harmful Rumor” compiled at Third Meeting of Task Force on Countermeasures against the Impact of the Nuclear Disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor	
June 24	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (9th Round) issued	
June 26	○FY2014 Leading Model Projects (Project Operations) adopted at Reconstruction Promotion Council (16th meeting)	
June 27		
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 251,000 [As of June 12, 2014] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 339 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 304 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 50 districts [As of March 31, 2014] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 645 facilities [As of December 31, 2013]
July 8	○Roadmap based on the “Early Return and Settlement Plan” (Minamisoma City and Town of Kawamata) published	
July 11	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (5th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (6th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	
July 28	○View of national government on interim storage facilities presented to Fukushima Prefecture, Town of Okuma Town and Town of Futaba based on feedback at residents’ briefing session, etc.	

July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Update of Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of June 30, 2014) published ○Overview of FY2013 Special Account for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Execution Status of the FY2013 Reconstruction-Related Budget published ○Progress (contract status) of Reconstruction Grant Program (as of end of FY2013) published 	
August 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Overall picture of national government's response, including financial measures for interim storage facilities, presented to Fukushima Prefecture, Town of Okuma and Town of Futaba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 9		
August 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Comprehensive measures for health and livelihood support for disaster victims published ○“Construction Acceleration Support Team” established 	
August 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Okuma-Futaba Hometown Reconstruction Plan published 	
September 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minister for Reconstruction Wataru Takeshita appointed by cabinet reshuffle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Miyagi Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council
September 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (7th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Acceleration of Revitalization) (3rd Round) issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○National Route 6 made passable even in difficult-to-return zones
September 15		
September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (11th meeting) convened 	
September 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Preferential treatment in public housing for evacuees eligible for support based on the Child Disaster Victims Support Act announced 	
September 29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 36) approved
September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Receipt of community revival grants completed for site of 4,890 post-disaster public housing units for nuclear evacuees under Second Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Iwate Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (until October 1)
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 243,000 [As of September 11, 2014] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 337 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 311 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 73 districts [As of June 30, 2014] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 653 facilities [As of March 2014]
October 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Order on areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders lifted; restricted residential areas reclassified to areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders
October 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Participating companies (support proposal companies) for workshop under FY2014 “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program solicited
October 28		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Fukushima Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council

October 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Establishment of state-run memorial/prayer facilities (tentative name) in Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture and Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture decided on by the Cabinet ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (6th Round) issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 37-43) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate Nos. 17-19) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 45 and No. 46) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 15 and No. 16) approved
November 4	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of September 30, 2014) published	○Changes to modified Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No: Fukushima No. 2) approved
November 13	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (17th meeting) convened	
November 14	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (8th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	
November 20		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 44) approved
November 25	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (10th Round) issued; policies to promote utilization of Reconstruction Grants according to progress in stage of reconstruction published	
November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Acceleration of Revitalization) (4th Round) issued 	
December 6		○Joban Expressway (Nami Interchange - Minamisoma Interchange and Soma Interchange - Yamamoto Interchange) opened
December 17		○Results of holding seventh “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program (December 9, Minamisoma City) announced
December 19		○Town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, the Town Revitalization Plan approved
December 23		○First meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
December 24	○Minister for Reconstruction Takeshita reappointed upon Third Cabinet Formation	
December 28		○Specific evacuation recommendation points in Minamisoma City disengaged
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 234,000 [As of November 2014] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 342 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 324 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 102 districts [As of September 30, 2014] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 662 facilities [As of June 2014]
2015		
January 5	○Reconstruction Agency Twitter Official Account opened	
January 9	○Supplementary budget for special account for reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake for FY2014 decided on by the Cabinet	
January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Agency supplementary budget draft for FY2015 decided on by the Cabinet ○FY2015 Tax Reform Outline decided on by the Cabinet 	

January 15		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 46-49) approved
January 16	○“Comprehensive Measures to Break Through Bottlenecks in Housing Reconstruction and Reconstruction Community Development” published	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 47 and No. 54) approved
January 22		○Eighth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Tagajo City
January 23	○Comprehensive Measures for Supporting Disaster Victims (Health and Livelihood Support) published	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 21) approved
January 30	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Community Revival Grants (9th Round) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	
February 1		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
February 5		○Second meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
February 12	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of December 31, 2014) published	○Ninth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Ofunato City
February 13		○Tenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kesennuma City
February 17	○Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima (Establishment of a Collective Reconstruction and Revitalization Base Development System, etc.) decided on by the Cabinet	
February 18	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (Acceleration of Revitalization) (5th Round) issued	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 24) approved
February 27	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (11th Round) issued	○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Iwate No. 8) approved
March 1		○Joban Expressway (Joban Tomioka Interchange - Namie Interchange) opened (Entire Joban Expressway line opened as a result)
March 5		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 26) approved
March 10	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (12th meeting) convened	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved
March 11	○Memorial Ceremony for the Fourth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater)	○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 17) approved
March 13		○Third meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Tokyo (METI Annex)
March 24	○Notice of Decision to Grant Fukushima Reconstruction Grants from the Nuclear Disaster issued	○Town of Yamada, Iwate Prefecture, Town Revitalization Plan approved
March 26		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 55) approved
March 27		○Fourth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Tokyo (Cabinet Office)

March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 225,000 [As of March 12, 2015] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 343 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 325 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 116 districts [As of December 31, 2014] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 672 facilities [As of December 2014]
April 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (11th Round) (Acceleration of Revitalization (6th Round)) issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 1) approved
April 10	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (12th Round) (Acceleration of Revitalization (7th Round)) and (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (7th Round)) issued	
April 17	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (13th Round) (Grants for the Establishment of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (10th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	
April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Hands-on Support Project for Local Governments” commenced ○Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima enacted (promulgated and enforced on May 7) 	
April 27		
April 28	○Results of primary adoption of “Mental Recovery” Project announced	
May 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 50) approved ○Fifth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Tokyo ○Sixth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Tokyo ○JR Senseki Line opened to full operation
May 12	○Overview of Concentrated Reconstruction Period and Nature of Recovery and Reconstruction Projects from FY2016 compiled and published	
May 15	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of March 31, 2015) published	
May 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○FY2015 Leading Model Projects adopted at Reconstruction Promotion Council (18th meeting) and published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of General Subsidy for Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims (1st Round) issued 	
May 27		
May 30		
June 3	○“Targeted Projects and Levels, etc. of Local Governments’ Burden for Reconstruction Projects in and after FY2016” published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Seventh meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Tokyo
June 4	○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held	
June 7		
June 9	○Project cost estimates for FY2016-FY2020 published by the 3 disaster-affected prefectures	

June 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Holding of FY2015 regional meetings of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program (Kuji City, Iwate Prefecture [October 7, 2015] Town of Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture [adjusted to November 2015], Aizuwakamatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture [October 1, 2015] and Town of Tomioka, Town of Naraha, Town of Hirono and Village of Kawauchi [adjusted to February 2016]) announced
June 15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities (local meeting) held in Fukushima City
June 16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Open solicitation of applications for new business support projects in disaster-affected areas using experts, etc. (hands-on support expert pool) commenced
June 18	○“Draft Reconstruction Projects for 5 Years from FY2016 (Reconstruction / Revitalization Period)” published	
June 23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 51) approved
June 24	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (13th meeting) convened; information that includes nature of reconstruction projects over next 5 years complied and disclosed	
June 25	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (12th Round) issued	
June 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Package to promote utilization of Reconstruction Grant effect promotion projects published ○Reconstruction Agency Public Service Review Publication Process implemented ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (14th Round) (Grants for the Establishment of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (11th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published 	
June 30	○Scale and financial resources for recovery and reconstruction projects in reconstruction period Including 5-Year Period from FY2016 decided on by the Cabinet and published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 52-54) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate No. 20) approved ○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 50) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 56 and No. 59) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Aomori No. 6) approved
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 207,000 [As of June 11, 2015] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 328 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 168 districts [As of March 31, 2015] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 680 facilities [As of March 2015]
July 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Eighth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
July 7	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (15th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (8th Round)) issued	
July 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Ishinomaki City Town Revitalization Plan approved
July 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Second local meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held

July 14	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (16th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (8th Round)) issued	○PR project to communicate challenges of “New Tohoku” initiated as joint public-private endeavor
July 18		○Ninth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
July 25		○Advisory Panel on the Future Vision of the 12 Municipalities of Fukushima submitted recommendations to Minister for Reconstruction Takeshita
July 30		
July 31	○“Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable)” updated and published ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. revised and published ○Overview of FY2014 Special Account for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Execution Status of the Reconstruction-Related Budget (end of FY2014) published	
August 7		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 10) approved
August 8		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 11	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (17th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (9th Round)) issued	○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Fukushima Prefecture)
August 19		○Basic plans for “state-run memorial/prayer facilities” (tentative name) and “reconstruction memorial park” (tentative name) in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures formulated
August 21		○1st Fukushima Soso Reconstruction Public-Private Conference convened Joint public-private team (around 100 members) established to support self-reliance of disaster-affected businesses; visits to businesses commenced on 25th
August 24		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (24th/25th) (Iwate Prefecture)
August 25	○Revision of “Basic Policy on Promotion of Measures to Support Lives of Disaster Victims” (draft) published	
September 2		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 7) approved
September 5		○Evacuation order lifted for Town of Naraha, Fukushima Prefecture
September 29	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (18th Round) (Community Revival Grants (12th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published ○Support measures for temporary housing in school grounds published and issued in document form	
September		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 195,000 [As of September 10, 2015] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 328 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 168 districts [As of March 31, 2015] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 680 facilities [As of March 2015]
October 1		○Eleventh meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Aizuwakamatsu City

October 2	○Compilation of measures for “Basic Policy on Promotion of Measures to Support Lives of Disaster Victims” published	○Town of Minamisanriku Town Revitalization Plan approved
October 7	○Minister for Reconstruction Tsuyoshi Takagi appointed by cabinet reshuffle	○Twelfth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kuji City
October 14		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Miyagi Prefecture)
October 16	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (19th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (10th Round)) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (9th Round) and Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) issued	
	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (14th meeting) convened; acceleration of reconstruction, etc. confirmed	
October 23		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 18 and No. 19) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima Nos. 60-64) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 55) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Aomori No. 7) approved ○First Follow-up Meeting on Recommendations for the Future Vision of 12 Fukushima Municipalities held
October 28		
November 2		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Ibaraki No. 10) approved
November 11	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (19th meeting) convened; current situation of reconstruction, etc. discussed	
November 17	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of September 30, 2015) published	
November 26		○Thirteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Town of Onagawa
November 27	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet	
December 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (13th Round) issued	
December 4		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 56) approved
December 15		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Iwate No. 8) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved
December 18	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (20th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (10th Round) and (Community Revival Grants (13th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	○“Package of Support Measures for Utilizing Land Left after Relocation, Etc. under a Project to Promote Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation” published
	○FY2015 supplementary budget for special account for reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake decided on by the Cabinet	
	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of General Subsidy for Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims (2nd Round) issued	
December 24	○FY2016 Reconstruction Agency Tax Reform Bill decided on by the Cabinet ○FY2016 Reconstruction Agency draft budget decided on by the Cabinet	

December 25	○Responses to new issues in preparing for Reconstruction / Revitalization Period published	
December		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 182,000 [As of December 10, 2015] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 328 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 168 districts [As of March 31, 2015] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (819 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 680 facilities [As of March 2015]
2016		
January 15 January 19	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (20th meeting) convened; Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake during the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period,” etc. deliberated	○Rikuzentakata City Town Revitalization Plan approved
January 22	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (21th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (11th Round)) issued	
January 27	○1st Tohoku Tourism Advisor Meeting convened	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 57-60) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Iwate No. 21 and No. 22) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima Nos. 65-70) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 14) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 7) approved
February 4		○Second Follow-up Meeting on Recommendations for the Future Vision of 12 Fukushima Municipalities held
February 5	○First meeting of project teams of relevant ministries and agencies for revitalization of forests and forestry in Fukushima held	○Fourteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Town of Tomioka, Town of Naraha, Town of Hirono and Village of Kawauchi
February 9		○Iwaki City Town Revitalization Plan approved
February 14	○2nd Tohoku Tourism Advisor Meeting convened	○Ofunato City Town Revitalization Plan approved
February 19	○Extension of free expressway access for mothers and children who evacuated due to nuclear power station accident, etc. (until March 31, 2017) announced	○Modifications to Town of Onagawa Town Revitalization Plan approved
February 26	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of General Subsidy for Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims (3rd Round) issued	
February 29	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (14th Round) issued	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 21) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 24) approved
March 2 March 4	○3rd Tohoku Tourism Advisor Meeting convened ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (21st meeting) convened; Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake during the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” deliberated ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (22nd Round) (Community Revival Grants (14th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published ○“Five-Year Reconstruction Portal Site” opened on special website for 5th anniversary of earthquake disaster	

March 9	○Second meeting of project teams of relevant ministries and agencies for revitalization of forests and forestry in Fukushima held	
March 10	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (15th meeting) convened	
March 11	○Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake From the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” decided on by the Cabinet	
March 17	○Memorial Ceremony for the Fifth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater)	
March 24	○Overall picture and results of various “New Tohoku” measures compiled and published	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Iwate No. 8) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 3) approved ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
March 27		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 6) approved
March 29		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 23) approved ○Abolishment of Local Response Headquarters (Sendai City) under Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters for Great East Japan Earthquake decided on by the Cabinet
March 31	○4th Tohoku Tourism Advisor Meeting convened	○Reconstruction Agency Aomori Office closed
March		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 171,000 [As of March 10, 2016] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 334 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 235 districts [As of January 31, 2016] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (816 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 705 facilities [As of December 2015]

Source: “Progress of Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (Unfinished Draft)” (as of December 31, 2018)

3. First Reconstruction/Revitalization Period

(1) First Reconstruction/Revitalization Period, First Half

(From April 2016 to March 2019)

During the first half of the first Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, which ran from April 2016 to March 2019, most of the physical infrastructure projects in the earthquake and tsunami-affected areas were completed, the revitalization of industries and livelihoods made steady progress, and reconstruction progressed to the “completion” stage. On the other hand, in areas affected by the nuclear disaster, evacuation orders were lifted for most of the areas except for the difficult-to-return zones, and the movement toward the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima began in earnest.

1) Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction

(Current situation)

In April 2016, 5 years after the disaster and the end of the 10-year recovery period, the reconstruction of the infrastructure in the affected areas was almost complete and the rebuilding of houses was at its peak. Additionally, with the shift from temporary shops and factories to main facilities, production levels in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures had almost recovered, with planting resumable in 74% of farmland and operations resuming at 87% of seafood processing facilities. However, there was visible disparity in the recovery in sales depending on the business category. Additionally, the number of evacuees had decreased to 170,000.

In the areas affected by the nuclear disaster, preparations for the return of residents and improvement of the living environment were being carried out, an example being the preparatory accommodation in Minamisoma City, the Town of Kawamata and the Village of Katsurao.

(Efforts)

Amid these circumstances, in the first reconstruction/revitalization period, which began in April 2016, local government burdens were introduced for some recovery and reconstruction projects from the standpoint of helping disaster-affected municipalities become self-reliant in a new stage of reconstruction under a fiscal resource framework of about 32 trillion yen over 10 years.

For support for disaster victims, in FY2016, the national government established the General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims, which greatly expanded the previous General Subsidy for Health and Livelihood Support for Disaster Victims, and implemented the likes of community-building in disaster public housing, etc., creating purpose in life for disaster victims, the daily safeguarding and consultation for the elderly and other individuals and mental care for disaster victims. Also, support for evacuees living outside the prefecture has been provided through exchange meetings and other forums in 46 prefectures through the establishment of 26 livelihood reconstruction support centers nationwide.

For the reconstruction of homes and cities, the restoration of major port facilities was completed in March 2018, and the restoration of infrastructure closely related to living such as water supply and sewerage was almost completed by March 2019. At the end of the same fiscal year, 98% of disaster prevention collective relocation and land readjustment projects were completed and 99% of disaster public housing projects were completed, an indication that physical infrastructure projects were nearly completed. Additionally, the number of residents in emergency temporary housing has decreased from a peak of about 361,000 (as of April 2012) to about 10,000 (as of March 2019), and efforts have been made to utilize land left after relocation and other sites through disaster prevention collective relocation projects.

In the fields of industry and livelihood, in 2014, the value of manufactured goods shipped was more than 100% of the level in 2010 in all 3 prefectures affected by the earthquake. However, the recovery of sales continued to vary among business categories. In February 2018, the operations period of the Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake was extended by approximately 3 years from the previous period, making it possible to issue decisions on support until March 2021. Additionally, in 2017, measures were put together to address the shortage of human resources in disaster-affected areas, and model projects were launched.

In response to the nuclear disaster, based on the “Mindset on the Handling of Difficult to Return Zones” decided in August 2016, the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima was revised in May 2017, and the system of specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA) was established. Based

on this, decontamination and infrastructure development at reconstruction sites commenced in 6 towns and villages (Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma, Town of Namie, Town of Tomioka, Village of Iitate and Village of Katsurao). At the same time, the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework was positioned in the Act, and the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework Promotion Organization was established in July 2017.

During this time, by March 2017, evacuation orders were lifted for areas other than difficult-to-return zoned except for the Town of Okuma and the Town of Futaba. By March 2018, decontamination work was completed in 100 municipalities in 8 prefectures excluding difficult-to-return zones.

2) Main Actions of the National Government, etc.

a. Decision on Mindset on the Handling of Difficult to Return Zones (August 31, 2016)

Since the “Basic Mindset on the Review of No-Entry Zones and Areas under Evacuation Orders Following the Completion of Step 2 and Issues for Future Consideration” was decided by the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters on December 26, 2011, the national government has defined areas with high radiation levels as “difficult-to-return zones,” and has restricted access to them based on the principle of limiting residence there into the future. On the other hand, more than 5 years have passed since the accident, and in view largely of the fact that radiation levels have decreased in some areas, local residents have requested to consider the handling of difficult-to-return zones.

Additionally, the ruling parties proposed to the national government how to handle difficult-to-return zones after hearing the opinions of the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture and the mayors of municipalities in those zones.²⁶ Taking this matter seriously, on August 31, 2016, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters and Reconstruction Promotion Council decided on the “Mindset on the Handling of Difficult to Return Zones.”

In said decision, basic policies that included the following were established with regard to the handling of difficult-to-return zones:

- In difficult-to-return zones, “reconstruction bases” should be set up and developed within five years with the aim of lifting evacuation orders and enable residence, taking into account the state of the decline in radiation levels.
- At the same time, decontamination and other improvements should be implemented on National Route 6 and other major roads that make up the wide-area network (including the parts that touch these roads and additional interchanges on the Joban Expressway) so that people can safely pass or use them.
- Municipalities should formulate plans to develop reconstruction bases, etc. after consultation with the prefectural government. The national government should approve these plans.
- Upon development, decontamination and infrastructure development should be carried out in an integrated and efficient manner.
- The evacuation order for the district concerned should be lifted when the reconstruction bases, etc. have been roughly developed.
- In order to realize this, the national government should devise a legal system, budget, etc.

Further, issues to be considered for its materialization were indicated.

Examinations were carried out following this decision, and based largely on the urgent request from the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, the Fukushima Special Measures Act was revised in May 2017, and the establishment of a planning system to promote the reconstruction and revitalization of the specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA) and the legalization, etc. of the promotion of the “Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework” were to be conducted.

b. Modification of the 2016 Basic Guidelines (March 8, 2019)

It had been decided that the 2016 Basic Guidelines would be reviewed ideally after three years based on elements such as the progress of reconstruction measures and the status of reconstruction after the nuclear disaster. For this reason, the Reconstruction Agency surveyed the progress of reconstruction projects as well as reconstruction projects for which there were requests to continue after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period. The results were summarized, and on December 18, 2018, the “Summary of Issues That Need to Be Addressed Even After the

²⁶ “The Sixth Recommendation for Accelerating Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake: Clarifying the Path to Reconstruction and Revitalization” (August 24, 2016, Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito).

Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” was published. In this document, it was decided that the 2016 Basic Guidelines should be reviewed by the end of FY2018 and that “in this context, a certain direction should be indicated regarding how to proceed with reconstruction after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, including the nature of the successor organization.”

Based on this, at the Reconstruction Promotion Council held on March 8, 2019, a revised vision of the 2016 Basic Guidelines, which presents the basic direction of reconstruction after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, along with efforts for the remaining 2 years of the reconstruction and revitalization period, was adopted. On the same day, a cabinet decision was issued with respect to Changes to the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake From the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period.”

The revised 2016 Basic Guidelines (hereinafter referred to as the “2019 Basic Guidelines”) stated that it was necessary, upon having appropriately summarized reconstruction measures implemented during the 10-year period of reconstruction, to consider future responses. Based on this, the basic direction of reconstruction after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period we indicated as follows:

- Regarding earthquake and tsunami-affected areas, reconstruction is now heading into the final stage, and the aim is to create highly attractive regions by promoting industries and livelihoods that take advantage of regional characteristics and endeavoring to expand the exchange population and the number of people relocating to the area with the goal being to have the disaster-affected areas become self-reliant.
- Regarding areas affected by the nuclear disaster, the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima requires medium- to long-term responses, and the national government will continue to play a leading role even after the Reconstruction and Revitalization Period.
- In terms of a successor organization, an organization will be established to achieve reconstruction in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake under the political responsibility and leadership of the government in a manner wherein the vertical division of each ministry and agency will be eliminated, with the organization serving as a control tower like the Reconstruction Agency. In the future, the ideal form of a successor organization will be examined based on elements such as the progress of reconstruction policies, the verification of their effects, and requests from local governments in disaster-affected areas.

[Reference: Administrative Records]

Figure 2-1-17 Progress of Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019)

Month and day	Actions by the Reconstruction Agency	Actions in the field, etc.
2016		
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Partial Revision of “Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction” decided on by the Cabinet ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (23th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (12th Round)) and (Community Revival Grants (15th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published ○“Message for Reconstruction and Revitalization: Promises and Requests to Everyone” published ○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held; “Toward Elimination of the Damage Caused by Harmful Rumor (Collection of Reputation-Related Materials for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and Ministerial Meetings)” published ○Prefectural Road Yoshimada-Takine Line designated as national agency project under Fukushima Special Measures Act 	
April 5		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 24) approved
April 7		○First Satoyama Revitalization Model Project Liaison Meeting held
April 15	○Recommendations from “Tohoku Tourism Advisor Council” compiled and submitted to Minister for Reconstruction Takagi	
April 22	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2016 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (1st Round) issued	
April 23		○Tenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
April 26	○New policy for utilizing Reconstruction Grants (Benefit Promotion Projects) published	
April 27		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 61) approved
April 28	○Tohoku Reconstruction Month (June) events announced	
May 2	○Reconstruction Agency relocated to Central Government Building No. 4	
May 18		○Third Follow-up Meeting on Recommendations for the Future Vision of 12 Fukushima Municipalities held
May 20	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of March 31, 2016) published	
May 24	○“Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable)” updated and published	
May 27	○Reconstruction Promotion Committee (22th meeting) convened; results of leading model projects in FY2015 and summary of 3 years of project reported on; promotion of tourism in Tohoku discussed	
May 28		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Eleventh meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City ○Roadmap 2020 for Realizing the Future Vision of 12 Fukushima Municipalities published
June 2		○Approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 24) approved

June 6	○Great East Japan Earthquake Fifth Anniversary Reconstruction Forum held	
June 11–28		○Exchange Meeting in Tokyo: People Creating a “New Tohoku” held
June 12		○Evacuation orders in Village of Katsurao lifted (except for certain difficult-to-return zones)
June 14		○Evacuation orders for Village of Kawauchi lifted
June 24	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (15th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (24th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (13th Round)) and (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (11th Round)) issued	
June 30		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 62) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval Nos. 20-22) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Aomori No. 8) approved
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 155,000 [As of June 10, 2016] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 334 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 235 districts [As of January 31, 2016] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (816 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 710 facilities [As of March 2016]
July 12		○Evacuation orders in Minamisoma City lifted (except for certain difficult-to-return zones)
July 22	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (25th Round) (Community Revival Grants (16th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published	○Operation in section of Joban Line resumed (Odaka-Haranomachi)
July 28		○Second Satoyama Revitalization Model Project Liaison Meeting held
July 29	○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders, etc. updated and published ○“Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable)” updated and published ○Overview of FY2015 Special Account for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Execution Status of the Budget in the Concentrated Reconstruction Period published	
July 31		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 3	○Minister for Reconstruction Masahiro Imamura appointed by cabinet reshuffle	
August 5	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2016 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (2nd Round) issued	
August 8	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (16th meeting) convened; acceleration of reconstruction, etc. confirmed	
August 15		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved

August 19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No.45) approved ○ Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 50) approved ○ Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 71) approved
August 24	○ Supplementary budget for special account for the Great East Japan Earthquake for FY2016 decided on by the Cabinet	
August 25	○ Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2016 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (3rd Round) issued	
August 26	○ Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure updated	
August 31	○ Joint meeting of Reconstruction Promotion Council and Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters held to decide government policy on handling of difficult-to-return zones	
September 7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Fukushima Prefecture) ○ Fifteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Kamaishi City ○ Sixteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Town of Yamada ○ Fukushima food fan club “Team Fukushima Pride” established
September 8	○ Minister for Reconstruction Imamura met with Tokyo Governor Koike, expresses his gratitude for reconstruction assistance provided by Tokyo Metropolitan Government and requested continued assistance and cooperation to make 2020 Tokyo Olympics a reconstruction Olympics	
September 26	○ Partial Revision of “Payment Measures for Housing Acquisition, etc.” decided on by the Cabinet	
September 27	○ Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (26th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (14th Round)) and (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (12th Round)) issued	
September 30	○ “Handling Policy for the Removal and Treatment of Roadside Ditch Deposits Other than Those Targeted for Decontamination” published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved ○ Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 5) approved
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 141,000 [As of September 12, 2016] ○ Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 330 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 275 districts [As of June 30, 2016] ○ Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (816 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 710 facilities [As of March 2016]
October 1		○ 71st National Sports Festival “Kibokyo Iwate Kokutai” (October 1-11) held; first time festival was held in disaster-affected area
October 5		○ Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Miyagi Prefecture)
October 7	○ Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held	
October 9		○ “Fukushima Reconstruction Industrial Human Resource Development Institute” established to train industrial human resources who will become leaders in 12 municipalities of Fukushima, etc.
October 11	○ FY2016 supplementary budget (special session for reconstruction of 402.3 billion yen) enacted	○ 16th National Sports Tournament for the Disabled “Kibokyo Iwate Tournament” held in

October 19		Iwate Prefecture (October 22-24); first time tournament for the prefecture was held in Iwate
October 28		○Field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council (Iwate Prefecture)
		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 63-66) approved
		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Fukushima Nos. 72-79) approved
		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Ibaraki No. 23) approved
October 30		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Mitakido Interchange (Tome City, Miyagi Prefecture) and Shizugawa Interchange (Town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture) opened, connecting Sendai City and Town of Minamisanriku
November 1	○Reconstruction Agency opened official Facebook account	
November 8		○Seventeenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture
November 9	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (23rd meeting) convened; current situation of reconstruction, etc. discussed	
November 11	○“New Tohoku” Reconstruction and Creation Awards established	
November 14	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of September 30, 2016) published	○Eighteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture
	○Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure published	
November 15		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 8) approved
		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved
November 19		○“New Tohoku” Exchange Meeting in Koriyama held
November 29	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet	
December 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (16th Round) issued	
December 10		○Operation in section of Joban Line resumed (Soma-Hamayoshida)
December 17		○“New Tohoku” Exchange Meeting in Kamaishi City held
December 20	○Period for Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake to make decisions on support extended	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate No. 25 and No. 26) approved
	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (27th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (15th Round)) and (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (13th Round)) issued	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 2) approved
	○Basic Policy for Accelerating Fukushima Recovery from the Nuclear Disaster decided on by the Cabinet	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 1 and No. 24) approved
December 22	○FY2017 Reconstruction Agency draft budget decided on by the Cabinet	
	○Minister announced “Steady Support for Reconstruction and Response to New Challenges”	
	○FY2017 Reconstruction Agency Tax Reform Bill decided on by the Cabinet	
	○Fourth meeting of project teams of relevant ministries and agencies for revitalization of forests and forestry in Fukushima held	

December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 131,000 [As of December 9, 2016] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 290 districts [As of September 30, 2016] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (812 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 715 facilities [As of June 2016]
2017		
January 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Mr. Kohei Uchimura delegated as Ambassador for Reconstruction ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (28th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (1st Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (28th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revival Grants) (17th Round)) issued; policy on efforts for establishment of living bases for long-term evacuees, etc. published 	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 6) approved
January 12		
January 20		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 1) approved
January 24		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 3) approved
January 27		
January 28		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
January 31		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Aomori No. 9 and No. 10, Iwate No. 27 and No. 28, Miyagi No. 67 and Fukushima Nos. 80-87) approved
February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Selection results for “New Tohoku” Reconstruction and Creation Awards and “New Tohoku” Reconstruction Achievement Awards announced ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2016 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (4th Round) issued ○“Bill for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima” decided on by the Cabinet ○Ambassador for Reconstruction Kohei Uchimura paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe ○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (17th Round) issued 	
February 6		○First meeting of “Fukushima Prefecture Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Products Council to Eliminate the damage Caused by Harmful Rumors” held
February 9		○“New Tohoku” Exchange Meeting in Sendai held (“New Tohoku” Reconstruction and Creation Awards Ceremony and Recognition Ceremony for Achievements in “New Tohoku” Reconstruction held)
February 10		○“Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Flag Tour in Miyagi”
February 23		○Ambassador for Reconstruction Kohei Uchimura paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture
February 24		
February 28		○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No: Fukushima No. 2, Fukushima No. 18) approved
March 3		○Minamisanriku Sansan Shopping District relocates and opened (Town of Minamisanriku)

March 10	○Joint Meeting of 18th Meeting of Reconstruction Promotion Council and 45th Meeting of Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters held	
March 11	○“Reconstruction Portal Site - Toward the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games” opened	
March 12	○Memorial Ceremony for the Sixth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater)	○First roundabout in Iwate Prefecture entered to use (Miyako City)
March 19		○Restoration of Ofunato Port bay entrance breakwater completed
March 20		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Shizugawa Interchange (Town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture) and Minamisanriku Kaigan Interchange (Town of Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture) opened
March 24		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 8) approved
March 26		○Tohoku Chuo Expressway between the Somayamakami Interchange (Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture) and Somatamano Interchange (Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture) opened
March 31	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (29th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (18th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (29th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (14th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (29th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (16th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (29th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (2nd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (29th Round) (Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination (1st Round)) issued ○Partial Revision of “Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction” decided on by the Cabinet	○Evacuation orders in Village of Iitate, Town of Kawamata and Town of Namie lifted (except for certain difficult-to-return zones)
March		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 119,000 [As of March 13, 2017] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 305 districts [As of January 31, 2017] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (804 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 729 facilities [As of December 2016]
April 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2017 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (1st Round) issued	○Operation in section of Joban Line resumed (Odaka-Namie)
April 26	○Minister for Reconstruction Masayoshi Yoshino appointed	○Evacuation orders in Town of Tomioka lifted (except for certain difficult-to-return zones)
May 12	○Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima enacted (promulgated and enforced on May 19)	
May 16	○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino met with Olympic and Paralympic Minister Marukawa and confirmed that they would endeavor to cooperate in realizing Reconstruction Olympics	

May 19	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of March 31, 2017) published	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 21) approved
May 22	○Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure published	
May 30		○“Center of Advanced Projects for KIKAN” relocated to Town of Tomioka
May 31	○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino met with Tokyo Governor Koike, expressed his gratitude for reconstruction assistance provided by Tokyo Metropolitan Government and requested continued assistance as well as cooperation in realization of the torch relay in disaster-affected areas, etc. in order to promote Reconstruction Olympics	
June 2	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (24rd meeting) convened; current situation of reconstruction, etc. discussed	
June 3		○Twelfth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
June 9		○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No: Fukushima No. 5, Fukushima No. 18) approved
June 11-12		○Reconstruction Forum in Osaka held (Osaka City)
June 23	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (18th Round) issued	
June 26	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (30th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (19th Round)) issued	
	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (30th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (17th Round)) issued	
	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (30th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (13th Round)) issued	
June 30	○Partial Revision of “Basic Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima” decided on by the Cabinet	
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 93,000 [As of June 16, 2017] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 309 districts [As of March 31, 2017] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (804 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 729 facilities [As of December 2016]
July 4		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 24) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate No. 30) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Iwate No. 29, Fukushima Nos. 88-92, Miyagi No. 68 and Ibaraki No. 24 and No. 25) approved
July 14	○Basic Concept for Reconstruction Memorial Park in Fukushima Prefecture formulated	
July 21	○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumors, held	

July 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○First Ministerial Conference on Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework held ○Execution Status of FY2016 Great East Japan Earthquake-Related Budget and Execution Status of the Reconstruction-Related Budget (FY2011 to FY2016) published 	
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in 12 municipalities in Fukushima updated and published ○Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable) updated and published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2017 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (2nd Round) issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 6		
August 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Council (19th meeting) convened 	
August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure published 	
September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Establishment of state-run memorial/prayer facilities (tentative name) in Fukushima Prefecture decided on by the Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Town of Futaba Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved
September 15		
September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (31th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (15th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (31th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (18th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (31th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (4th Round)) issued 	
September 28		
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Miyagi Prefecture on-site inspection by Reconstruction Promotion Council ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 84,000 [As of September 14, 2017] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 333 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 332 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 312 districts [As of June 30, 2017] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (797 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 743 facilities [As of June 2017]
October 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Fukushima Prefecture on-site inspection by Reconstruction Promotion Council ○Iwate Prefecture on-site inspection by Reconstruction Promotion Council ○Nineteenth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Natori City ○Operation in section of Joban Line resumed (Tomioka-Tatsuta) ○Twentieth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Rikuzentakata City
October 11		
October 19		
October 21		
October 26		
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino reappointed upon Forth Cabinet Formation ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2017 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (3rd Round) issued 	

November 5		○Higashimatsushima City Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Memorial Park Completion Ceremony
November 6	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (25th meeting) convened	
November 7		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Iwate No. 31, Fukushima No. 93 and No. 94 and Miyagi No. 69) approved
November 10		○Town of Okuma Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved
November 15		○Twenty-first meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Tamura District
November 17	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of September 30, 2017) published	
November 19		○Sanriku Coast Expressway Yamada-Miyako Road (Yamada Interchange-Miyako-Minami Interchange) opened
November 21	○Promotion structure for “Reconstruction Olympics” developed	
November 22		○Twenty-second meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Iwanuma City
November 27		○First Meeting of Subcommittee on Promotion of Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework held
November 29	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet	
November 30	○Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure published	
December 1		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 50) approved
December 9		○Minamisanriku Road between Minamisanriku Kaigan Interchange and Utatsu Interchange opened
December 12	○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held; “Strategies for Eliminating the Damage Caused by Harmful Rumor and Strengthening Risk Communication” determined ○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino attended 5th IOC Coordinating Committee Official Dinner; conducted publicity for excellent agricultural, forestry and fishery products, handicrafts, etc. from the 3 disaster-affected prefectures	
December 13		○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (32nd Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (16th Round) issued
		○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (32nd Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (19th Round)) issued
		○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (32nd Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (5th Round)) issued
December 22	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (32nd Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (20th Round)) issued	
	○FY2018 Reconstruction Agency budget decided on by the Cabinet	○Town of Namie Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved
		○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate No. 8, Ibaraki No. 17 and Fukushima No. 18 and No. 55) approved

December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 77,000 [As of December 12, 2017] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 332 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 313 districts [As of September 30, 2017] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (793 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 748 facilities [As of September 30, 2017]
2018		
January 12 and 19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○First “Continuous Exchange Meeting for Understanding and Cooperation of Activities of NPOs and Other Entities Involved in Administration and Reconstruction” for Hamadori, Fukushima Prefecture and Other Areas held (Minamisoma City on January 12 and Iwaki City on January 19)
January 30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Natori City Town Revitalization Plan approved
February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Organization for Supporting the Turnaround of Businesses Damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake enacted (promulgated and enforced on February 7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Miyagi Nos. 70-73, Fukushima Nos. 95-99 and Ibaraki No. 26) approved ○“New Tohoku “Reconstruction and Creation Awards Ceremony held in Sendai City ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 24) approved
February 2		
February 18		
February 21		
February 28		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Progress in full recovery and reconstruction of public infrastructure published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (20th Round) issued 	
March 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Joint Meeting of 20th Meeting of Reconstruction Promotion Council and 46th Meeting of Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters held ○Memorial Ceremony for the Seventh Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake (National Theater) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Town of Tomioka Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved ○Soma-Fukushima Road between Soma-Tamano Interchange and Ryozen Interchange opened ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 21) approved ○Restoration of Soma Port offshore breakwater completed ○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Taro Masaki Kaigan Interchange and Iwaizumi Ryusendo Interchange opened ○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Otani Kaigan Interchange and Kesennuma-Chuo Interchange opened ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 10) approved ○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No.: Iwate No. 32) approved
March 10		
March 11		
March 14		
March 15		
March 21		
March 25		
March 27		

March 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (33rd Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (6th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (33rd Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (20th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (33rd Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (17th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (33rd Round) (Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination (2nd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (33rd Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (21st Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2018 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (1st Round) issued 	
March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 71,000 [As of March 15, 2018] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 332 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 319 districts [As of January 31, 2018] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (790 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 749 facilities [As of December 31, 2017]
April 1-6		○Elementary and junior high schools reopen in areas where evacuation orders have been lifted (Village of Iitate, Town of Namie, Town of Tomioka, Town of Kawamata and Village of Katsurao)
April 20		○Village of Iitate Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Second Ministerial Conference on Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework held ○Priority Promotion Plan based on the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima approved 	
April 30		○Restoration of Kamaishi Port bay entrance breakwater completed
May 9	○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino attended 38th Japan-EU Parliamentarians' Meeting; explained state of reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, food safety and attractiveness of Tohoku region.	
May 11		○Village of Katsurao Specified Reconstruction and Revitalization Bases Area Reconstruction and Revitalization Plan approved
May 18	○Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino attended 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting held in Iwaki City; explained state of reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident	
May 25	○Residential Reconstruction Roadmap (as of March 31, 2018) published	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 6) approved
May 26		○Thirteenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in Fukushima City
May 29		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 23) approved

June 8	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (26th meeting) convened	
June 12	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of March 31, 2018) published	
June 27	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (21st Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (34th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (22nd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (34th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (21st Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (34th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (18th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (34th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (7th Round)) issued	
June 29		○Kamaishi City Town Revitalization Plan approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 62,000 [As of June 14, 2018] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 332 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 324 districts [As of June 30, 2018] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (790 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 749 facilities [As of December 31, 2017]
July 6		○Basic Concept for Reconstruction memorial Park in Fukushima Prefecture formulated
July 28		○J-Village Restart Commemorative Ceremony (Town of Naraha and Town of Hirono; Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado presented) ○Sanriku Coastal Road, Karakuwa Takada Road (between Rikuzentakata Osabe IC and Rikuzentakata IC) opened.
August 6		○Groundbreaking ceremony for the construction project of the east-west free passage and overpass station at Futaba Station on the Joban Line
August 9		○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 10	○Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable) updated and published ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in 12 municipalities in Fukushima updated and published ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2018 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (2nd Round) issued	
August 19		○Opening event held at Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Memorial Stadium
August 28	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of June 30, 2018) published	
September 7		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 3) approved
September 11		○Miyagi Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council

September 19-20		○Iwate Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council
September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (35th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (23rd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (35th Round) (Establishment of a Base for Nuclear Disaster Information Dissemination (3rd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (35th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (19th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (35th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (22nd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (35th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (8th Round)) issued 	
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 57,000 [As of September 11, 2018] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 332 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 325 districts [As of September 30, 2018] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (790 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 749 facilities [As of December 31, 2017]
October 1		○Fukushima Prefecture field survey by Reconstruction Promotion Council
October 2	○Minister for Reconstruction Hiromichi Watanabe appointed by cabinet reshuffle	
October 4	○Senior Vice-Ministers Tachibana and Tsukada appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction in place of Senior Vice-Ministers Doi and Akimoto and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Ando, Ishikawa and Shirasuka appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction in place of Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Nagasaka, Niizuma and Hiraki	
October 5	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (21st meeting) convened	
October 12		○Kesennuma City Town Revitalization Plan approved
October 31		○Twenty-third meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Shiogama City
November 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of FY2018 General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims (3rd Round) issued	
November 6		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No: Miyagi Nos. 74-76, Fukushima Nos. 102-108) approved
November 9	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (27th meeting) convened	
November 14		○Twenty-fourth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Town of Otsuchi
November 20	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of September 30, 2018) published	
November 28		○Twenty-fifth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Shineha District, Fukushima Prefecture
November 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (22nd Round) issued 	

December 2		○Fukushima Career Exploration Seminar held in Fukushima City
December 3		○Second Meeting of Subcommittee on Promotion of Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework held
December 13	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (36th Round) (Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (24th Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (36th Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children) (20th Round) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (36th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (23rd Round)) issued ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (36th Round) (Support for Removal and Disposal of Roadside Ditch Sediment (9th Round)) issued	
December 18	○“Organization of Issues that Need to be Addressed Even after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” compiled and published	
December 19		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan for Natori City (Miyagi No. 77) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Miyagi No. 1) approved
December 21	○FY2019 Reconstruction Agency budget decided on by the Cabinet	
December 26		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved ○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 5) approved
December		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 54,000 [As of December 11, 2018] ○Number of districts for which statutory procedures have been completed for collective relocation promotion projects for disaster prevention (with Minister agreement): 332 districts; number of districts where construction has started: 331 districts; number of districts where construction is completed: 325 districts [As of September 30, 2018] ○Status of resumption of operations at seafood processing facilities that want to resume operation (790 facilities) in the 3 prefectures affected by the disaster: 749 facilities [As of December 31, 2017]
2019		
January 9	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Ibaraki Prefecture	
January 12		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Otsuchi Interchange and Yamada-Minami Interchange opened
January 16	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (until January 17)	
January 21		○Rikuzentakata Municipal Kesen Elementary School New School Building Inauguration Ceremony
January 22	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (28th meeting) convened	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Iwate No. 8) approved
January 26	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
February 1		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Aomori No. 11, Miyagi Nos. 78-80 and Fukushima Nos. 109-116) approved
February 16		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Utatsu Interchange and Koizumi Kaigan Interchange and between Motoyoshi-Tsuya Interchange and Otani Kaigan Interchange opened
February 17	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	

February 18	○Celebrating the Thirty-Year Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor's Reign: A Photo Exhibition held (Tokyo: from February 18 to March 15; three disaster-affected prefectures: from February 22 to March 1)	
February 21	○“Thirty Case Studies of Industrial Reconstruction in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima: The Seeds of a New Generation to Inherit Our Spirit” published ○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe and Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Tachibana exchanged opinions with Chairperson of Nippon Keidanren Nakanishi and others; Requested follow-up of efforts to eliminate harmful rumors and external communication of good practices	
February 26	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (29th meeting) convened	
February 28	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe and Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Tachibana exchanged opinions with President of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mimura and others; Requested proactive use of products from Fukushima Prefecture, etc. in order to eliminate harmful rumors ○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of January 31, 2019) published	
March 3		○Tohoku-Odan Expressway between Tono Sumida Interchange and Tono Interchange opened
March 8	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (22nd meeting) convened ○Modification of the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake From the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” decided on by the Cabinet	
March 9	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe accompanied Prime Minister Abe's Visit to Iwate Prefecture	○Tohoku-Odan Expressway between Kamaishi Junction and Kamaishi Sennin-Toge Interchange and the Sanriku Coast Expressway between Kamaishi Minami Interchange and Kamaishi Ryoishi Interchange opened
March 12	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe exchanged opinions with Chairperson of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives Kobayashi and others; Requested assistance in efforts for human resource dispatch and company matching, etc.	
March 15		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 21 and No. 24) approved
March 16		○Recovery and reconstruction project in Toyoma district completed
March 21		○Naraha Smart Interchange opened ○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Karakuwa-Oharagi Interchange and Rikuzentakata-Osabe Interchange opened
March 23	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Iwate Prefecture	○Entire Sanriku Railway Rias Line (Sakari Station-Kuji Station) opened
March 24	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
March 29	○Partial Revision of Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction decided on by the Cabinet	
March 30	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	○Miyako Morioka Crossing Road between Miyako-Chuo Interchange and Miyakoneichi Interchange opened
March		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 51,000 [As of March 11, 2019]

Sources: “Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (Unfinished Draft)” (as of December 31, 2018) and “Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records)” (as of February 8, 2021)

(2) First Reconstruction/Revitalization Period, Second Half

(From April 2019 to March 2021)

In the first reconstruction/revitalization period, which ran from April 2019 to March 2021, the restoration of infrastructure, reconstruction of homes and reconstruction community development in the earthquake- and tsunami-affected areas was largely completed, the revitalization of industries and livelihoods was steadily progressing, and the “completion” phase of reconstruction was being carried out in order to finely address remaining issues. On the other hand, in areas affected by the nuclear disaster, the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima had begun in earnest, as exemplified by the improvement of returning environments in areas where evacuation orders had been lifted. The deadline for the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency was extended, and basic reconstruction policies for the next 10 years were formulated.

1) Current Status and Efforts of Reconstruction

(Current situation)

In April 2019, 8 years following the disaster, the reconstruction of disaster public housing and other housing in disaster-affected areas were almost completed. Additionally, production levels in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures had almost recovered, with planting resumable in 92% of farmland and operations resuming at 96% of seafood processing facilities.

In areas affected by the nuclear disaster, the evacuation orders were lifted in most areas except for certain difficult-to-return zones, and actions aimed at the reconstruction and revitalization proceeded in earnest. Additionally, the number of evacuees had decreased to 50,000.

(Efforts)

As the “the first reconstruction/revitalization period” will come to a close at the end of FY2021, the basic policy for the period to follow that one was decided in December 2019. In June 2020, a law was enacted to extend the period of reconstruction establishment by 10 years. That July, the scale of projects and financial resources for FY2021 and beyond were decided on. In March 2021, the basic policy for the period including and after “the second Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” was prepared (revised), and the policy for the next 10 years was established.

For support for disaster victims, the national government continued to provide support through the General Subsidy for Support for Disaster Victims in accordance with each situation, as the challenges faced by disaster victims diversified due to the prolongation of their lives as evacuees. Additionally, in Iwate Prefecture in March 2020 and in Miyagi Prefecture in June 2021, disaster recovery projects were completed for all public school facilities affected by the disaster. In Fukushima Prefecture, disaster recovery projects were completed at 98% of the total excluding difficult-to-return zones.

For reconstruction of homes and cities, the preparation of collective relocation for disaster prevention was completed in March 2020, and the JR Joban Line was fully opened. This resulted in the opening of the entire railway line (including BRT) that was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. That December, land readjustment and the preparation of approximately 30,000 public housing units for disaster victims (excluding those under adjustment and for returnees) were completed as well. By March 2021, the voluntary reconstruction of 155,000 houses was also completed, leaving only about 1,000 people in Fukushima Prefecture living in emergency temporary housing. Also, about 92% of reconstruction roads and reconstruction support roads and about 85% of seawalls were completed.

In the industrial and livelihood sectors, approximately 12,000 projects were supported by group subsidies by December 2020. Roughly 45% of the businesses supported by these subsidies recovered to their pre-earthquake performance levels. Additionally, more than 90% of affected businesses that had taken up tenancy in temporary stores, factories, etc. moved to main facilities, and the purchase of loans by the Industrial Reconstruction Organization of Japan and the Great East Japan Earthquake Business Support Corporation ended at the end of March 2021. Restoration of tsunami-affected farmland was completed up to 94%, and unloading functions were restored in all damaged fishing ports. Seafood processing facilities in the 3 disaster-stricken prefectures also resumed operations up to 98%. In Fukushima Prefecture, test operations in the fishery industry were completed and the fishery industry moved into its phase of transition to full-scale operation.

In areas affected by the nuclear disaster, as of the end of March 2021, about 75% of the estimated 14 million m³ of removed soil and other materials to be transported had been transported to Interim storage facilities. At specified reconstruction and revitalization sites, decontamination, infrastructure development, etc. were underway in preparation for the lifting of evacuation orders. Also, based on the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework, the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field (Town of Namie) and Fukushima Robot Test Field (Minamisoma City and Town of Namie) were fully opened in March 2020. That June, the final report of the “Expert Committee for the

Establishment of an International Education and Research Center in the Fukushima Hamadori District" was made.

During that time, in March 2020, the evacuation order was lifted for all areas except difficult-to-return zones upon the lifting of orders on areas under preparation for lifting evacuation orders in the Town of Futaba. As of April 2021, the total number of evacuees in Fukushima Prefecture was approximately 35,000. Additionally, in December 2020, the national government decided on a land use scheme for land utilization in the area outside the specified reconstruction and revitalization bases area (SRRBA).

2) Main Actions of the National Government, etc.

a. Summary of Reconstruction Measures (October 23, 2019)

Given the need to summarize the reconstruction measures implemented during the 10-year reconstruction period and consider future measures as established in the 2019 Basic Guidelines, at the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council held on July 3, 2019, a decision was made on "Holding of a Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures Following the Great East Japan Earthquake." The Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures Following the Great East Japan Earthquake (hereinafter referred to as the "Summarization Working Group") was to be held under the Reconstruction Promotion Council.

Starting with its first meeting on July 22, 2019, the Summarization Working Group met five times in total until October that year. At the Reconstruction Promotion Council meeting held on October 23, the Summarization Working Group presented the "Summarization of Reconstruction Measures Following the Great East Japan Earthquake."

b. Formulation of the 2019 Basic Guidelines (December 20, 2019)

At the Reconstruction Promotion Council meeting held on September 20, 2019, Prime Minister Abe instructed the national government to compile basic guidelines for reconstruction by the end of the year, among other instructions, in order to achieve reconstruction under political responsibility and leadership even after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, which still had one and a half years remaining.

Following this, based in part of the summarization of reconstruction measures by the Summarization Working Group, the draft for the "Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake," which stipulates the efforts undertaken after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period and the mechanisms and organizations serving to support reconstruction, was approved by a Council decision at the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council held on December 19, 2019. On the following day on December 20, a cabinet decision was rendered with respect to the Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake after the "Reconstruction / Revitalization Period" (Hereinafter referred to as the "2019 Basic Guidelines").

In the 2019 Basic Guidelines, reconstruction measures to date were summarized, after which earthquake and tsunami disaster-affected areas and areas affected by the nuclear disaster were separated and basic guidelines were indicated for each. For earthquake and tsunami disaster-affected areas, it was stated that reconstruction projects should fulfill their roles within five years after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period. Additionally, for nuclear disaster-stricken areas, it was established that as medium- to long-term responses are necessary for the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima, the national government will continue to play a leading role, and that over the next 10 years, efforts will be made toward full-fledged reconstruction and revitalization while meticulously responding to new issues and diverse needs that will arise as the stage of reconstruction progresses. Moreover, it was stated that in FY2025, 5 years after the completion of the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, the overall nature of the reconstruction program will be reviewed.

Also, as a mechanism serving to support reconstruction, for financial resources, etc., by around the summer of 2020, the national government will present the scales of projects and financial resources necessary for the implementation of recovery and reconstruction projects for the next 5 years after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period. Regarding legal systems, it was decided to abolish the Reconstruction Grants under the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake at the end of the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, and to consider tax measures, etc. to address issues such as the acceleration of efforts toward industrial agglomeration under the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework and the damage caused by harmful rumors.

Furthermore, the 2019 Basic Guidelines clearly stipulates that the period of establishment of the Reconstruction Agency will be extended for 10 years after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period and that the current comprehensive coordination function will be maintained. Simultaneously, regarding the nature of organizations, it was stated that the ideal organizational structure in FY2025 (which would be the 5th year) would be considered and necessary measures would be taken based on the further progress of reconstruction projects after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period.

c. Enactment of Act for Partial Revision of the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. (June 5, 2020)

Based on the 2019 Basic Guidelines, the “Bill for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc.” was decided on by the Cabinet on March 3, 2020 and included a 10-year extension of the period of establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. The bill was then submitted to the Diet. This bill’s purpose was to develop mechanisms, etc. that serve to support reconstruction after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period. It bundled amendments to the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act as well as the following four reconstruction-related laws. It was passed and enacted at the plenary session of the House of Councillors on June 5, 2020, and promulgated and partially enforced on December 12 that year.

Figure 2-1-18 Overview of Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc.

Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. (Act No. 46, June 12, 2020)	
Background Areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami are in the “completion” stage of reconstruction. Areas affected by the nuclear disaster will continue to need medium- to long-term measures in the future. In light of this situation, based on the Basic Policy for the period after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period (decided on by the Cabinet on December 20, 2019), it is necessary to develop mechanisms, organizations and financial resources serving to support post-reconstruction and revitalization (from FY2021) through the following amendments to the law.	
Mechanisms, organizations and financial resources serving to support reconstruction	
1. Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period of establishment for Reconstruction Agency extended for 10 years, (March 31, 2031) Current overall coordination function maintained; Establishment of Minister for Reconstruction Location, etc. of Regional Bureau of Reconstruction delegated to Cabinet Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iwate Regional Bureau of Reconstruction and Miyagi Regional Bureau of Reconstruction relocated to coastal areas; Fukushima Regional Bureau of Reconstruction stays in Fukushima City Etc.	3. Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration, etc. promoted in addition to promotion of returning (measures contributing to promotion of emigration of new residents and expansion of exchange and related populations added to the scope of grants) Resumption of farming accelerated (Special provisions to promote usage and accumulation of farmland and setting up of facilities for the sixth industrialization, etc.) Industrial clusters centered on implementation of Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework promoted (Special taxation provisions prescribed, etc.) Measures to address harmful rumors taken (Special taxation provisions prescribed, etc.) System in which Fukushima Prefecture prepares plan for reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima and receives approval of national government established (3 current plans integrated) Etc.
2. Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target areas prioritized for special provisions on regulations, reconstruction development plans, and special provisions for finance (local governments that need to promote reconstruction efforts intensively are specified by Cabinet Office Order) Target areas prioritized for taxation system for special Reconstruction zones (municipalities particularly requiring efforts to form and revitalize industrial clusters are specified by Cabinet Office Order) Reconstruction Grants abolished (Required transitional measures prescribed) Etc.	4. Act on Securing Financial Resources for Reconstruction/Special Account Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance period for reconstruction bonds extended Period for allocating proceeds from stock sales to funds for redemption extended Etc. * Special Account for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake continued

* Effective date: April 1, 2021 (Part of 3. and 4. came into effect on the day of promulgation)

Source: Reconstruction Agency Website <https://www.reconstruction.go.jp/topics/20200611103028.html> (browsed July 5, 2023)

d. Decision on Reconstruction Efforts from FY2021 Onward (July 17, 2020)

Based on the fact that the 2019 Basic Guidelines stipulate “Indicate the scale of projects and financial resources necessary for the implementation of recovery and reconstruction projects for the next 5 years after the Reconstruction / Revitalization Period by around the summer of 2020,” at the meeting of the Reconstruction Promotion Council on July 17, 2020, the “Reconstruction Efforts from FY2021 Onward” were decided on. In the same decision, the reconstruction period was set at 15 years until FY2025. With that being the case, the 5-year period starting from FY2021 was positioned as “the second reconstruction/revitalization period” since that would constitute the timing where the philosophy of the prior 5-year period should be inherited and when greater efforts should be made to achieve the goals of that philosophy (Accordingly, the period from FY2016 to FY2020 was designated as “the first reconstruction/revitalization period”).

Additionally, it was stated that given that restoration and reconstruction project costs for the 10-year period from FY2011 to the end of FY2020 were expected to be approximately 31.3 trillion yen, restoration and reconstruction project costs for the second Reconstruction / Revitalization Period were expected to be approximately 1.6 trillion yen, the total scale of recovery and reconstruction projects for the 15-year period would be expected to be approximately 32.9 trillion yen.

Regarding financial resources, those of about 32 trillion yen to be allocated for recovery and reconstruction projects for the 10-year period spanning from FY2011 to the end of FY2020 were estimated to be about 32.9 trillion yen, which is commensurate with the scale of the projects when considering the actual results of special income tax revenues for reconstruction and non-tax revenues.

e. Modification of the 2019 Basic Guidelines (March 9, 2021)

The enactment of the Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc., in June 2020 and the “Reconstruction initiatives from FY2021 and after” (decided by the Reconstruction Promotion Council) of that July were reflected in the 2019 Basic Guidelines. In order to ensure complete reconstruction in FY2021 and beyond, a revised draft was decided by the Reconstruction Promotion Council on March 9, 2021, and amendments to the 2019 Basic Guidelines were decided on by the Cabinet on the same day. Due to this, the 2019 Basic Guidelines were completely changed and became the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake for the Period of the Second Reconstruction / Revitalization Period Onward” (hereinafter referred to as the “2021 Basic Guidelines”).

In the 2021 Basic Guidelines, earthquake and tsunami disaster-affected areas and areas affected by the nuclear disaster were separated, and basic guidelines on reconstruction were indicated for each as shown below.

- Regarding earthquake and tsunami disaster-affected areas, the aim is to ensure that reconstruction projects fulfill their roles by making every effort to tackle support for disaster victims and other remaining projects during the second reconstruction/revitalization period.
- For nuclear disaster-stricken areas, it was established that as medium- to long-term responses are necessary for the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima, the national government will continue to play a leading role, and over the next 10 years, efforts will be made toward full-fledged reconstruction and revitalization while meticulously responding to new issues and diverse needs that will arise as the stage of reconstruction progresses. Additionally a international education and research center will also be established as a “core base for creative reconstruction.” Moreover, In FY2025, the overall nature of the reconstruction program will be reviewed.

Also, the scale of recovery and reconstruction projects over a 15-year period is estimated to be around 32.9 trillion yen, and the financial resources are expected to match this amount in light of the actual tax revenues from special income for reconstruction, etc.

With regard to the organization, it was indicated that the period of establishment of the Reconstruction Agency would be extended to March 31, 2031 according to the revision of the Reconstruction Agency Establishment Act, the Regional Bureau of Reconstruction in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima would be maintained together with the current comprehensive coordination function and the locations of the Iwate Regional Bureau of Reconstruction and the Miyagi Regional Bureau of Reconstruction would be changed to Kamaishi City and Ishinomaki City, respectively, in order to shift the organization's focus to areas where reconstruction issues are concentrated. Moreover, it was established that based on the further progress of reconstruction projects during the second Reconstruction / Revitalization Period, the ideal organizational structure would be considered in FY2025 and necessary measures will be taken.

It was stated that these 2021 Basic Guidelines would be reviewed by three years later on the progress of reconstruction measures and the status of reconstruction in areas affected by the nuclear disaster.

[Reference: Administrative Records]

Figure 2-1-19 Progress of Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records) (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021)

Month and day	Actions by the Reconstruction Agency	Actions in the field, etc.
2019		
April 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (37th Round) issued	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
April 5	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
April 7		○Kesennuma Oshima Bridge opened
April 8	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	○Futaba Mirai Gakuen started as combined junior and senior high school
April 12	○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held	
April 13		○Kamaishi Uogashi Nigiwai Kan “Uogashi Terrace” opened
April 14	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe and Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Hamada accompanied Prime Minister Abe on his visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
April 20	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
April 25		○“Kawamachi Terrace Yuriage” opened
April 26		○Yamato Kaihin Ryokuchi Park opened
May 10		○New government office opened in Town of Yamamoto
May 13	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
May 20	○Compilation of response directions based on results of WTO Appellate Body Report	
May 21	○Celebrating the Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor's Reign: A Photo Exhibition held (Tokyo: May 21-June 7; Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures: May 21-31; Fukushima Prefecture: May 28-June 7)	
May 26	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures	
June 1	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (until June 2)	
June 2		○Fourteenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held
June 9		○Miyagi Prefecture Kita Expressway Phase IV (Tsukidate Construction Area) opened
June 12	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	○Entire Michinoku Shiokaze Trail opened
	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of March 31, 2019) published	
June 18	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
June 20	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Iwate Prefecture	
June 22		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Kamaishi-Kita Interchange and Otsuchi Interchange opened
June 27	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (38th Round) issued	
June		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 51,000 [As of June 11, 2019]
July 3	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (30th meeting) convened	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Aomori No. 12, Miyagi No. 81 and Fukushima Nos. 117-118) approved
July 12		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 18) approved
July 14	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
July 17	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	

July 22	○First Meeting of Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake held	○Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Fukushima Promotion Conference & Fukushima Grand Exchange Meeting held
July 24		
July 28	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
July 29	○First Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
July 31	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
August 6	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	○Kuji City Disaster Prevention Park opened ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster convened
August 8	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
August 9	○Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable) updated and published ○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in 12 municipalities in Fukushima updated and published	
August 20	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (until August 21)	
August 23	○Second Meeting of Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake held	
August 29	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Iwate Prefecture	
August 30	○Second Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held ○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of June 30, 2019) published	
September 8	○Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	○Takada Matsubara Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park partially opened ○Rugby World Cup 2019 match between Fiji and Uruguay held at Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Memorial Stadium
September 11	○Kazunori Tanaka appointed as Minister for Reconstruction by cabinet reshuffle ○Third Meeting of Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake held	
September 12	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima and Miyagi Prefectures	
September 13	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Iwate Prefecture ○Senior Vice-Ministers Kanke, Yokoyama and Minorikawa appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Fujiwara, Aoyama and Nakano appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction	
September 18	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (until September 19)	
September 19	○Third Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
September 20	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (23rd meeting) convened	
September 22		
September 25	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Iwate Prefecture (until September 26) ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (39th Round) issued	
September 30	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture ○Fourth Meeting of Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake held	
September		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 50,000 [As of September 6, 2019]
October 1	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
October 3	○Fourth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	

October 5	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
October 14	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	
October 16	○Fifth Meeting of Working Group on the Summarization of Reconstruction Measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake held	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 2 and No. 55) approved
October 18	○Fifth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
October 23		○Twenty-sixth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Eastern Miyagi Prefecture
October 28	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
October 29	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (until October 30)	
November 1	○Meeting of task force on measures to deal with effects of nuclear disaster, including the damage caused by harmful rumor, held	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 82, Fukushima No. 119 and No.120 and Ibaraki No. 27) approved
November 7	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (32th meeting) convened	
November 11		○Twenty-seventh meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture
November 14	○Sixth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	○Modifications to Rikuzentakata City Town Revitalization Plan approved
November 20		○Twenty-eighth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Iwate Sanriku
November 22	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet	
November 24	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka and Senior Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Kanke accompany Prime Minister Abe on his visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
November 25	○Third Meeting of Subcommittee on Promotion of Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework held	
November 28	○Seventh Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
November 30		○ Eastern Reconstruction Road (Kasaage Road) opened
December 9	○“Blueprint for Industrial Development Based on the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework” compiled	
December 12	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (33rd meeting) convened	
December 13	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture	
December 19	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (40th Round) issued	
December 20	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (24th meeting) convened	
December 22	○Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake after the “Reconstruction and Revitalization Period” decided on by the Cabinet	
December 22	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture	○Tohoku Chuo Expressway between Soma Interchange and Somayamakami Interchange opened
December		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 49,000 [As of December 9, 2019]
2020		
January 9		○New government office opened in Town of Watari
January 15	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Iwate Prefecture	
January 24	○Sixth meeting of project teams of relevant ministries and agencies for revitalization of forests and forestry in Fukushima held	○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 6) approved
	○Eighth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
January 28	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (41st Round) issued	

January 31		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Related to Interest Subsidies) (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 83, Fukushima Nos. 121-126 and Ibaraki No. 28) approved
February 1		○Iwaki City Fish Plaza “Hamamizu” opened
February 3	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka and Senior Vice-Minister Yokoyama pay visit to Miyagi Prefecture (Sendai City)	
February 14	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visits Miyagi Prefectural Government, Miyagi Mental Care Center and Miyagi Prefectural Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry ○“Thirty Case Studies of Industrial Reconstruction in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima: Nine Years After the Great East Japan Earthquake -Toward a Sustainable Future-” published	
February 16		○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended Reconstruction Support and Reconstruction Forum 2020 in Tokyo
February 18	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka participates in “inspection of support efforts for disaster-affected areas”	
February 24	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima City)	○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Kesennuma-Chuo Interchange and Kesennuma Port Interchange opened ○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (20th meeting) convened in Fukushima City; Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended
February 28	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of January 31, 2020) published	
March 3	○Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. decided on by the Cabinet	
March 4		○Evacuation order partially lifted in Town of Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture
March 5		○Evacuation order partially lifted in Town of Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture
March 7	○Prime Minister Abe paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Towns of Futaba, Tomioka and Namie); accompanied by Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka	○Joban Expressway Joban Futaba Interchange Opening Ceremony held; Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended
March 10	○Joint Meeting of 25th Meeting of Reconstruction Promotion Council and 51st Meeting of Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters held	○Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field Opening Ceremony held; Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended
March 14		○Evacuation order partially lifted in Town of Tomioka, Fukushima Prefecture ○JR Joban Line resumes service on all lines
March 18	○Tenth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
March 20		○Train departure ceremony to commemorate resumption of service on entire Sanriku Railway Rias Line (Iwate Prefecture)
March 24		○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No: Iwate No. 8 and No. 10, Miyagi No. 24 and Fukushima No. 18) approved
March		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 47,000 [As of March 11, 2020]
April 1	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (42nd Round) (Emergency Support for Settlement in Fukushima (Grants to Restore Vitality to Children), Development of Base Facilities, Improvement of Returning Environment, Town Planning Utilizing Existing Stock, Support for Removal and Disposal of Gutter Sediment and Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revival Grants)) published	
April 10	○Eleventh Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
April 27	○Twelfth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	
May 15	○Thirteenth Meeting of Expert Committee on International Education and Research Base in the Fukushima Hamadori District held	

June 5	○Seventh Follow-up Meeting on Recommendations for the Future Vision of 12 Fukushima Municipalities held in writing	
June 11	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (34th meeting) convened	
June 12	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of March 31, 2020) published	
June 12	○Fifteenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held (3 venues, the Reconstruction Agency, Fukushima Prefectural Office and Manabi no Mori, connected via video conference format)	
June 19	○Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. promulgated	
June 19	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Prefectural Office); exchanged opinions with Governor Uchibori	
June 22	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Iwate Prefecture (Iwate Prefecture Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Iwate Prefecture Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives and Iwate Prefectural Office) to exchange opinions	
June 26	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (43rd Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (30th Round)) issued	
July 2	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Town of Futaba, Town of Okuma and Town of Tomioka)	
July 3		○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Village of Tenei (Fukushima No. 127), Sukagawa City (Fukushima No. 128) and Koriyama City (Fukushima No. 129)) approved
July 7		○Modifications to approved Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 5 and No. 18) approved
July 9	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Chiba Prefecture (Asahi City) and Ibaraki Prefecture (Itako City, Kashima City, Town of Oarai and Kitaibaraki City)	
July 12		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Miyako-Chuo Junction and Taro Masaki Kaigan Interchange and Miyako Morioka Crossing Road between Miyako Port Interchange and Miyako-Chuo Interchange opened
July 17	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (26th meeting) convened on rotating basis	
July 17	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture (Higashimatsushima City)	
July 21	○Basic Mindset for FY2021 Reconstruction Agency Budget Estimate Request announced	
July 29	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Town of Naraha and Koriyama City)	
July		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 43,000 [As of July 9, 2020] *Announcement suspended in June due to COVID-19 measures
August 2		○Opening ceremony for Tohoku Chuo Expressway between Date Koori Interchange and Koori Junction held; Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended
August 5	○Reconstruction Minister Tanaka paid visit to Iwate Prefecture (Miyako City, Town of Otsuchi)	
August 5	○Sixteenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held (2 venues, the Reconstruction Agency and Fukushima Regional Bureau of Reconstruction, connected via video conference format)	
August 7	○Reconstruction Measures for Public Infrastructure (Project Plan and Timetable) updated and published	
August 7	○Roadmap for public infrastructure restoration in 12 municipalities in Fukushima updated and published	
August 19	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture (Natori City and Town of Onagawa)	○Town of Futaba in Fukushima Prefecture commenced residents' opinion survey
August 27	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of July 30, 2020) published	
August 30	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima City)	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (21st meeting) convened in Fukushima City; Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended

September 4	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Town of Tomioka)	○Full opening ceremony for Fukushima Robot Test Field held; Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka attended
September 8	○Eighth Meeting of Task Force on Promotion of Industrial Recovery held	
September 12	○Minister for Reconstruction Tanaka paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Minamisoma City and Town of Namie)	
September 16	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa appointed by cabinet reshuffle	
September 18	○Senior Vice-Ministers Kameoka, Yokoyama and Iwai appointed as Senior Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers Yoshikawa, Mitani and Sato appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Reconstruction	
September 20	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima City)	○Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum opened
September 23	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Iwate Prefecture (Morioka City) and Miyagi Prefecture (Sendai City)	
September 25	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (27th meeting) convened	
September 26	○Prime Minister Kan paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Towns of Okuma, Futaba and Hirono); accompanied by Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa	
September 29	○Cabinet Order on the Preparation of Relevant Cabinet Orders Accompanying the Enforcement of the Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. decided on by the Cabinet	
September 30	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (44th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (31st Round)) issued	
September 30	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Towns of Namie, Okuma, Tomioka and Futaba)	
September		○Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 43,000 [As of September 9, 2020]
October 2	○Cabinet Order on the Preparation of Relevant Cabinet Orders Accompanying the Enforcement of the Act for Partial Amendments to the Act for Establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, etc. promulgated	○Onahama Port International Bulk Terminal Opening Ceremony held; Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa attended
October 3		
October 5	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Iwaki City, Tamura City, Fukushima City, Town of Kawamata, Village of Katsurao, Village of Kawauchi, Town of Hirono, Town of Naraha, Minamisoma City, Town of Shinchu, Soma City and Village of Iitate) (October 5, 7 and 8)	
October 14	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture (Natori City, Higashimatsushima City, Ishinomaki City, Town of Onagawa, Town of Minamisanriku and Kesennuma City)	
October 16	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Iwate Prefecture (Miyako City, Town of Yamada, Town of Otsuchi, Kamaishi City, Ofunato City and Rikuzentakata City)	
October 30	○Reconstruction Agency Official YouTube Channel opened ○“Ten Years after the Great East Japan Earthquake” portal site opened	
November 2	○Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Interest Subsidies-Related) from 4 cities and towns approved	○Promotion Plans (Iwanuma City (Miyagi No. 84), Tomiya City (Miyagi No. 85), Tagajo City (Miyagi No. 86) and Town of Yabuki (Fukushima No. 130)) approved ○Joint opening ceremony for Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum, Futaba Town Industrial Exchange Center, and Fukushima Prefecture Reconstruction Memorial Park held; Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa attended
November 7	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture (Towns of Futaba and Okuma)	

November 10	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa paid visit to Miyagi Prefecture (Sendai City, Town of Shichigahama, Shiogama City, Town of Matsushima, Town of Rifu, Tagajo City, Town of Yamamoto, Town of Watari and Iwanuma City), (November - 11)	
November 19		○Twenty-ninth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held in Fukushima Prefecture
November 20	○Progress in Full Recovery and Reconstruction of Public Infrastructure (As of September 30, 2020) published	
November 21		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Koizumi Kaigan Interchange and Motoyoshi-Tsuya Interchange opened
November 26	○Seventeenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities (Web meeting) held (3 venues, the Reconstruction Agency, Fukushima Prefectural Office and Hotel Houjinkan, connected via video conference format)	
November 30	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (35th meeting) convened	
December 4	○Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa and others attended the West Japan Bloc Meeting of Livelihood Reconstruction Support Centers	
December 5		○Miyako Morioka Crossing Road between Kuzakai and Yanagawa opened
December 9		○Thirtieth meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held online in Iwate Prefecture
December 10	○Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga paid visit to Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures; accompanied by Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa	
December 11	○“Report on the Status of Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake” compiled and reported to Diet ○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Fukushima Revitalization Acceleration Grants (45th Round) (Improvement of Returning Environment (32nd Round) and Grants for Formation of Living Bases for Long-Term Evacuees (Community Revitalization Grants) (30th Round)) published	
December 12		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Hironotaneichi and Hashikami opened
December 18	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (28th meeting) convened	
December 19		○Sanriku Coastal Expressway between Okanyo and Fudai opened
December 25	○Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Special Zones for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Government Ordinance for Partial Amendment of Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima enforced (Related to the abolition of seals)	
December		Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 42,000 [As of December 8, 2020]
2021		
January 4		○Use of part of Fukushima Prefecture's state-run memorial/prayer facilities commenced
January 28		○Thirty-first meeting of “Yui-no-ba” regional reconstruction matching program held online in Miyagi Prefecture
February 8		○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Iwate No. 34) approved
February 12	○Direction of revision of Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake after the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” published	○Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Interest Subsidies-Related) (Approval No.: Miyagi No. 87) approved
February 21	○Council for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima following the Nuclear Disaster (22nd meeting) convened via videoconference	
February 25	○Eighteenth meeting of Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities held online	
February 26	○Notice of the Allowable Amount of Reconstruction Grants (28th Round) published	○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plan (Approval No.: Fukushima No. 3) approved

March 1	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (36th meeting) convened online	
March 4	○“Fukushima Updates” portal site went live	
March 5	○Winning works in “Ten Years after the Great East Japan Earthquake” photo contest announced	
March 6	○Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga paid visit to Fukushima Prefecture; accompanied by Minister for Reconstruction Hirasawa	○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Kesennuma Port and Karakuwa Peninsula opened
March 8	○Expert Study Group on the Future Vision of the 12 Fukushima Municipalities announced recommendations	
March 9	○Revision of Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake after the “Reconstruction / Revitalization Period” decided on by the Cabinet	
	○Reconstruction Promotion Council (29th meeting) convened	
March 11	○Great East Japan Earthquake Memorial Ceremony held	
March 20		○Sanriku Coast Expressway between Samuraihama and Hironotaneichi opened
March 23	○“Great East Japan Earthquake: Lessons Learned & Know-How Gained” published	
March 25		○Grand start of torch relay conducted in Fukushima Prefecture
March 26	○Partial Revision of “Basic Policy on Special Zones for Reconstruction” decided on by the Cabinet	○Modifications to Reconstruction Promotion Plans (Approval No: Iwate No. 8, Miyagi No. 21 and No.24 and Fukushima No. 3, No. 5 and No. 18) approved
	○Basic Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima revised	
March 28		○Miyagi Prefecture's state-run memorial/prayer facilities fully opened ○Miyako Morioka Crossing Road between Hikime and Haraobi, between Kawai and Hakoishi and between Hiratsudo/Iwai and Matsukusa opened
March		Number of evacuees (Max. of approx. 470,000): Approx. 41,000 [As of March 10, 2021]

Source: “Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records)” (as of February 8, 2021) and “Progress of the Reconstruction Agency (Administrative Records)” (from December 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021)

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned from Reconstruction Policy

As shown above, we have reviewed the progress of recovery and reconstruction during the 10 years of the concentrated reconstruction period and the first Reconstruction / Revitalization Period. In concluding this section, based on the opinions of the members of the “Meeting of Expert Committee on Reflection on the Past Decade of Reconstruction Policy Following the Great East Japan Earthquake” (hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting of Expert Committee”) and the interviewing of opinions from local governments and experts, etc. engaged in reconstruction policies to date, we will comprehensively summarize the lessons learned for future large-scale disasters based on the challenges encountered in reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, with particular attention placed on basic mindsets, frameworks, etc. of reconstruction policies. Since it is necessary to take into account the scale and nature of the damage, the major industries in disaster-affected areas, the social and economic conditions at the time of the disaster and so forth, it is not possible to generalize how reconstruction from a large-scale disaster should be. However, we hope this publication will be fully utilized in the consideration of reconstruction policies in the future while referring to the following lessons as well as the measures in each field recorded in each chapter, their purpose and background, etc

(1) The Ideal Form of Reconstruction and Objective Indicators

Different regions have different visions of the future even in normal times. The ideal form of reconstruction following disaster may differ further due to differences in the scale, the type of damage and so forth. At the same time, in cases of policies on reconstruction policies large-scale disasters that deprive residents of their daily lives and cause enormous damage to socioeconomic infrastructure, the first citable objective is to “restore the physical infrastructure” common to all districts.

Further, in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, “building back better” was advocated. The objectives of the reconstruction policy were largely to “prevent another disaster” by means such as building communities with multiple defenses that go beyond restoration and relocating them to higher ground and to “rebuild the livelihoods of disaster victims” and “revitalize industries and livelihoods” through unprecedented generous support. In this way, various measures have been developed, and targets and indicators for measuring progress have each been presented for each field. However, it has been pointed out that many of them are limited to the evaluation of the degree of achievement of projects, that the viewpoint of what reconstruction should be conducted in the first place is weak and that it cannot be said that evaluations from the viewpoint of ideal reconstruction, indicators for those evaluations and so forth have been sufficiently presented.²⁷

Additionally, for the sake of “building back better,” a framework was adopted in which the national government presented a menu of reconstruction measures and each disaster-affected local government selected what was necessary for its own district. As a result, issues such as the selection process, appropriateness and over- or under-provision of the options presented arose, and it was pointed out that overall evaluation became more difficult.²⁸

Compared with previous reconstruction policies, presenting a comprehensive package of measures and promoting the creation of new mechanisms with the objectives of reconstruction policy being the “rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims” and “revitalization of industries and livelihoods” is an epoch-making development. On the other hand, the progress of that is also greatly affected by changes in the socioeconomic environment after the disaster. In fact, in the process of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, an event occurred that had an unprecedented impact on socioeconomic activities both in Japan and abroad: the spread of COVID-19. Moreover, the issues faced by each disaster victim have diversified further with aging due to differences in disaster conditions, age at the time of the disaster, household composition, occupation and so forth, and differences have arisen in the degree to which each person can rebuild their lives.

For such reasons, the “building back better” that should be strived for has become increasingly ambiguous depending on the actors and sectors involved, and it seems to be becoming difficult to grasp the achievement level of reconstruction as a whole. As such, it has been pointed out that in order to evaluate reconstruction policies in the future, it is necessary to objectively measure the status of the rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims alongside traditionally used indices related to the infrastructure development rate and the regional economy, then identify remaining issues and hold discussions based on those indices and determine whether reconstruction projects have

²⁷ Comments by Committee Member Onishi and Deputy Chair Masuda at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee (December 5, 2022).

²⁸ Jun Iio, “Reconstruction Structure that Enables Building Back Better,” 21 Century Hyogo, No. 30 (2021), etc.

fulfilled their roles²⁹. Also, from the viewpoint that “building back better” aims to create districts that can carry out activities with vitality even under the future socioeconomic environment, or districts that are resilient to and can effectively recovery from future large-scale disasters, comprehensive measures that combine the development of evacuation routes and places with the enhancement of evacuation drills and so forth must be further promoted in order to make progress in the goal of “preventing repeat disasters.”

Moreover, it has been pointed that it is not always appropriate to use the settled population as an indicator of reconstruction under a declining population, and that it is also important to monitor the status of the exchange population and related population and the maintenance of human relationships that are not necessarily local.³⁰

(2) Reconstruction Policy Framework

Regarding reconstruction policies, it is considered necessary to establish in advance a framework for human, financial and time resources that can be allocated in accordance with the socioeconomic situation and the financial situation of the national and local governments at the time of the disaster. For reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake as well, an initial reconstruction period and financial resource frame of at least roughly 23 trillion yen over a 10-year period were proposed. The establishment of such a framework is expected to promote consensus building in the district toward the ideal shape of reconstruction. At the same time, however, it may create time constraints upon discussing the future of reconstruction in the district, and may also hinder efforts for careful consensus-building with disaster victims. As such, it is necessary to fully discuss the establishment of a framework. It has also been opined that the setting of the reconstruction period should be carefully considered especially in cases of a disaster caused by a large-scale earthquake in which aftershock activity continues after the earthquake occurs.³¹

Further, the end of the reconstruction period does not necessarily solve the problems of the disaster victims and disaster-affected areas as a matter of course. Whether or not there are any remaining issues and whether or not they should be addressed as reconstruction policies are separate issues. It has been opined that it is necessary to flexibly respond to individual cases, such as, say, the rehabilitation of disaster victims’ livelihoods and mental care, through general measures such as regional development and social security, and that it is important to create a path for a smooth transition for that purpose.³²

(3) Complexity of Reconstruction Measures

The disaster-affected areas resulting from the earthquake and tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake were wide. Furthermore, radioactive materials were dispersed due to the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. As a result, up to approximately 470,000 people were forced to evacuate. In the disaster-affected areas, efforts were made to restore the likes of infrastructure and production facilities, develop seawalls, develop housing sites, and construct public housing for the disaster-affected areas so that evacuees could return home and live in safety and security once more. However, there was no shortage of disaster victims who could not wait for the completion of these reconstruction projects, and instead secured permanent homes at their evacuations sites. It is important for disaster victims to know where and by when the infrastructure, production facilities, employment, commercial facilities, educational environment, social welfare services and other elements needed to rebuild their lives will be provided.

It will take a considerable period of time until these functions are secured in disaster-affected areas that have been severely damaged. However, continuing to live as evacuees without a future timetable for that will likely cause great stress to disaster victims. There is inevitably a time lag between the reconstruction of towns through the “restoration of infrastructure and the prevention of recurrence of disasters” and the rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims. However, in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, ideas such as presenting a reconstruction schedule for homes were put forth beginning in March 2013. It has been opined that upon reconstruction from large-scale disasters in the future as well, it is necessary to present the information and options necessary for disaster victims to

²⁹ Comments by Committee Member Tamura at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³⁰ Comments by Committee Members Imamura and Fujisawa at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³¹ Comments by Committee Member Imamura at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³² Comments by Chair Akiike at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee and comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Third Meeting of the Expert Committee (February 27, 2023).

consider rebuilding their lives in a timely and appropriate manner as much as possible, and that the national government and other organizations providing a visual timeframe for recovery to disaster victims and other parties would lead to an increase in their intention to return and rebuild.³³

Furthermore, the belief is that evacuation is prolonged, the intention to return to disaster-affected areas tends to decrease. It has been opined that it is desirable from the viewpoint of “rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims” for the disaster victims to take back their daily lives by establishing new human relationships and rebuilding their homes at their evacuation site, and that sufficient support should be provided for that purpose.³⁴ On the other hand, from the perspective of “regional reconstruction,” rebuilding livelihoods at evacuation sites can also be seen as population outflow. Instead of considering these two options as simple alternatives, ways of making them compatible must be considered.

The contradictions and inconsistencies between the objectives and measures of reconstruction policies that appear to arise in this manner may do in multiple forms, not just between “rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims” and “regional reconstruction” but also in how ensuring safety by relocating fishing villages to higher ground affects the rehabilitation of livelihoods and the maintenance of communities. For this reason, upon reconstruction from a large-scale disaster, due attention must be paid to the complex nature of reconstruction measures as illustrated how the timeframes of each field, such as “rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims” and “regional reconstruction” are different, and how each measure affects the others.

(4) Reconstruction Planning Amid Population Decline

There is no end to regional development. Moreover, the success or failure of projects implemented in reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake cannot be judged in a span of 10 years or so.

However, should a large number of new public facilities, etc. be developed during the same period as reconstruction projects, there is concern that maintenance and management costs will increase, and that this would have an impact on local public finance afterwards. Even the original restoration may result in excessive facility development. Additionally, it has also been opined by disaster-affected municipalities that the decommissioning or downsizing of facilities also constitutes “building back better,” and that this would enable recovery commensurate with the size of the municipality. For this reason, given the fact that Japan at present is experiencing a population decline, it has been opined that the scale of reconstruction projects, the layout of public facilities and so forth should be subject to the likes of scrutinizing based on future population estimates, etc. by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.³⁵ Moreover, in the wake of the recent earthquake as well, the national government has urged the scrutinizing of plan details in light of maintenance and management costs.

Also, upon reconstruction efforts, the consolidation of public facilities, etc. as well as the reorganization of regional structures may also warrant consideration, and it may be necessary to take measures that transcend municipalities. However, it is likely not easy for municipalities to carry out such examinations and judgments on their own. For this reason, it has also been opined that the national and prefectural governments should present a vision from a broader perspective and also consider the likes of a framework for support and coordination that will facilitate the reorganization of disaster-affected areas into sustainable regional structures.³⁶

In light of this, in municipal reconstruction plans based on the Act on Reconstruction from Large-Scale Disasters (Act No. 55 of 2013), which was established in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the current population situation and future prospects are to be stipulated following areas and targets. Additionally, in order to eliminate the bottleneck that municipalities are unable to start planning for reconstruction due to the massive amount of initial and emergency measures taken immediately after the disaster, or due to the temporary loss of administrative functions, the Act established the agency system by the prefecture or the national government for city planning decisions.

In order to properly implement reconstruction projects under a declining population, including the smooth and

³³ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Third Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³⁴ Comments by Committee Member Onishi at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³⁵ Comments by Deputy Chair Masuda at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³⁶ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Third Meeting of the Expert Committee.

appropriate use of such systems, it is important to make advance preparations for reconstruction, or efforts for “advance reconstruction.” It has been pointed out that when the reconstruction plan is discussed for the first time after the disaster, the idea that “We want to make the region more vibrant than before the disaster, and we need to create a vision for the future in which disaster victims can feel safe and have hope” becomes strong and is supported by public opinion. In some cases, excessive project plans are drawn up.³⁷ Additionally, some disaster-affected municipalities are of the opinion that as they are pressed to carry out reconstruction as soon as possible, there is insufficient time and human resources to reflect the socioeconomic situation such as population decline in plans, and that it is difficult to obtain the consensus of residents during the chaotic period after a disaster.

For this reason, as efforts for “advance reconstruction,” it is necessary to prepare and discuss a variety of information in advance, including the estimated population, which is necessary for preparing a reconstruction plan in light of the reality of the population decline, declining birthrate and aging society; to organize the system for preparing the plan, the departments in charge and the procedures; and, in particular, to examine the process for understanding residents’ opinions that change over time and for flexibly reviewing the plan based on the results. It has also been opined that it is essential for the national and prefectural governments to draw up guidelines and provide technical advice to support the efforts of municipalities in order to make advance preparations for reconstruction during peacetime in municipalities that are too busy with normal operations to establish a permanent organization dedicated to reconstruction.³⁸

(5) Balance between Self-Help, Mutual Assistance, and Public Assistance

Upon reconstruction in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, unprecedented generous support was provided to disaster victims to help them rebuild their livelihoods and revitalize their industries and livelihoods. In the field of support for disaster victims, measures were taken not only to watch over and consult on the lives of individual disaster victims but also to connect people, such as the regeneration and formation of communities. Additionally, for the revitalization of industries and livelihoods as well, the Disaster Recovery Project for Joint Facilities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Associations (SME Group Subsidy) was established, and national funds were also invested in the formation of business assets.

However, in a public opinion survey conducted in 2013, as a response that should be emphasized after a disaster occurs, the ratio of public assistance decreased, and self-help as well as a balanced response of self-help, mutual help and public assistance showed a significant point increase.³⁹ Based on these results, it is also said that “the limits of public assistance” were generally recognized after the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake. There is concern over cases of disaster victims and businesses becoming overly dependent on public assistance, which may make them unable to continue their livelihoods and businesses due to the termination of administrative support.

Additionally, based on the experience of large-scale disasters to date, connections with people and communities can be cited as factors that have a significant impact on the awareness of disaster victims that they are no longer victims. These factors cannot be secured solely through direct financial support by public assistance or self-help. The benefits that come from connections between people and communities are also mutual aid in themselves. In light of this, upon reconstruction from future large-scale disasters, the ability to establish a reconstruction policy that balances self-help, mutual help, and public help is critical. Some argue that upon doing so, systems should be designed to promote self-help and expand the scope of mutual assistance by leveraging public assistance based on the premise that financial reconstruction assistance is not permanent.⁴⁰

With regard to self-help in particular, it is important for future disaster victims and disaster-affected business to be individually prepared in peacetime. After a disaster occurs, however, reconstruction policies will supplement insufficient areas of preparation. At the same time, this should not cause the opposite effect of reducing the need for self-support. It is important to combine not only financial support but also other methods to encourage self-help by the parties involved, such as accompanied support. It has also been pointed out that in the fields of industry and livelihoods, as in the case of regional development, consideration of reconstruction preparations in advance can lead to the revitalization of industries and livelihoods, including the likes of business conversion in response to changes in the socioeconomic environment, rather than merely the restoration of facilities to their original form. Some also

³⁷ Comments by Committee Members Onishi and Fujisawa, Deputy Chair Masuda, etc. at the First Meeting of the Expert Committee (October 24, 2022).

³⁸ Comments by Chair Akiike, Committee Members Imamura and Fujisawa, etc. at the First Meeting of the Expert Committee.

³⁹ “Public Opinion Survey on Disaster Prevention (December 2013)” (Cabinet Office).

⁴⁰ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Third Meeting of the Expert Committee.

argue that a system of public assistance that enables flexible response, such as providing support in stages, should be considered so that such self-help can be supported.⁴¹

Additionally with regard to mutual assistance, it is also assumed that the previous community cannot be restored due to the dispersion of disaster victims; that even in normal times, the community will decline due to the declining birthrate and aging population; and that in urban and other areas, the community already does not function. For this reason, it is vital to have public assistance for forming and maintaining networks with mutual assistance functions such as providing necessary information to disaster victims wherever they are and holding regular meetings among them, including volunteer activities, social media and efforts by companies, in addition to conventional regional ties.⁴² At the same time, it is necessary to provide support and create an environment in which disaster victims themselves can also take on the role of support.

(6) Main Entities and Support Frameworks for Reconstruction Policies

As it is the officials of municipalities who deal with residents with the aim of reconstruction, and because individual reconstruction projects and specific issues differ from region to region, the recommendations of the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Design Council and the basic reconstruction guidelines of July 2011 clearly state that municipalities are the main actors in reconstruction. On the other hand, differences in the scale of the disaster, administrative capacity, relationships with and among residents since peacetime, etc. also caused differences in the actual progress of reconstruction among municipalities.

For that reason, as part of human and financial support for disaster-affected municipalities, various schemes for dispatched staff from other local governments were established. Further, as direct communication with the national government increased significantly, officials from relevant ministries and agencies were seconded to serve as advisers to the mayors of municipalities in order to swiftly carry out tasks that were different from normal times, and functioned effectively. It is also opined that in reconstruction efforts from large-scale disasters in the future, further facilitation of dispatched staff between local governments should be pursued and the institutionalization of dispatched staff from the national government should be considered. Furthermore, some argue that in order to promote not only the consolidation of public facilities, etc. and the reorganization of regional structure but also efforts that require action beyond the borders of municipalities, such as the promotion of migration and the revitalization of regional economies, it is necessary to have more wide-area actors.⁴³

Also, in order for disaster-affected municipalities with low fiscal strength to smoothly carry out reconstruction projects, a significant reduction in local burdens was required. However, it has been pointed out that the implementation of the Reconstruction Grant Program, etc., which was entirely funded by the national government for the first five years, may have resulted in loosening the fiscal discipline of the disaster-affected municipalities.⁴⁴ On the other hand, it is also said that discussions with relevant ministries and agencies and a large amount of application documents were a heavy burden for those municipalities. It is opined that in light of the above, where financial support for reconstruction from large-scale disasters in the future is concerned, requiring local governments to bear the burden from the beginning in accordance with their financial strength so that projects will not become excessive, as well as devising ideas to reduce the burden on disaster-affected municipalities and to broaden the scope of their discretion by means such as classifying projects that are strictly assessed by the national government and projects that can be implemented with relatively simple procedures and endeavoring to standardize and simplify necessary documents should be considered.⁴⁵

Additionally, it was epoch-making that many NPOs, private companies and other entities acted as organizations in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. However, it has been pointed out that coordination with the national government and wide-area cooperation in the field were not always sufficient for the various activities of those entities.⁴⁶ In particular, in fields such as “rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims” and “revitalization of

⁴¹ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Second Meeting of the Expert Committee.

⁴² Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Third Meeting of the Expert Committee; comments by Committee Member Imamura, etc. at the Fourth Meeting of Expert Committee

⁴³ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa, etc. at the First Meeting of the Expert Committee.

⁴⁴ Comments by Deputy Chair Masuda, etc. at the First Meeting of the Expert Committee.

⁴⁵ Jun Iio, “Reconstruction Structure that Enables Building Back Better,” 21 Century Hyogo, No. 30 (2021), etc.

⁴⁶ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa at the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Committee.

industries and livelihoods,” it is essential for the private sector to provide balanced support that is tailored to each case, and efforts such as improving the environment for cooperation with these private entities are required of the government. It has been pointed out that in those instances, with regard to financial support to private entities using reconstruction funds, it is desirable to be able to respond flexibly, for example, by subsidizing the activities of NPOs, etc. over multiple years in advance through means such as the investment of funds by foundations, etc. to provide non-physical infrastructure support needed over the long term.⁴⁷

(7) Opinion Gathering from Disaster-Affected Municipalities

In addition to the above, in order to review the reconstruction policy over the past 10 years, the Reconstruction Agency conducted a questionnaire survey from December 2022 to January 2023 from coastal areas of the 3 prefectures and municipalities affected by the nuclear disaster.

Figure 2-1-20 Period of Opinion Gathering from Disaster-Affected Municipalities

Implementation period	Issued on Thursday, December 15, 2022 and due on Friday, January 20, 2023
Method of implementation	Questionnaire and response forms were distributed by the Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Regional Bureau of Reconstruction to the municipalities concerned, then subsequently collected via those Regional Bureaus of Reconstruction
Target municipalities	<p>12 coastal cities/towns/villages in Iwate Prefecture (Town of Hirono, Kuji City, Village of Noda, Village of Fudai, Village of Tanohata, Town of Iwaizumi, Miyako City, Town of Yamada, Town of Otsuchi, Kamaishi City, Ofunato City and Rikuzentakata City)</p> <p>15 coastal cities/towns in Miyagi Prefecture (Kesennuma City, Town of Minamisanriku, Ishinomaki City, Town of Onagawa, Higashimatsushima City, Town of Matsushima, Town of Rifu, Shiogama City, Town of Shichigahama, Tagajo City, Sendai City, Natori City, Iwanuma City, Town of Watari and Town of Yamamoto)</p> <p>15 coastal cities/towns/villages in Fukushima Prefecture that were affected by the nuclear disaster (Tamura City, Minamisoma City, Town of Kawamata, Town of Hirono, Town of Naraha, Town of Tomioka, Village of Kawauchi, Town of Okuma, Town of Futaba, Town of Namie, Village of Katsurao, Village of Iitate, Iwaki City, Soma City and Town of Shinchi)</p>
Collection rate	100% (42 cities/towns/villages in total)
Question format	<p>Select Yes, No, or Neither for each question</p> <p>Respond by describe the reason, etc., according to the selected answer</p>

⁴⁷ Comments by Committee Member Fujisawa, etc. at the First Meeting of the Expert Committee.

The following is a list of the questions and results of the selected answers.

Figure 2-1-21 List of Questions and Results of Selected Answers

Questions		■ Yes □ No ■ Neither		
Q1-1	National government has established a variety of systems to support disaster victims. Do you think you have been able to take full advantage of them?	81% (34)	2% (1)	17% (7)
Q1-2	Do you think that the government has played a sufficient role in providing disaster victims with mental care and building a community for them?	52% (22)	7% (3)	40% (17)
Q2-1	Were you able to reflect changes in the socioeconomic situation, such as the declining population, in determining the reconstruction goals and a future vision and framework?	57% (24)	12% (5)	31% (13)
Q2-2	Did differences between the progress of town reconstruction and the sense of speed of rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims prove to be an issue?	38% (16)	38% (16)	24% (10)
Q2-3	Do you think that the division of roles among the national, prefectural and municipal governments in the reconstruction of homes and cities was effectively conducted?	69% (29)	2% (1)	29% (12)
Q3-1	In order to revitalize industries and livelihoods, national, prefectural and other governments have established various systems, such as providing recovery support and attracting companies. Do you think that the region as a whole has been able to utilize these systems?	67% (28)	7% (3)	26% (11)
Q3-2	In the revitalization of industries and livelihoods, do you think that the envisioned revitalization of the local economy has been achieved to some extent through support for new efforts as well as the recovery of local enterprises? *Excludes unexpected events that cannot be anticipated from the outset, such as response to COVID-19, response to high prices or other disasters.	57% (24)	10% (4)	33% (14)
Q4-1	Do you think that support has been provided to disaster victims in accordance with the stage of reconstruction in the wake of the nuclear disaster?	19% (8)	5% (2)	76% (32)
Q4-2	Do you think that coordination among relevant parties such as the national, prefectural and municipal governments has properly functioned in reconstruction efforts in the wake of the nuclear disaster?	33% (14)	7% (3)	60% (25)
Q5-1	Do you think that the intake of supporting personnel from other municipalities was performed smoothly upon reconstruction efforts?	79% (33)	7% (3)	19% (8)
Q5-2	Do you think that cooperation with entities other than the government, such as NPOs and private companies, was carried out smoothly upon reconstruction efforts?	64% (27)	5% (2)	31% (13)
Q5-3	Do you think that the national government's efforts, such as those for building a digital archive, are sufficient to pass on the memories and lessons of the earthquake?	60% (25)	5% (2)	36% (15)
Q6-1	Do you think that the Reconstruction Agency and the Regional Bureau of Reconstruction have sufficiently fulfilled their roles as a control tower, general coordinator and one-stop contact point in the national government?	76% (32)		24% (10)
Q6-2	Did the initial setting of the reconstruction period at 10 years have any impact on consensus-building for reconstruction town planning, etc. or on other areas?	38% (16)	43% (18)	19% (8)
Q6-3	Will you be concerned in the future about the rising costs of maintaining, managing, and updating public facilities, etc. built with financial support from the national government or through local government finance measures?	79% (33)	2% (1)	19% (8)

* Numbers marked with () in the graph indicate the number of selected municipalities

As described above, a high percentage of the respondents were positive about the utilization of systems to support disaster victims, the intake of supporting personnel and the roles of the Reconstruction Agency and the Regional Bureau of Reconstruction. On the other hand, “Yes” and “No” were equally given as answers in regard to the issues caused by differences in the progress of town reconstruction and the sense of speed of rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims and in regard to the impact of setting the initial reconstruction period to 10 years. Also, about 80% of disaster-affected municipalities are concerned about the increase in maintenance, management and renewal costs of public facilities, etc. developed during reconstruction. With regard to the question on reconstruction efforts in the wake of the nuclear disaster, a very high proportion of respondents answered “neither” due in part to medium- to long-term response still being required.

These results suggest that while there are points that need to be continue being examined for all the questions in preparation for reconstruction from large-scale disasters in the future, it is necessary to fully examine the reconstruction policy framework, the complexity of measures, and the ideal form of reconstruction planning amid a declining population, especially when considering the development of measures in disaster-affected municipalities. The main responses stated for Q2-2, Q6-2 and Q6-3 are as follows:

(Differences between the progress of town reconstruction and the sense of speed of rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims)

- Priority was given to the sense of speed, and the reconstruction plan that was prepared did not fully reflect the opinions of the affected residents. Projects needed time to get underway as a result.
- By utilizing hazard maps simulating a disaster and planning candidate sites for disaster public housing, etc., in advance, it is possible to shorten the time required for consensus-building with residents and coordination with businesses for restoration work.
- As a result of the time required for the development of the housing complex due largely to construction on the Rias Coast, which has few flat lands, and the earth cut construction, a mismatch with the rebuilding of livelihoods occurred, and disaster victims flowed out of the town.
- While there are some disaster victims who could not wait for the system to start and who, due to aging and other factors, rebuilt their independence in an undesirable manner, there are others who have the means to live in emergency temporary housing for a long time.
- Due to differences in disaster locations, damage conditions and home environments, it is difficult to align the sense of speed with which all disaster victims can rebuild their livelihoods.
- In nuclear disaster-affected areas, it is difficult to picture the future of reconstruction, and many residents are forced to rebuild their livelihoods at their sites of evacuation.

(Impact of the initial reconstruction period being set to 10 years)

- A period must be set.
- The presence of the 10-year deadline allowed the government to move forward with a sense of speed and awareness of the timeframe. It also provided a timetable for reconstruction plans and helped with progress on building consensus.
- On the other hand, there are concerns that the time for detailed explanations and the like was limited, and that residents’ intentions were not fully taken into account.
- In some cases, individual disaster victims were left behind because they could not make decisions by the deadline for each project.
- Because priority was given to rebuilding houses (uplands) and shops (tsunami-flooded areas), the 10-year mark was very difficult to achieve in rebuilding in both areas due to family composition, economic reasons and so forth.
- To complete projects in a short period of time, the burden on the staff increased, including consensus-building and process adjustment.
- In physical infrastructure businesses, the deadline was a target for completion, but for non-physical infrastructure businesses, the deadline was inappropriate.

(Increase in maintenance, management and renewal expenses of public facilities, etc.)

- As a result of the reconstruction of local communities and other improvements that were unique to the disaster, there was no choice but to possess facilities that were excessive compared to the size of the municipality.
- We are concerned about an extreme increase in stock as well as an increase in renewal, maintenance and management costs for the likes of the developed remotely operable floodgates, tourist facilities and evacuation shelters, road and water infrastructure, green space and planting and weed control measures.
- In disaster-affected municipalities that have built many facilities at one time, there is concern about the financial burden in the future when renewal is concentrated compared to other districts. Ideally, the national government

should help with maintenance and management costs as well.

- It is important to consolidate facilities (merging facilities of the same type that were affected), consolidate facilities and control new facilities.
- It is necessary to properly estimate the future population and users and not to oversize facilities.
- In some cases, such as those involving disaster public housing, rather than anticipating future population decline, speed is prioritized for emergency response purposes.
- It is necessary to anticipate maintenance and renewal from the planning stage (Hard to break, easy to manage, etc.).
- Depending on the reconstruction project system, we were able to scale down. There are other ideas such as sharing costs with designated managers.
- Reducing running costs (energy saving, renewable energy, etc.) is important from the design stage, and support is needed.
- There is concern about the increase in vacancies in disaster public housing. Effective use is necessary.
- Efforts to extend and equalize the service life through associated planning are important.
- It is necessary to take flexible action when disposing of assets, etc..

Also, regardless of the question, the main lessons that should be kept regarding the reconstruction policy following the Great East Japan Earthquake in preparation for reconstruction from large-scale disasters in the future are as follows:

- The national government's existing systems are centered on the concept of restoration to the original state. Allowing a little more functional improvement would contribute to reducing future maintenance costs.
- Subsidies are created separately by each ministry, resulting in a complicated system with too many channels. There was a lot of trouble with budget requests. Assessments were strict at first.
- More emphasis should be placed on wide-area cooperation that goes beyond municipalities, and a form of collective implementation by districts based on fair and equitable reconstruction assistance should be pursued.
- Because of the financial resources available, each municipality in the same district has developed public facilities (libraries, hot spring facilities, etc.). However, it would have been better if there had been a forum for wide-area cooperation and consultation among municipalities.
- Rebuilding the livelihoods of disaster victims requires a long period of time and the future cannot be considered. Due to such circumstances, it is important to provide information, analysis and mental care through clarification of the outlook for each stage, briefings, individual interviews, questionnaires and other means.
- Due to the prolonged evacuation, there has been a marked decline in the desire to return. While difficult, it was necessary to provide information that gave residents hope and enabled them to wait.
- The concept of "disaster reduction" that minimizes the damage caused by disasters while giving top priority to human life is key.
- Since mutual assistance efforts in particular play an important role in mitigating damage and reconstruction, it is necessary to strengthen communities even more than now.
- Based on assumptions of tsunami inundation, etc., understanding and cooperation of residents are important, such as prior considerations of safe relocation candidate sites with the involvement of residents of both coastal and inland areas.