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Article :**EDITORIAL | Society Must Not Forget the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

Twenty-six years, more than a quarter of a century, have passed since the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995.

January 17 is a date in Japanese history that must never be forgotten. We would like to commemorate the 6,434 victims again.

We also want to question whether society has progressed since January 1995. Has Japan become more resilient in dealing with natural disasters? Has Japanese society become kinder to those affected by such disasters? People should ask themselves these questions.

It is surely important to respect the wishes of the victims. We want generations born after the earthquake to listen to stories related to the disaster, and learn.

2021 marks ten years since the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. Recovery in the affected areas is still ongoing – but there are fears that memories of the disaster are fading. Let's keep remembering.

Coincidentally, the Great Hanshin Earthquake happened 50 years after the end of World War II. August 15 is also a significant date in Japanese history. Society has these important dates. We must remember these dates and commemorate.

Twenty-six years may have passed but we must remain aware that the Great Hanshin Earthquake still casts a shadow on society.

The names of the victims are listed on name plates at a memorial monument in Kobe. Seven new names were added at the end of 2020 – reminding the bereaved relatives of their loved ones.

Time has passed but we must not forget that the bereaved relatives still feel sadness today.

COVID-19 has affected the most recent commemoration, causing some cancellations. The

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“Kobe Luminarie,” which is an annual light festival held in memory of the victims, was canceled in December 2020. A smaller-scale alternative event was held instead. But the sentiment remains unchanged. We want society to remember the victims on January 17.

As the current crisis that is COVID-19 continues, there is something we want people to remember. When Japan was hit by the two major earthquakes in 1995 and 2011, the Japanese people maintained order and helped each other. As we battle against COVID-19, we must not spread the disease through irresponsible and careless behavior.

The Great Hanshin Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake have taught us the importance of cooperating to overcome adversity.

Source: EDITORIAL | Society Must Not Forget the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995
<https://japan-forward.com/editorial-society-must-not-forget-the-great-hanshin-earthquake-of-1995/>

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. commemorate (出来事を)記念する、祝う、(死者などを)しのぶ

John Lennon fans gathered in Liverpool to commemorate their idol who was born 60 years ago today.

2. deal with 対応する、(問題などに)取り組む、

They set up an unit to deal with people who do not fit the drug treatment system.

3. loved one 最愛の人、配偶者や恋人など最も近い家族の一人、故人または個人の家族

The memory of your loved one will continue to inspire you for the rest of your life.

4. in memory of ～～を追悼して、～の記念として

Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his wife.

5. battle against (敵・困難などと)闘う

Many things have improved in this country but we still have to battle against racism.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How many years has passed since the big earthquake hit Hanshin area in Japan?

2. Which event to commemorate the victims of the Great Hanshin Earthquake was cancelled in December 2020?

3. What was the reason for the cancellation of the event above?

4. According to the author of this article, what have we learnt from these two major earthquake?

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日本語関連記事：

【主張】阪神大震災26年 思いを新たにする節目に

平成7年の阪神大震災から四半世紀を過ぎ、26年となった。

どんなに時がたっても1月17日は、忘れてはならない節目の日である。6434人の犠牲者を改めて追悼したい。

そしてそれぞれに思いを新たにしたい。災害に強い社会にできただろうか。あるいは災害で人生を変えられた人に優しい社会になっているのか。人それぞれに自らへの問いかけがあてい。

大切なのは、犠牲者の遺志を大切にするという思いだろう。大震災後に生まれた世代も、体験について聞き、学んでほしい。

3月11日には東日本大震災の発生から10年となる。被災地の復興はなお途上だが、記憶の風化も懸念されている。何度でも何度でも記憶を新たにしよう。

阪神大震災は、くしくも戦後50年の年に起こった。8月15日も日本の大きな節目の日である。社会にはそんな大切な日がある。その日に思い出し、追悼する姿勢を決してなくしてはいけない。

26年がたったといっても、阪神大震災が人々の心になおさまざまな影を落としていることも、自覚しておきたい。

神戸市にある「慰霊と復興のモニュメント」の銘板には、大震災が遠因となった犠牲者の名前も刻まれる。昨年末、新たに7人の名前が加えられ、遺族らが面影をしのんだ。

時間がたっても、当事者にとって悲しみは今もそこにあることを忘れてはならない。

新型コロナウイルスは、大震災の追悼の形にも影響を与えずにはおかなかった。感染予防のため中止となった追悼行事もある。毎年12月に行われている光の祭典「神戸ルミナリエ」も昨年は中止となり、規模を縮小して代替イベントが行われた。

しかし行事の形は違っても、追悼するという心の働きは変わらない。それぞれの思いで犠牲者をしのび、節目の日を過ごしたい。

コロナ禍という現在の非常時にあって、思い出しておきたいことがある。

2つの大震災下、極限状態にあっても日本人は秩序を守り、助け合った。コロナとの戦いでも、勝手な、あるいは不用心な行動で感染を拡大させてはいけない。

協力し合って災難を乗り越えることの大切さを、大震災は教えてくれてもいる。