

A Proposal of Universal Design Teaching Material for Education of Disaster Risk Reduction

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Typhoon Hagibis featured Category 5 strength on the Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale landed in Japan at 12th October, 2019 and triggered many deadly floods and landslides. In its wake, 99 persons were killed and 484 suffered injuries. Though many media had been reporting in the period, the death of 13 was added in the heavy rainfall occurred at 12 days after the disappearance of the typhoon.

More than seven million people were urged to leave their homes as such a huge storm approached, but it is assumed only 50,000 stayed in shelters. It revealed that the preparation prior to disaster, including the knowledge associated with the force of nature and the evacuation planning, is still insufficient even in Japan as known as a country of frequent natural disasters. The emphasis on education and knowledge for disaster risk reduction should be taken precedence.

Since the 70% of dead persons were over 60 years old in the typhoon mentioned above, we focus the education to the vulnerable person to disasters such as an old aged, a juvenility, and a foreigner in this study. The educational materials for visually understanding without difficult explanations are necessary for them. We propose them featuring pictograms to show actions to take in case of disaster. They could be universal teaching materials and greatly contribute to disaster risk reduction.

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