

Japan Passes Bill to Set Up Disaster Management Agency

先日発生した令和8年熊本地震などを通して、防災への備えの重要性が改めて認識されています。また、日本では災害対策を一元的に進めるため、新たに「防災庁」が設置されることになりました。あなたは、災害による被害を減らすために、国や私たち一人ひとりにどのような備えが必要だと思えますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Japan's Upper House has passed a bill to establish the [Disaster](#) Management Agency, which will serve as the central hub for disaster [response](#).

The creation of an organization directly under the Cabinet dedicated exclusively to disaster preparedness and response is expected to strengthen management efforts across both the public and private sectors. The agency is scheduled to begin operations in November.

Japan is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, frequently experiencing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, and other natural disasters.

The Nankai Trough earthquake, a potentially massive earthquake expected to occur along an underwater tectonic boundary off Japan's Pacific coast, and a major earthquake directly beneath the Tokyo metropolitan area are both considered highly likely to occur in the future.

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Japan Forward

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1. Article

However, government disaster [mitigation](#) plans aimed at reducing fatalities and damage have fallen significantly behind [schedule](#). The new agency is expected to investigate the causes of these delays and help accelerate [implementation](#).

Created by expanding the disaster management division currently under the Cabinet Office, the agency will take responsibility for formulating basic disaster preparedness policies.

Until now, the division has had limited personnel and organizational capacity, leaving it primarily responsible for coordinating among ministries rather than overseeing progress on disaster reduction measures.

The new framework is also intended to overcome these limitations and improve [coordination](#), a long-standing issue in Japan's disaster management system.

With new authority to recommend improvements, the agency will be able to call on ministries whose disaster reduction efforts are behind schedule to take corrective action. Those ministries will be required to consider and respond to its recommendations.

Strengthening disaster policies based on scientific evidence will be another key focus. The agency is expected to expand research and technological capabilities, including the use of simulations to assess regional disaster risks, and play a central role in developing future preparedness strategies.

Developing disaster management personnel will also be a priority. Plans call for the establishment of a disaster management university to provide practical education and training for national and local government officials, as well as private-sector workers.

Developing the next generation of disaster management specialists will require long-term efforts. Proposed measures include expanding opportunities for students to study earth science and geography in schools and increasing university programs in fields such as geoscience and crisis management.

In addition, the agency will work with the Cabinet Secretariat on administrative tasks and training related to the rescue and support of evacuated residents during armed attacks. These efforts will form part of broader national crisis management preparations.

Questions remain, however, over the agency's ability to secure sufficient resources. It reportedly does not plan to make budgetary recommendations to the finance ministry, raising concerns about its influence in securing funding for disaster preparedness.

Supporting local governments facing limited budgets and personnel shortages due to population decline will also be a major challenge.

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2. Key phrases and vocabulary

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

1. disaster 災害

The town prepared for a possible weather-related disaster before winter.

2. response 対応

Sayo's quick response immediately solved the problem with the main server.

3. mitigation 軽減

Tree planting is one form of flood mitigation.

4. implementation 実施

The implementation of the new traffic rule took several months.

5. coordination 調整

Good coordination between staff and students helped the school festival run smoothly.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Why is Japan creating the new Disaster Management Agency?
2. What new authority will the agency have over ministries?
3. What challenge may affect the agency's work in the future? Please explain in your own words.
4. What skills do you think disaster management specialists need most?
5. What should national and local governments do together to reduce disaster risks?

4. 防災庁の設置 強い指導力で減災実現を

災害対策の司令塔となる防災庁の設置法が成立した。官民で対策を抜本的に強化する契機としたい。

日本は地震、火山噴火、水害などが多発する世界有数の災害国だ。武力攻撃による有事の人的災害も起こり得る。これらの防災対応を専任とする内閣直属の組織が創設される意義は大きい。

南海トラフ地震や首都直下地震は高い確率で発生が予測されているが、死者数などを減らす政府の減災計画は目標達成が大幅に遅れている。11月の発足を目指す防災庁は、まずその原因をしっかりと検証し、計画を加速させなくてはならない。

防災の基本政策を担ってきた内閣府の防災担当を格上げして設置する。これまでは人員や体制が万全ではなく、関係省庁の調整役にとどまり、減災計画の進捗（しんちょく）の管理も不十分だった。こうした状況を打開し、縦割りの弊害をなくすことが責務だ。

減災の取り組みが遅れている関係省庁には改善を勧告でき、省庁はそれを尊重する義務を負う。権限の拡大とともに責任も重くなると肝に銘じ、確実に減災を実現してもらいたい。

特に問われるのが指導力である。勧告権は安易に行使すべきものではない。まずは説得力のある改善策を省庁に提示し、実行を強く促す必要がある。

そのためには科学的な根拠に基づく政策がより重要になる。シミュレーションによって地域の災害リスクをきめ細かく把握するなど、調査研究や技術開発の機能を強化し、防災の研究と戦略を主導すべきである。

人材の育成も大きな課題だ。新設する防災大学校で職員や自治体、民間などに対し実践的な教育や研修を行う計画だ。

将来の防災を担う人材も育てる必要がある。学校教育で地学や地理を学ぶ機会を増やし、大学は地球科学や危機管理の学科を拡充するなど、長期的な視野で取り組んでほしい。

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[Japan Forward](#)

4. 防災庁の設置 強い指導力で減災実現を

防災庁は武力攻撃を受けた際に避難住民を救援するための事務や訓練を内閣官房と連携して担うことも忘れてはならない。万全を期してもらいたい。

防災庁は財務省に予算関連の勧告は行わない方針で、防災予算の獲得にどこまで関与できるか不透明だ。一方、人口減少で予算や人員の確保が難しい地方自治体への支援は重要な使命である。力量が問われよう。