

# Preface

Disaster recovery has been discussed for many years. Quite often, post-disaster recovery leads to rebuilding risk; recovery efforts are not informed by lessons learned and experience from previous disasters; recovery needs assessment has not been demand-driven; stakeholder consultative processes are weak; and institutions set up to manage recovery have not led to sustained national and local capacity for disaster reduction.

There is increasing evidence from recent disasters that well-informed and well-prepared local governments and local communities can minimize the impacts of disasters. It is a well-accepted fact that communities vary from place to place, and their perception and ways of responding to disaster also vary. Therefore, it is important to decentralize policy and to customize it based on local needs and priorities. For large countries in Asia such as China, India, and Indonesia, different provinces have different cultural, socio-economic, and ethnic contexts. Thus, risk-reduction activities also need to be customized based on local contexts.

Disaster recovery can be a development opportunity, provided the recovery process is used in combination with an appropriate governance system. A strong local government is often found to be effective for a successful recovery process. However, governance alone is not enough; it needs to be linked to appropriate technology, innovation, and education systems. In this book, a framework of GET (governance–education–technology) is proposed for a successful recovery program. Examples from different post-disaster situations are examined and a common framework for GET and cross-cutting issues is described here.

This book is written for students and young researchers aspiring to a career in disaster risk reduction and environmental studies. I hope that they will find the book useful and relevant to their work.

Kyoto, Japan

Rajib Shaw

Disaster Recovery

Used or Misused Development Opportunity

Shaw, R. (Ed.)

2014, XIII, 431 p. 93 illus., 72 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-4-431-54254-4