

A Comparative Study of Emergency Response Between Japan and China: From Typhoon No.19 to COVID-19

Abstract

Emergency response can be defined as a systematic process to respond to an unexpected or dangerous occurrence. The goal of an emergency response procedure is to mitigate the impact of the event on people, society and the environment. The process can be further divided into emergency response plan, review, training and implementation. The level of emergency response depends on many factors ranging from legal system, regulation, infrastructure, technical capacity, community structure and even culture.

China and Japan are countries with frequent natural and human-caused disasters and have accumulated a lot of knowledge in dealing with emergency. Therefore, comparative studies of emergency response between China and Japan will lead to better understanding of good practices in disaster emergency response and contribute to further development of emergency response system.

The present study presents the analysis on the latest cases in both China and Japan. The case in Japan is the flood disaster caused by Typhoon No. 19. In particular, it is focused on flood inundation occurred in Nagano City. The case in China is the epidemic due to coronavirus (COVID-19), which occurred across almost the whole China. Although they are different types of disaster, there are many aspects worth comparison such as preparedness, decision-making structure, emergency operation and effectiveness as well. By performing comparative analysis, the current study is intended to shed new light on the theoretical foundation of emergency response and identify plentiful opportunities for researchers seeking to advance the state-of-the-art in this very important and exciting frontier of disaster research.