

Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in the “Reconstruction and Revitalization Period”

1. Basic Concept

(1) Current state of reconstruction

The Japanese government set a reconstruction period of ten years up to FY2020 in the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake,”¹ which was established in July 2011 immediately after the disaster. The government has positioned the first five years leading up to FY2015 as an “intensive reconstruction period” due to the heightened demand for reconstruction during this time, and has put all its efforts into the recovery and reconstruction of the regions affected by this unprecedented cataclysmic disaster.

The region affected by the earthquake and tsunami has seen results from measures to accelerate reconstruction that have been taken over five times; FY2016 will mark a period of completion for many permanent housing complexes. In addition, the revitalization of industry and livelihoods is making steady progress and reconstruction has entered a new stage as it moves towards the “overall completion” of this ten-year period of reconstruction.

In the nuclear-disaster affected areas in Fukushima, the air dose rate has decreased significantly as a result of various initiatives, such as decontamination, in comparison to when the nuclear accident occurred. Reconstruction is progressing steadily as evacuation orders have been lifted for the areas of Tamura City, Kawauchi Village, and Naraha Town.²

However, the issues that each victim faces vary depending on the environment in which that individual is placed. The pace of reconstruction in each region also varies widely depending on the scale of the damage. As reconstruction has advanced, more detailed support is now necessary to respond to the increasingly diverse needs of local communities and individuals.

¹ Decided by the Reconstruction Headquarters in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake on July 29, 2011.

² Tamura City: April 1, 2014, Kawauchi Village: October 1, 2014, Naraha Town: September 5, 2015

(2) Basic stance of the government in the “period of reconstruction and revitalization”

In June 2015, the Japanese government decided on “Recovery and Reconstruction Projects after FY2016,”³ and positioned FY2016 to FY2020, which is the latter five-year stage of the reconstruction period, as a “reconstruction and revitalization period.” This project presents the basic concepts of recovery and reconstruction projects and that a total of JPY 32 trillion⁴ will be secured over the ten-year reconstruction period as the financial resources for these recovery and reconstruction projects.

There will be no revitalization of Japan without reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In the “reconstruction and revitalization period,” the government responds in detail to the new challenges and diverse needs that have emerged as the reconstruction stage has advanced and aims to use the results from reconstruction to create a local revitalization model to lead to self-reliance in disaster-affected areas towards the “overall completion” of the 10-year reconstruction period.

For this reason, the government will continue to offer its constant support to affected people in accordance with new stages of reconstruction, and will steadily promote the rebuilding of cities and regional development that are prepared for subsequent disasters, as well as the reconstruction of infrastructure that will become the foundation for development in disaster-affected areas. The Japanese government will also facilitate the start of daily life in reconstructed towns and the revitalization of local areas with the formation of communities and revitalization of industries and livelihoods.

Notably, disaster-affected areas are dealing with mid- to long-term issues that are shared by regions all over Japan, including population decline and the hollowing out of industries ever before the disaster; so to speak, these areas can be likened to “advanced area in challenges” in Japan. Future reconstruction and revitalization aims to not only “help people return to cities,” but also create a region with appeal which many people from outside the disaster-affected areas will want to visit or move to. For this reason, the Japanese government is creating an image of a “New Tohoku” by taking advantage of the experiences and lessons learned from the earthquake and through reconstruction initiatives and activities to identify and utilize untapped

³ Decided by the Reconstruction Promotion Council on June 24, 2015.

⁴ Does not include expenses that businesses are bound to assume based on the Act on Compensation for Nuclear Damage (1961, Law No. 147) and the Nuclear Damage Compensation Facilitation Corporation Act (2011, Law No. 94).

local resources, creative revitalization of industries, and formation of local communities.

The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in 2020 during this “reconstruction and revitalization period.” These Games have been set as “Olympics and Paralympics of Recovery” and shall serve as an opportunity to disseminate the image of reconstruction of the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake to the world.

In the nuclear disaster-affected areas in Fukushima, initiatives will be taken to improve the environment so that evacuation orders can be lifted in areas to which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted, as well as areas in which the residents are not permitted to live, at the latest in six years after the nuclear accident (March 2017). Through these initiatives, the region will transition to the stage of full-scale reconstruction. The reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima must have mid- to long-term support, and even after the end of the “reconstruction and revitalization period,” initiatives shall continue to be carried out with the national government at the forefront.

During this “reconstruction and revitalization period,” the participation of a variety of stakeholders will be even more important, such as the active involvement of female leaders and NPOs in relation to support for affected people, maintenance and formation of communities, revitalization of industries and livelihoods, and the creation of a “New Tohoku.” Gender equality in the reconstruction process will be further promoted and public-private partnerships will continue to be sought with the expanded participation of women in forums and organizations involved in reconstruction.

Based on the above basic stance, the Japanese government has placed a focus on the following items in section 2. in accordance with this basic guideline and the basic concept of recovery and reconstruction projects illustrated in the “Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake” and “Recovery and Reconstruction Projects after FY2016.”

2. Future Actions in Each Sector

(1) Support for affected people (health, daily life support)

Continuous support will be provided in accordance with new stages of reconstruction, such as the maintenance of the mental and physical health of affected people, formation of communities, and the “mental recovery,” such as

creating motivation in life, which often accompany a prolonged life as evacuees and relocation to permanent housing.

In addition, action will be taken to support the rebuilding of housing and reconstruction of livelihoods when relocating from temporary housing to permanent housing, such as public housing for disaster-affected people.

(Specific initiatives)

- “Comprehensive measures to support affected people (health and daily life support)”⁵, which consist of 50 measures, will be steadily carried out in order to address the important issues of assisting the formation of communities and offering support for affected people, including mental and physical care.
- Support will continue to be provided for the mental and physical care of affected people, including support for the mental and physical health, which is referred to as the “mental recovery,” in order to watch over and help affected people find new purposes in life. Support will also continue to be provided for the formation of communities and integration with existing communities with the relocation of affected people.
- Support will be provided for the creation of a consultation support system on the rebuilding of housing and reconstruction of people’s daily lives in order to facilitate the smooth relocation to permanent housing and reconstruct livelihoods. Support will also be offered for local governmental initiatives as they relate to assistance for temporary housing on school grounds.
- Comprehensive support will be offered to ensure that children in disaster-affected areas are brought up in good physical and mental health, taking into account the various ways the disaster has affected them, including prolonged life as evacuees in temporary housing or the loss of a parent(s) as a result of the disaster. Initiatives will be taken to create and ensure an educational environment in which children affected by the disaster can learn in a stable setting through the provision of support in school and for learning.

(2) Reconstruction of homes and cities

Many of the houses being rebuilt will be completed in FY2016. Detailed,

⁵ Developed by the Task Force to support affected people (health and daily life support) on January 23, 2015.

practical support will continue to be offered on site and assistance will be provided to affected people for rebuilding of houses on their own to ensure that the development of public housing for disaster-affected people and upland relocation by prefectural and municipal governments will continue as scheduled in the “Schedule for Housing Reconstruction.”

Recovery and reconstruction of services needed for daily life are vital in helping people return to their hometowns. For this reason, the living environment is being developed to offer affected people peace of mind in their daily lives through the revitalization of towns, formation of transportation networks in new towns, development of systems for the provision of medical and nursing care, and rebuilding of schools.

The restoration of infrastructure that is closely linked to daily life, such as roads, rivers, and water and sewerage services, has mostly been completed during the “intensive reconstruction period.” In the future, the recovery and reconstruction work that is currently being planned will be promoted and completed towards the building of transportation and logistical networks that will become the foundation for disaster-resilience and economic development in disaster-affected areas.

(Specific initiatives)

- ① Restoration of towns and housings, and improvement of living environments
 - In order for affected people to move into permanent housing as soon as possible, acceleration support teams will be dispatched to speed up construction work for restoration of towns and housings. Detailed support will continue to be provided by Reconstruction Agency staff directly to municipalities. The Japanese government aims to complete roughly 90% of the total number of units⁶ that are planned by prefectures and municipalities for public housing for disaster-affected people and uplands relocation by FY2017, while also using project promoting efficacy of reconstruction grants, where needed.
 - Various support measures will be steadily promoted for self-rebuilding of housing, including steady payments of subventions to support the reconstruction of the livelihoods of affected people, as well as the provision of low-interest housing loans for disaster reconstruction, assistance for the equivalent amount of borrowing interest in order to rebuild housing independently, and implementation of a “matching

⁶ According to the “Schedule for Housing Reconstruction” (as of end of September 2015).

support system” to support the procurement of materials and introduction of craftsmen.

- Bustling towns will be revitalized with the reconstruction of shopping areas in the transition from temporary stores to permanent stores, as well as support for the development of commercial facilities. Support will be provided for the utilization of original relocation areas that have been acquired by projects promoting collective relocation for disaster prevention.
- Support will continue to be provided to secure transportation of affected people in temporary housing in daily life. Assistance will also be offered for initiatives that contribute to the formation of sustainable, local public transportation networks to secure a means of transportation for residents after the development of post-disaster cities.
- Support will also continue to be offered for projects based on reconstruction plans for medical care that have been formulated by disaster-affected prefectures from the perspective of reconstruction of the healthcare delivery system in the region. In addition, necessary support will continue to be provided to promote measures to secure nursing care workers for the reconstruction of nursing care provision systems. The development of a system to comprehensively ensure medical and nursing care (Community-based Integrated Care System) will also be advanced based on the situation in each local area. The required support will also continue to be provided to ensure the welfare of persons with disabilities, including facility maintenance.

② Building transportation and logistics networks that form the foundation for economic development of disaster-affected areas

- The utmost effort will be extended in early recovery and reconstruction of disaster-affected areas through the urgent maintenance of reconstructed roads and support roads. All expressways from Kamaishi to Hanamaki and about 80% of the Soma-Fukushima road are planned to be open by FY2018; about 90% of the Sanriku coast road from Sendai to Kamaishi is scheduled to be open by FY2019, aiming to facilitate the quick opening of all roads in the disaster-affected areas. Land acquisition and construction will be promoted for other road sections and the outlook on the opening of these sections will be clarified as soon as possible. The Okuma IC and Futaba IC on the Joban Expressway, which has become operational, are scheduled to be in service in FY2018 and FY2019, respectively.

- Construction work is underway on the JR Yamada line with an aim to resume service by the end of FY2018. Efforts are being taken to steadily advance restoration work in close cooperation with various stakeholders. Convenience will be further improved for the JR Ofunato line and Kesenuma line, in collaboration with stakeholders. Action is being taken to open all lines as soon as possible on the JR Joban line in close cooperation with stakeholders, based on the outlook for opening all lines that was published in March 2015.⁷
- The restoration of a breakwater at the entrance to the Ofunato Port is scheduled to be completed in FY2016; a breakwater at the entrance to Kamaishi Port and an offshore breakwater at Soma Port will be completed by FY2017. In order to respond to the relocation of new companies, including those related to resources and energy, the improvement of ports will be promoted as the cornerstone for the economic revitalization of disaster-affected areas, such as the improvement of an international logistics terminal by FY2018 in Onahama Port that can transport large amounts of coal in bulk using large ships.
- Coastal measures are scheduled to be completed by FY2020 and maximum support will be provided for the coastal areas for which consensus has been reached to allow for the quick promotion of recovery and reconstruction.
- Restoration of farmland and agricultural facilities is scheduled to be completed by FY2018 aiming at the revitalization of agricultural, forestry, and fishery industries in disaster-affected areas. Large-area partitioning and integrated use of agricultural land will also be promoted. The preparation of coastal protection forests is being promoted with an aim to complete restoration by FY2020. Support will be provided to improve fishing ports and fishing areas, including strengthening logistics and processing functions and improving the productivity of fishing areas, with an aim for complete restoration by FY2018.

(3) Revitalization of industry and livelihoods

On the whole, business activities have recovered to about the same level as before the disaster as a result of the activities that have been carried out to date, including the recovery of disaster-affected facilities using group

⁷ "Outlook for opening all lines on the JR Joban line" (Published by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, March 10, 2015).

subsidies for small- and medium-sized companies; unprecedented responses in post-disaster public administration to date and assistance from the perspective of employment that has been integrated with industrial policies, such as improvement of facilities using subsidies for the relocation of companies; dual loan measures; financing support; and measures to counter negative reputational impact, for example.

During the “reconstruction and revitalization period,” as reconstruction of hardware side has moved forward, such as the improvement of infrastructure and rebuilding of housing, reconstruction and revitalization of software side has become even more important, such as the reconstruction of industry and revitalization of livelihoods in disaster-affected areas. For this reason, there is a need to promote the creative reconstruction of industry, with a focus on tourism industry that is highly impacted by negative reputational damage, and the fishery processing industry that has seen delays in the recovery of sales.

Since the disaster, labor shortages are becoming increasingly more serious in disaster-affected areas as the population declines, birthrates drop, and society ages. It is important to revitalize the local economy to be self-reliant, sustainable, dynamic and appealing, with highly productive local industries. For this reason, the government is committed to working in unity to support the new initiatives and challenges of small- and medium-sized businesses, as well as rebuild industrial bases through the promotion of innovation and research and development, and redevelop better living and working environments in which human resources, including young people and women, can gather and be active. This will be carried out with an aim to achieve the balanced development of local key industries and other industries that support the region’s lifestyles and employment opportunities, based on the “Strategy for Creation of Industrial Reconstruction.”⁸

(Specific initiatives)

① Acceleration of industrial revitalization

- In order to achieve the revitalization of industries in disaster-affected areas, activities will continue to be taken to restore disaster-affected facilities and promote the relocation of companies, dual loan measures, and financing support. Effective support will also be offered for creative business activities, such as market development and the launch of new business startups, by utilizing the knowledge of the private sector and professionals.

⁸ Decision by the Task Force on the promotion of industrial reconstruction on June 10, 2014.

- Towns will be revitalized with the reconstruction of shopping areas through the transition from temporary stores to permanent stores, as well as support for the development of commercial facilities (same as in (2) ①).

② Promotion of tourism

- The effects of persistent negative reputation mainly overseas have lingered, resulting in Tohoku area being unable to benefit from the effects of increased inbound tourism around the nation, as well as a delayed recovery of educational travel. For this reason, the Japanese government will launch strong initiatives in FY2016 to promote tourism as the “first year of the Tohoku tourism revitalization.” In the future, initiatives to promote tourism in Tohoku will be advanced further in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies by promoting inbound tourism, including the formation of wide-area sightseeing tour routes, the creation of interactive and exchange opportunities with local residents through study tours to learn about reconstruction, and activities to communicate the appeal of Tohoku both in Japan and overseas, by taking advantage of local assets, such as the natural environment, history and culture, and food.

③ Revitalization of the agricultural, forestry, and fishery industries

- Large-partitioning and integrated use of agricultural land will be promoted. Efforts will also be promoted to ensure food safety and dispel negative reputation both inside and outside of Japan. Support will be offered for initiatives to develop forestry into a growth industry with increased demand for wood and by securing a stable supply of wood. Support is also offered for activities, such as the development of management bodies that can continue to sustain the fishery industry and aquaculture, as well as market recovery and new business development in the fishery processing industry.

(4) Reconstruction and renewal from nuclear disaster

Reconstruction is progressing steadily in areas affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, including lifting evacuation orders in Tamura City, Kawauchi Village, and Naraha Town. As for areas in which the residents are not permitted to live and areas to which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted, activities are being conducted to improve the environment so that

evacuation orders can be lifted at the latest in six years after the nuclear accident (March 2017) and reconstruction will shift toward a full-fledged stage.

The pace of reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima will accelerate with the application of the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima⁹ by strengthening support for both an early return and the creation of new livelihoods and efforts aiming at the reconstruction and independence of businesses, livelihoods, and daily life.

A bright future in the next 30 or 40 years has been offered in the recommendations of the “Future Vision of Fukushima 12 Municipalities,”¹⁰ including a population outlook that will likely exceed estimates from before disaster if steady progress is maintained, as well as considerable reductions in air dose rates. Actions will be taken for the individual development and achievement of these recommendations in close cooperation with prefectures, municipalities, and the private sector to bring hope for the lives of people in disaster-affected areas in the future.

The reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima requires mid- and long-term support, and activities will continue even after the “reconstruction and revitalization period” is over, with the national government at the forefront.

In addition, decommissioning and contaminated water management at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station are being safely promoted by mobilizing both national and international wisdom and intelligence. Appropriate information is also being disseminated both in Japan and overseas, including local areas, in response to the anxiety and concerns of local residents.

Actions are being taken to steadily advance the handling of environmental pollution from radioactive materials in Fukushima Prefecture and surrounding areas.

(Specific initiatives)

- ① Solution of accident (decommissioning, contaminated water management)
 - The national government will take the initiative to support necessary research and development with the collective knowledge of Japan and overseas, based on a mid- to long-term roadmap¹¹ to ensure the safe

⁹ 2012, Law No. 25

¹⁰ Recommendations compiled by an expert study group on the future vision of Fukushima 12 municipalities on July 30, 2015.

¹¹ “Mid- and Long-Term Roadmap towards the Decommissioning of TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (Revised June 12, 2015, Inter-Ministerial Council for Contaminated Water and Decommissioning Issues)

and reliable promotion of decommissioning and contaminated water management. In addition, the proper dissemination of information on the progress of measures and radiation data will be carried out in Japan and overseas through the 1st International Forum on the Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Together with this, measures will also be promoted to improve the morale of workers and secure human resources with the provision of awards for work teams that are engaged in decommissioning and contaminated water management.

- ② Removal of radioactive materials, etc.
 - Necessary measures will be unfailingly implemented, such as follow-up decontamination along with activities carried out in cooperation with local governments, in order to achieve full decontamination by March 2017 based on decontamination implementation plans in all areas that are subject to decontamination under the direct control of the national government or municipalities. Activities are also being promoted under a unified-government approach in order to promote the improvement of interim storage facilities for the safe and centralized management and storage of removed soil from Fukushima Prefecture and the continued haulage of soil to facilities. Research and development is also being promoted on volume reduction and recycling for final disposal outside of Fukushima Prefecture within 30 years after the start of interim storage.
 - Every effort is being made to ensure the safe and stable treatment of specific waste¹² in Fukushima prefecture. Projects to reduce volume through temporary incineration facilities are being promoted, as well as landfilling using existing management-type disposal sites. In addition, efforts are being made to provide careful explanations on the treatment of specified waste outside of Fukushima Prefecture so that the understanding of local areas can be obtained, and measures are being taken to ensure long-term management in preparation for disasters.
- ③ Expansion of efforts for return and for lifting evacuation orders, etc.
 - Detailed monitoring on radiation dose is being positively and systematically carried out. Easy-to-understand information is continuing to be shared on the results of monitoring.

¹² (note from translator) This includes two types of waste: (1) waste which the Minister of Environment specified as one which contains more than 8000becqurells of radioactive materials per kg. (2) waste in areas which the Minister of Environment specified. The national government is in charge of disposing of it.

- Decontamination will be carried out sufficiently. Support will be steadily offered to monitor the health of residents, as well as people that are involved in disaster restoration work regarding radiation. The efforts will be accelerated to provide support for the residents through necessary improvements to the environment so they may resume their lives, including the expansion of risk communication to respond to individual fears about radiation, restoration of infrastructure, and restoration of commercial functions, medical and nursing care facilities, and schools, as well as securing opportunities for children to exercise, through the application of grants to accelerate the revitalization of Fukushima.
- Activities will be carried out to accelerate the pace of environmental improvement so that evacuation orders can be lifted in areas in which the residents are not permitted to live, as well as areas to which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted at the latest in six years after the nuclear accident (March 2017).
- Activities required for the smooth implementation of necessary and sufficient compensation will be continued in line with the guidelines of the Dispute Reconciliation Committee for Nuclear Damage Compensation, including repairs to housing when residents return home, costs and new land needed to rebuild, and compensation for damages for housing to cover the costs of purchasing a new home.
- The national government will continue to promote the maintenance and formation of communities of long-term evacuees and residents of municipalities that have accepted evacuees, support for affected people, including observing evacuees and offering mental health care, as well as helping those affected by the disaster create motivation in life, and ensuring a stable living environment. It should be noted that the national government will continue to offer necessary support and work closely with Fukushima Prefecture, municipalities that accept evacuees, and municipalities that were originally home to evacuees regarding the measures to improve infrastructure and create communities in municipalities that accept evacuees in accordance with the construction of public housing for evacuees.
- Excellent educational curriculums, such as “Hometown Creativity,” will be developed and expanded throughout the region.
- Based on a concern that damages to agriculture and forestry, ecosystems, and the living environment will increase from wild birds and animals, measures to counter such damage is being promoted in cooperation with prefectures and municipalities in line with local

conditions.

④ Strengthening the foundation for the medium-/long-term and wide-area development of disaster-affected areas

- Actions will be taken to implement and achieve individual recommendations under the “Future Vision of Fukushima 12 Municipalities” that was developed from a medium-/long-term and wide-area perspective, in cooperation with prefectures, municipalities, and the private sector.
- Support will be provided under the Innovation Coast plan to establish hubs for international industrial and academic collaboration, including research and development on decommissioning, research and demonstrations on robots, and information dissemination centers (archive hubs), to substantiate projects in the environment and recycling sector, energy sector such as renewable energies, and agricultural, forestry, and fishery sector, and to develop practical applications to contribute to the creation of new industries. In addition, activities for wide-area and self-sustaining economic revitalization of the Hamadori area will be carried out, including encouraging expansion to local areas through industrial integration and the improvement of surrounding environment, providing adequate housing, and development of human resources, while paying attention to cooperation of local governments in affected areas in urban development.
- The Okuma IC and Futaba IC on the Joban Expressway, which has become operational are scheduled to return to service in FY2018 and FY2019, respectively (same as in 2(2)②).
- Action is being taken to open all lines as soon as possible on the JR Joban line in close cooperation with stakeholders, based on the outlook for opening all lines that was published in March 2015 (same as in 2(2)②).
- Support will be offered for smooth and rapid development of revitalization hubs in municipalities both inside and outside the region through the flexible application of various support measures, including grants to accelerate the revitalization of Fukushima, such as a system for facilities that form the city center revitalization hub of Fukushima in housing complexes.
- Considerations of the future handling of areas where it is difficult for people to return will be deepened together with local areas based on the outlook for radiation doses, future return trends for residents, future

industrial visions, and a portrait for reconstruction.

⑤ Expansion of initiatives for rebuilding and independence of businesses, livelihoods, and daily life

- In view of the severe business environment in the 12 municipalities that are under evacuation orders, support measures that take into account local needs and a broader perspective will be enhanced with an aim to rebuild businesses and livelihoods, as well as daily life after return, in light of individual visits by the Fukushima Soso Public-Private Joint Reconstruction Team.
- The job creation and industrial clusters will be promoted by supporting the relocation of companies in order to secure “work places” for affected people and accelerate the pace of future return.
- Seamless support will be carried out for a series of initiatives on the recovery of agriculture-related infrastructure to match the progress of decontamination, conservation management and planting demonstrations on agricultural land after decontamination, conversion to new agriculture, such as the introduction of large-scale farms and horticulture, measures to control the absorption of radioactive materials, and measures for radioactive materials in reservoirs.
- Initiatives will be promoted in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies for decontamination with an aim to guarantee safe and secure living environments and prevent the outflow of radioactive materials to living areas, activities to regenerate woodlands around residences, forest management, such as thinning trees on remote mountains, and activities to regenerate forests and forestry, including studies and research and information dissemination. Activities will also be carried out to ensure growing demand and stable supply of wood.
- Support will be provided for the resumption of full-scale operations of the fishing industry in Fukushima Prefecture.
- Measures to date to control reputational damage will be continuously verified in “Guidelines to Strengthen Measures against Negative Reputations”¹³ in order to dispel harmful rumors. More effective activities will also be promoted.
- Detailed support will be provided to respond to local needs in cooperation with prefectures and municipalities under the leadership of the national government for the improvement and resumption of

¹³ Developed by the Task Force against negative reputations on June 23, 2014.

business of medical, nursing care, and welfare facilities, as well as to secure professional human resources. Activities to support the ability to secure secondary care in Futaba-gun, in particular, will be carried out.

(5) Creation of “New Tohoku”

As the restoration of infrastructure and housing (“hardware”) gains ground, the reconstruction of “activities of people (“software”),” such as the revitalization of industries and livelihoods and formation of communities, have become necessary in future reconstruction efforts to “revitalize towns.”

Advanced efforts have been promoted for the development of a national model in disaster-affected areas making maximum use of the human resources and know-how of not only the national and local governments, but also the private sector, such as companies, universities, and NPOs. In the future, the knowledge amassed through various activities will be developed and expanded to disaster-affected areas.

(Specific initiatives)

- Support for innovative activities in disaster-affected areas has been provided, including activities carried out to date to discover the potential value of local resources, and activities to promote the healthy participation of the elderly in local society. New and innovative initiatives have sprouted in disaster-affected areas as a result of the promotion of initiatives related to the creation of a place to use the human resources, knowledge and funds of the private sector, share information, and cooperate together.
- In the future, the knowledge collected through these activities will be developed and expanded to disaster-affected areas through support for the local governments that are implementing new initiatives and businesses in these areas.

3. Image of Reconstruction & Memories and Lessons Learned from the Disaster

(1) Dissemination of the image of reconstruction to Japan and abroad

- The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games have been set as “Olympics and Paralympics of Recovery,” and activities will be promoted in cooperation with disaster-affected areas, including the Olympic torch relay and training camps in these areas to support the reconstruction

from the disaster and encouragement to the people who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Through the Games and the 2019 Rugby World Cup, Japan will show its appreciation for the support received from all over the world since the disaster and disseminate an image of the country that is strongly on the way to recovery with the collective effort of the entire country to the world.

- Easy-to-understand information on the progress of reconstruction and the state of disaster-affected areas will be disseminated and momentum will be built again in Japan and overseas to help disaster-affected areas. Japan will strive to dispel negative reputations through the dissemination of accurate information about the situation of reconstruction from nuclear disaster by promoting understanding about radiation and using a variety of opportunities, such as international conferences.

(2) Passing down the memory of the disaster and lessons learned to future generations

- National memorial & prayer facilities (official name TBD) are being constructed in Iwate Prefecture and Miyagi Prefecture with a target of completion of the year end in FY2020; the national memorial and prayer facility (tentative name) planned to be established in Fukushima Prefecture is scheduled to be developed and constructed at an early date. These facilities will be established to commemorate the victims of the disaster, hand down the memory of the disaster and lessons learned to future generations, and express the strong intension for reconstruction to both Japan and overseas.
- In order to hand down the variety of lessons learned, including damage from the disaster and the concept of “disaster reduction,” to the next generation and apply this to future disaster prevention and reduction measures, the consolidation and summary of initiatives that have been carried out throughout reconstruction, including reconstruction methods, will be promoted through support for the collection, organization, and storage of disaster and reconstruction archives by the prefecture and municipalities in cooperation with the “NDL Great East Japan Earthquake Archive (Hinagiku).”
- Based on the lessons learned from the disaster, disaster prevention education will be further enhanced to develop a “proactive attitude” to defend one’s own life from the risk of natural disaster and to raise “awareness of contributing to a safe and secure society” to learn the

perspective of offering support.

4. Follow-up

(1) Follow-up on basic guidelines

- The Reconstruction Agency follows up on the state of reconstruction every year, including the implementation status of the Basic Guideline, and properly publicizes information, in addition to reporting results to the National Diet.
- A review shall be conducted on the Basic Guideline as necessary in three years based on the status of progress of reconstruction measures and recovery from the nuclear disaster.

(2) Management of mechanisms to support reconstruction

(a) Scale and financial resources for recovery and reconstruction projects

- The scale and financial resources for recovery and reconstruction projects in the “reconstruction and revitalization period” are shown in the “Recovery and Reconstruction Projects after FY2016” and “Scale and Financial Resources of Recovery and Reconstruction Projects in the Reconstruction Period, including the 5-year Period Since FY2016.”¹⁴
- Reconstruction will be steadily promoted through the reconstruction project budget with the proper conduct of management of the project scale each fiscal year in the “reconstruction and revitalization period” and a highly precise budget.

(b) Special Zone for Reconstruction

- In order to further accelerate the pace of urban development and the revitalization of industries and livelihoods, the system of a Special Zone for Reconstruction, in which special regulations and support measures for taxes, public finances, and financing are applied, will continue to be used by local governments in disaster-affected areas. For this reason, the national government strives to offer support for the development of plans with an aim to solve problems in disaster-affected areas.

¹⁴ Cabinet decision on June 30, 2015

(c) Local government support

- A special local allocation grants for recovery from earthquake disaster played a major role in promoting systematic reconstruction by local governments with weak financial capabilities. Given the progress of reconstruction, a review was conducted as to which projects can be supported in accordance with “5. Local government share in recovery and reconstruction projects” of the “Recovery and Reconstruction Project in FY2016 and Beyond” report, based on which further support will be extended.
- Based on the fact that reconstruction projects are reaching their peak, the national government will continue with efforts to enhance human-based support from local governments throughout the country, taking into account the situations in disaster-affected areas and the needs of local governments in these areas. It will also be necessary to further promote the adoption of fixed-term staff in disaster-affected local governments. For this reason, human-based support will continue to be fully financed at the government’s expense to support fixed-term staff and support staff.