

Personnel Development
in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative
Project Report

June 2015

Sendai Gender Equality Foundation

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The Personnel Development in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative was performed under contracts with the Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JWNDRR) and the Japan Association for Women's Education, on a grant from the Qatar Friendship Fund.



I. Project Progress

The Personnel Development in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative was performed under contracts with the Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JWNDRR) and the Japan Association for Women's Education, on a grant from the Qatar Friendship Fund. Before the implementation of this initiative, a Committee for the Examination of Projects was organized to examine the details and methods of the projects to be carried out under the initiative.

1. Committee for the Examination of Projects

(1) Members

FUNABASHI Kuniko

(Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction [JWNDRR])

IKEDA Keiko

(Co-representative, Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction [GDRR]/Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University/ Professor, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards)

KISU Yaeko (Chairperson, Sendai Gender Equality Foundation)

KATO Shioko

(Director, L-Park Sendai, Sendai Gender Equality Foundation)

SHIBATA Satoshi

(Director, General Affairs and Planning Section, Sendai Gender Equality Foundation)

(2) Meetings

1st meeting (December 5, 2014, at Nihon Joshikaikan Bldg.)
Examination of project plans

2nd meeting (February 16, 2015, at L-Sola Sendai)

1) Reassessment of FY 2014 projects

2) Examination of FY 2015 projects

3rd meeting (June 25, 2015, at L-Sola Sendai)

Reassessment of FY 2015 projects

2. FY 2014 Projects

(1) Preparing an English-version of the training program manual
Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone"

(2) Preparing an English-version of related documents

Translating a related website

"Support Provided by the Sendai Gender Equal Opportunity Foundation for Women Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake"

3. FY 2015 Projects

(1) Review of the activities of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team

(May 29, 2015, at L-Sola Sendai)

(2) Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone" - Facilitator training seminar

(May 30, 2015, at L-Sola Sendai)

II. FY 2014 Projects

The Sendai Gender Equality Foundation (the Foundation) implemented the following projects, with the purpose of ensuring that the experiences of those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake will contribute to disaster risk reduction around the world, by disseminating information on a wide variety of measures carried out after the disaster.

1. Preparing an English-version of the training program manual *Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone"*

(1) Outline

The Foundation prepared an English-version of the *manual, Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone,"* which had been prepared by the Foundation in March 2014.

Based on interviews with those who stayed at evacuation centers after the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the original Japanese-version features the difficulties that women suffered at such facilities. Containing illustration cards, the manual has been prepared as a kit with which workshops can be easily held.

In March 2015, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai. The English-version was distributed to participants and others from abroad at the venue of the Public Forum of the conference.

(2) Specifications

A-4 size booklet consisting of 48 pages, color printed, 300 copies prepared

This manual is available as a PDF file at the Foundation's website.

2. Preparing an English-version of related documents

Translating a related website

"Support Provided by the Sendai Gender Equal Opportunity Foundation for Women Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake"

III. FY 2015 Projects

Since FY 2013, the Foundation has continuously held workshops on community disaster preparedness based on the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake, with the involvement of the members of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team as workshop facilitators. In FY 2015, while these members reviewed their activities, the Foundation held a facilitator training seminar to produce new facilitators who can organize workshops in their local communities.

1. Review of the activities of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team

The members of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team reviewed their activities, which were launched in June 2013, and also explored their future course of action.

(1) Date/Venue

May 29, 2015, (Friday) 13:30 - 15:00

L-Sola Sendai, the Sendai City Gender Equality Promotion Center (Large Seminar Room)

(2) Lecturer: Ms. IKEDA Keiko (Co-representative, Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction [GDRR]/ Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University/ Professor, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards)

(3) Participants: Members of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team (five persons)

(4) Details: See the annex (implementation report).

2. Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone" - Facilitator training seminar

The Foundation held a facilitator training seminar to add new members to the existing facilitators, in order to implement workshop programs in many more local communities with the purpose of developing female leaders in such communities.

(1) Date/Venue

May 30, 2015, (Saturday) 10:00 - 16:00

L-Sola Sendai, the Sendai City Gender Equality Promotion Center (Large Seminar Room)

(2) Lecturer: Ms. IKEDA Keiko (Co-representative, Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction [GDRR]/ Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University/ Professor, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards)

(3) Workshop organized by the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team

(4) Participants: 28 participants from the general public and 13 observers

(5) Details: See the annex (implementation report).

IV. Project Results

Implemented with support from the Qatar Friendship Fund, the Personnel Development in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative has proved that a new approach incorporating dialogue is effective in ensuring a gender perspective at grass-root level. This has served as an excellent opportunity to further invigorate the program that the Foundation developed in FY 2013 with support from the Norwegian government.

The Foundation was also able to reconfirm its own role to be played when promoting gender equality, which is its mission, in cooperation with citizens.

- (1) The Foundation was able to convey to the world the experiences of those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, by preparing documents in English and distributing them at the Public Forum of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as at the Foundation's website. Of particular note is the fact that this experience served as a catalyst for the Foundation to further carry out its efforts, including updating *Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone"* in future. It is expected that this program will contribute to spreading awareness of the difficulties confronted by women in times of disasters and the necessity of women's participation in solving these problems.
- (2) By reviewing her activities, each member of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team was able to confirm her own growth, to share problems entailed by the implementation of further activities, and to identify a course of action to overcome such problems. The Foundation was also able to confirm that facilitation experience is effective in developing female leaders in their local communities.
- (3) By holding a facilitator training seminar, we confirmed the following positive results:
 - Due to PR activities in advance, the Foundation was able to attract a sufficient number of well-motivated participants from a wide variety of areas with a wide variety of backgrounds.
 - The Foundation was able to confirm the growth of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team and that of each member in the team.
 - Thanks to the consideration given by the lecturer, the Foundation was able to ensure that the seminar covered not only basic knowledge and facilitation skills, but also the appropriate attitude needed to establish personal relationships at workshops.
 - The Foundation was able to realize once again the necessity of promoting civic activities, and adopting a positive approach to the administration, local organizations and other bodies in order to establish an environment for such activities. This is the role that the Foundation must play in promoting local gender equality.

Implementation Report (1)

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| Project | Review of the activities of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team |
| Purpose | To ensure an opportunity for the members of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team to review their activities, which were launched in June 2013, and also to explore their future course of action |
| Date | May 29, 2015, (Friday) 13:30 - 15:00 |
| Venue | L-Sola Sendai, the Sendai City Gender Equality Promotion Center (Large Seminar Room) |
| Organizer | Sendai Gender Equality Foundation |
| Subsidy | Project on a grant from the Qatar Friendship Fund/ Personnel Development in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative |
| Lecturer | Ms. IKEDA Keiko Co-representative, Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction (GDRR)/ Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University/ Professor, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards |
| Participants | Members of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team (five people) |
| Contents | <p>13:30 (40 min.)</p> <p>Each member commented on her activities. (i.e. comments on her growth, as well as on the achievements and problems regarding cooperation with local communities)</p> <p><Comments from the Members></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through a wide variety of activities, I was able to meet new people whom I had never met before. - I have now become more active in carrying out various activities than before. I have become more confident in myself. - I was able to convey to workshop participants what I would like to convey. I would like to share my message even with those who have not participated in workshops. - I hope that many more young mothers will participate in workshops. - It is often the case where a person seriously affected by the disaster continues to talk about his/her own experiences to the end of the workshop. It is necessary to ensure that one person does not monopolize the workshop, by calling on other participants to speak about their experiences. - Since each participant has his/her own awareness of evacuation centers, it is important to clarify the situations of evacuation centers at the beginning of a workshop. - Although workshops are significant in that they are held in local communities, it is actually difficult for me to ensure cooperation with my local community in order to hold such an event. - There are a wide variety of seminars and efforts regarding disaster preparedness. In this situation, it is important to consider how to publicize our workshops as key factors for disaster preparedness. |

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| (Contents) | <p>14:10 (70 min.)</p> <p>The members analyzed what they should do to get one step closer to local communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Who would the members like to deliver their messages to? Who are target participants of workshops? → Executive members of neighborhood associations and local residents, commissioned welfare volunteers, school teachers, working men and women, foreign citizens, etc. 2) Through which organizations should the members contact such target participants? → Neighborhood associations, social welfare councils, commissioned welfare volunteers & commissioned child welfare volunteers councils, children's halls, etc. <p>(In the following sections, the members analyzed particularly neighborhood associations.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) In which occasions should the members establish contact with the above organizations? What problems are expected? → Occasions: Neighborhood meetings, emergency drills, festivals held by children's clubs, etc. Problems: Area differences in neighborhood associations' activities, lack of an open and frank communication atmosphere, the members' difficulty in ensuring cooperation with their local communities, and the encouragement for many more young people to participate in workshops 4) How and from whom should the members ensure cooperation in order to establish contact with the organizations? → While continuing to seek cooperation from directors of federations of neighborhood associations, the members should extend their efforts to the general public through female disaster preparedness networks, Sendai City Community Disaster Preparedness Leaders (SBLs), the Sendai City Fire Bureau, and the city's risk management department. |
| Project effects | <p>Each member spoke about her growth achieved through her two-year activities, and explained problems that they had faced when trying to extend disaster preparedness workshops to local communities. Although few members referred to achievements in terms of cooperation with local communities, the lecturer provided feedback, saying "the significance lies in all participants talking about each problem through disaster preparedness workshops." This indicated that the team's efforts had generated positive effects for local communities. Meanwhile, to address the difficulty of holding disaster preparedness workshops in local communities, the members analyzed what they should do to attract target participants. By considering what types of organizations could serve as a contact with each category of target participants, as well as what types of approach should be adopted and what types of occasions should be utilized in order to establish contact with such organizations, the members were able to identify a future course of action to some extent. This further motivated them to play a major role in carrying out a wide variety of activities. The members will continue to seek to identify organizations that can serve as contacts with target participants, and consider in concrete terms how and who they should ensure cooperation from, thereby extending their activities to local communities.</p> |

Implementation Report (2)

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| Project | Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone" - Facilitator training seminar |
| Purpose | To add new members to the existing facilitators, in order to implement workshop programs in many more local communities with the purpose of developing female leaders in such communities |
| Date | May 30, 2015 (Saturday) 10:00 - 16:00 |
| Venue | L-Sola Sendai, the Sendai City Gender Equality Promotion Center (Large Seminar Room) |
| Organizer | Sendai Gender Equality Foundation |
| Subsidy | Project on a grant from the Qatar Friendship Fund/ Personnel Development in Areas of Disaster & Gender Initiative |
| Lecturer | Ms. IKEDA Keiko Co-representative, Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction (GDRR)/ Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University/ Professor, Center for Integrated Research and Education of Natural Hazards |
| Workshop organizer | Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team |
| Participants | Twenty-eight participants from the general public (No. of applicants: 31) Breakdown: Staff members of citizen centers in Sendai City / female fire prevention clubs and commissioned welfare volunteers in Shibata Town / neighborhood associations and residents' associations in Sendai City / Sendai City Community Disaster Preparedness Leaders (SBLs) / Female Disaster Preparedness Leaders Network / female fire prevention clubs in Sendai City / NPOs and civic activity organizations / school officials, etc. Thirteen observers Breakdown: Japan Association for Women's Education / Japan International Cooperation Agency / Disaster Prevention Section, Sendai City Fire Bureau / Gender Equality Division, Reconstruction Agency / Gender Equality Section of Shibata Town / Sendai Gender Equality Foundation |
| Texts | 1) <i>Workbook to Be Used at Local and Support Organizations to Study Disaster Preparedness from the Perspectives of Gender Equality and Diversity - Workshop Textbook No. 8</i> (Training Center for Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction) 2) <i>Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone"</i> (Sendai Gender Equality Foundation) |
| Program | 10:00 (15 min.) Introduction: Self-introduction (Each participant introduced himself/herself for one minute in his/her group.) 10:15 (50 min.) Lecture: Basic knowledge - Differences in the experiences of disaster victims depending on their sex and position, as well as a course of action to address these problems 11:05 (55 min.) Introducing methods of disaster preparedness workshops: (e.g.) Workshop for considering support to be provided to those requiring special support in times of disaster 12:00 (60 min.) Lunch break 13:00 (80 min.) Experience: Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone" --- Providing an outline of the workshop and an opportunity for the participants to experience some parts of the workshop |

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| (Program) | <p>14:20 (10 min.) Break</p> <p>14:30 (60 min.) Analyzing community resources: Use seminars and lectures to ensure cooperation!</p> <p>15:30 (20 min.) Reviewing the day / summary and Q&A sessions</p> <p>15:40 (5 min.) Calling on the participants to act as facilitators for the Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone"</p> <p>15:45 (15 min.) Questionnaire</p> |
| Project effects | <p>At the lecture, the participants learned about the differences in the experiences of disaster victims depending on their sex and position, as well as about a course of action to address these problems. In addition, by considering necessary support from the view of those requiring special support in times of disaster, the participants were able to deepen their understanding of the perspective of diversity in times of disaster.</p> <p>Moreover, this seminar included the experience of the Sendai Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction "Shelters for Everyone" and other practical efforts, such as analyses of organizations and other resources from which cooperation could be ensured in local communities. As a result, some participants commented as follows: "The seminar has made me feel that if people in a wide variety of positions gather and exchange opinions, a diverse range of views will be presented," "I have realized that it is important to feature a wide variety of perspectives to operate evacuation centers," "I'm now keenly aware that what cannot be done in normal times cannot be done in times of disaster either" and "I have gained a deeper understanding of the diversity in local communities and the necessity of cooperation with a wide variety of people concerned."</p> <p>Most participants joined this seminar with the clear purpose of using the knowledge obtained at the disaster risk reduction workshop, for their own local communities and activity fields. It is expected that the knowledge that they have gained at the seminar will be conveyed by the participants to their local communities, which will contribute to the spread and establishment of gender equality in these communities. In addition, it is also expected that some of the participants will join the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team as new members, leading to the expansion of the team's future activities.</p> |