

Preface

The Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011 were recent catastrophic disasters in Japan the experiences of which resulted in significant suggestions for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the world as well as in Japan. The Second and Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction were held in Hyogo Prefecture in 2005 and in Sendai in 2015 and adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015–2030 respectively with an emphasis on education.

Disaster education has been regarded as one of the important factors for DRR by academicians, practitioners, government officers, and any DRR-related organizations and needs to be integrated into the strategic system in order to enhance the quality of education and to provide continuous education. But the purpose of ensuring the education system is not only sustaining provision of school education and disaster education but also providing safer circumstance to students, teachers, parents, and community members in normal and disaster situations. This indicates that the education system needs to be considered from both education governance and DRR governance. At the school level, DRR is considered as a part of school management, but many schools in Japan are designated as evacuation centers for disaster situations. School–community linkage is also necessary to be included in the system. In addition, Board of Education and DRR-related departments are requested to work in cooperation for DRR in schools and community. Thus, the education system needs to be considered comprehensively at the national, local, school, and community level.

This book includes a collection of 14 case studies and practices on education related to DRR in Japan provided by academic institutes, local government, higher education institutes, NGOs, and the private sector to consider the education system and its disaster resilience comprehensively from the experiences in Japan. In this way, disaster resilience of the education system can be enhanced in Japan and overseas and SFDRR priorities are achieved though mainstreaming DRR in education sectors.

This book is written for students, researchers, and practitioners in the fields of DRR. We hope they will find it useful and relevant to their work.

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