



# Disaster Records of the Great Kanto Earthquake – International Outreach –

International Conference on Science and Technology  
for Sustainability

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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# Records of Relief in Japanese and in English



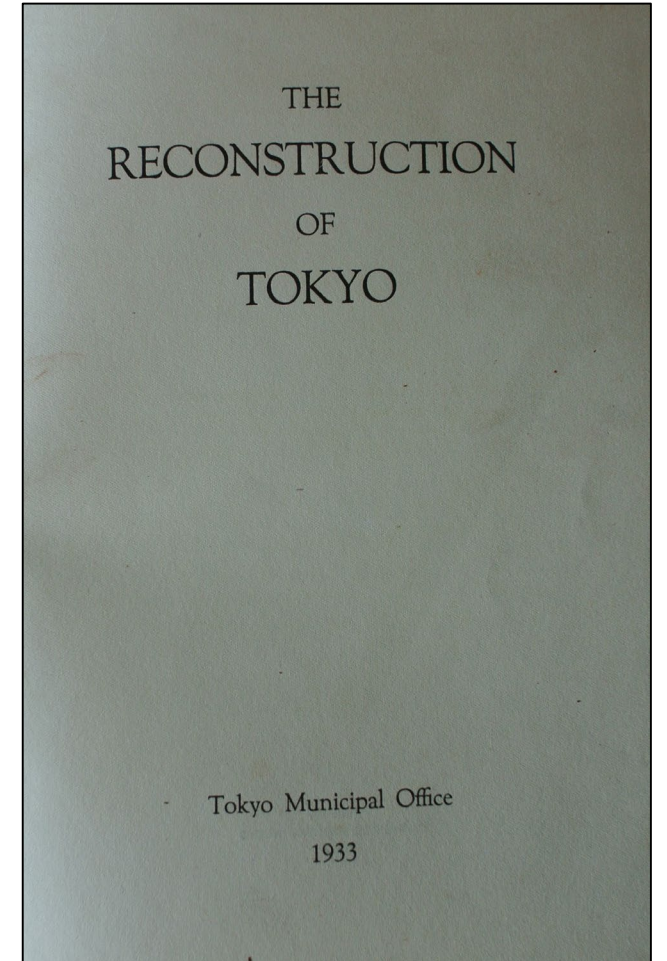
内務省社会局『大正震災志』1926年



**“The Great Earthquake of 1923 in Japan”,**1926  
By Bureau of Social Affairs of Home Office of Japan.



# Records of the Reconstruction of Tokyo



# Relief and Reconstruction

Sept 1: Earthquake occurred, the Cabinet was not functioning.

Sept 2: Three Relief Laws issued

- Requisition Order (物資徵発令)
- The Provisional Seismic Board (臨時震災救護事務局官制)
- The Martial Law (戒厳令)

Sept 2: The New Cabinet by Gombei Yamamoto formed.

Sept 3: Free transport for evacuees

Sept 3: Governor of each prefecture raised funds for the relief of evacuees

Sept 3: 10million yen gift from the Emperor's Privy Purse (内帑金) given directly to the sufferers in cash.

# Relief and Reconstruction

Sept 4: Shimpei Goto, Minister of Home Affairs, planned a fundamental policy for the reconstruction of the Imperial Capital.

Sept 6: Proposal for the Reconstruction of the Imperial Capital

1. the establishment of an ad-hoc committee,
2. the establishment of the Ministry of Reconstruction as an executive body,
3. the government funding of reconstruction costs, the purchase of all land in the burnt areas.

# Goto's Relief and Reconstruction

- Hiroshi Ikeda as Director General of the Social Affairs Bureau (社会局長官).
  - The Provisional Seismic Board was controlled under the Social Affairs Bureau.
  - Hiroshi Ikeda, earned Goto's big trust, contributed the "Urban Planning Law" into effect in 1919.
- A survey of disaster sufferers evacuating from Tokyo/Yokohama to the rural areas.
- The survey grasped the whole evacuees.
  - Published as "The Great Earthquake of 1923 in Japan", by Bureau of Social Affairs of Home Office of Japan.

# Goto's Relief and Reconstruction (and denial)

- Goto had served as mayor of Tokyo before the disaster.
  - The "800 Million Yen Plan," a principle for remodeling Tokyo as the basis for reconstruction after the earthquake.
- His proposal of Reconstruction of the Imperial Capital was opposed due to the cost.
- The Reconstruction Agency (帝都復興院) was established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 27, and Shimpei Goto was appointed its president.
- The Imperial Capital Reconstruction Council (帝都復興審議会) strongly criticized the plan of the Reconstruction Agency at the second meeting of November 24.
- At the 47th Special Session of the Imperial Diet held on December 11 to 23, the original proposal prepared by the Reconstruction Agency of Imperial Capital was again rejected.
  - The agency's administrative expenses were also not approved
  - Instead, 470 million yen was to be allocated over six years.

# The Cabinet of Gombei Yamamoto collapsed

- The Cabinet of Gonbei Yamamoto resigned (December 27).
- A new cabinet was formed (January 7), Keigo Kiyoura as Prime minister, Mizuno Rentaro as Minister of Home Affairs who took over the reconstruction project of the Imperial Capital.
- Mizuno had been criticizing Goto's reconstruction plan.
- The budget was reduced to a level commensurate with national finances.
  - The reconstruction project of the Imperial Capital was effectively launched.
  - This symbolized the rejection of Goto's fundamental philosophy of reconstruction of the Imperial Capital.
- The volume of “Reconstruction of Tokyo” was published not by Bureau of the Reconstruction Council, but by Tokyo Municipal Office in 1933.
  - This would be due to the corruption cases among the officials of Bureau of the Reconstruction Council.
- Nevertheless, Shimpei Goto has been kept in mind of peoples as the man who had reconstructed Tokyo as modern metropolitan City.



## Why “Reconstruction of Tokyo” published by Tokyo Municipal Office, not by the Bureau of Reconstruction?

- This book was planned in 1931, and was published in 1933, hiring the foreign English reporter of Yokohama Newspaper as a translator.
- Of 3004 copies printed, 1673 copies sent abroad.
- Tokyo Municipal Office was proud of their work, circulating the reconstructed Tokyo with the science and art of modern town planning and land readjustment.