

## The first emergency recommendation regarding the response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

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Science Council of Japan

Great East Japan Earthquake Task Force

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. The central government shall respond to the worries and doubts of the Japanese people, deepen their understanding of the situation, and immediately prepare the ground for proper actions regarding the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power related problems, through the Diet deliberations including prompt public hearings with invited experts, etc. At the same time, the central government shall endeavor to gain trust and understanding from overseas regarding Japan's handling of the situation.

In the aftermath of this great earthquake disaster, the central and local governments' conventional level of action and disaster recovery systems are not sufficient to handle the matters calling for continuous and broad-based cooperation and collaboration, such as short-term relief support and damage restoration. It is expected that these matters can be handled by both the execution of a comprehensive supportive strategy of the central government and the operations of local governments. Especially, implementation of "pairing support" (refer to the separate attachment) from the standpoint of the horizontal collaboration of local governments would enable both sides to carry out the specific actions that are found to be truly demanded upon mutual discussion. For this implementation, the central government shall immediately carry out the legal adjustments needed and then establish these collaborative systems with the National Governors' Association, the Japan Association of City Mayors, and the National Association of Towns & Villages.

In order for the Japanese people to deepen their understanding and trust in the information on the nuclear disaster and its resulting situations (radiation leak, radiation-contaminated water and food) and to take appropriate actions, a system must be immediately prepared where appropriate experts can provide supplemental explanations in line with the government's official press conferences, giving scientific and technical background details and recommended actions for people to take in detail.

A centralized and sustainable system for environmental monitoring conducted outside of the nuclear power plant premises and for evaluation of this data, such as has been proposed by the Science Council of Japan, must be established immediately. On that occasion, the central government shall endeavor to foster the trust of the people and deliver scientific information to the international community with the participation of overseas experts and specialized institutions in a broad based fashion.

Separate attachment

#### Outline of pairing support

Pairing support is the system to support the disaster affected areas, activating the nation-wide help. Its original meaning comes from the Chinese term “Taiko shien” and it served a significant role in the restoration work after the Great Sichuan Earthquake in China. “Taiko” means to pair up, and “shien” means “help”. Details of the system can be summarized into the following five items.

1. For the sake of restoration, a specified prefecture or municipality that was not affected by the disaster establishes a cooperative relationship with a specified local government in a disaster affected area and conducts continuous and personalized support of that locality.
2. The supporting side carries out various supportive actions including providing human resources, daily necessities, shelters, and support for the community restoration, considering the actual situation and desires of each affected area.
3. The central government prepares legal measures that are needed for this support (regional restoration support act, etc.) and provides funding.
4. The pairing of local governments is decided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the National Governors’ Association, the Japan Association of City Mayors, the National Association of Towns & Villages, etc., utilizing their accumulated knowledge and making comprehensive judgments on the size of the specified locality, disaster conditions, problems, and progress of the support given

until now.

5. The effective period of the pairing support is for three years. The disaster stricken local government shall, with the cooperation of the supporting local government, make a restoration plan immediately and endeavor to accomplish the plan.