

# Foreword

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Large-scale earthquakes have been occurring with noticeable frequency recently. While we were still in the process of recovering from the nightmares of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Chuetsu Earthquake of Niigata Prefecture in Japan, the Sumatra Earthquake and a major tremor in the Indo-Pakistani border region caught us. As of this writing (November 9, 2005), more than 87,000 people have fallen victim to the Indo-Pakistani border tremor. The Sumatra Earthquake was immediately followed by a tremendously powerful tsunami, making it impossible to do anything much about the after effects of the quake itself. Much time has gone into damage estimation and restoration of order in the affected areas.

Disasters have not been limited to earthquakes. Damage brought on by hurricanes in various parts of the world, especially the hurricane miseries experienced in the United States, were of unprecedented scale. Who could have predicted that New Orleans, a major metropolis in the south of the United States, would undergo damage so destructive that it would completely paralyze the city? Reportedly, much of the U.S. defense effort had been redirected toward terrorism deterrence and prevention, with relevant agencies and related organizations reconfigured in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Subsequent

terrorist bomb attacks in London and Madrid have resulted in diminished attention paid to the prevention of exposure to damage caused by hurricane, rain and flood.

The Japanese Central Disaster Prevention Conference has announced that there is a 70 percent chance that a magnitude 7-class major earthquake will hit the National Capital region at some point during the next three decades. If an earthquake of such magnitude hits the northern portion of Tokyo Bay, the number of dead and wounded is estimated to exceed 11,000. The cause of death for 90 percent of the well over 100,000 victims and missing persons of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake was attributed to fire exposure, at the time. However, the current mainstream view now estimates that about 5,500 died by fire, and that the rest were crushed to death within seconds of the sudden attack of the violent tremor. These are all cases that would be covered by risk and crisis management.

Risk and crisis management addresses the protection of people's lives and assets. No problem is so simple and easy that it can be addressed in a single, sweeping stroke. To the extent that society must unconditionally put it at the top of the priority list precisely because it concerns the lives of people, we are dealing here with an issue of intellectual dimensions.

As the reader scans the text for these keywords, he or she will be able to grasp what components should go into an emergency scenario. Other supplementary issues to be addressed have been presented at the end of the volume in the form of questions to test the reader's understanding in the pertinent context. The reader is urged, after having studied the book, to try the exercise to confirm his or her understanding before taking on the recommended preparations.

The essential purpose of this book lies in urging the reader to take immediate action after having grasped its content and gained an in-depth understanding of the concepts. The essence of study does not end with merely understanding, but must include the creative projection of scenario planning and simulation drills. The completion of such a process would, as a matter of course, be predicated on the preparation of necessary materials and an unrelenting pursuit of practice makes perfect.

Disaster prevention centers are to be found in every region all over Japan (in Tokyo: at Honjo, Ikebukuro, Tachikawa and elsewhere). To visit one of these centers and actually experience a simulated quake and its management — via fire-fighting, movement through smoke, first aid and other life-saving techniques, etc. — will prove to be of immense value.

Among other components of risk and crisis management, anti-disaster preparedness has deep, immeasurable implications and can never be regarded as complete, no matter how confident one may feel in terms of having done everything possible. Everyone must be keenly mindful at all times that the ultimate self-help can only come in the moment of truth based on his or her commitment to constant planning and preparation.

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This is a revised and enlarged edition of *Survival — Simulation of Risk and Crisis Management 69*, which was published in 1999. It incorporates additions and corrections made to reflect what we have learned about the characteristics of the natural and man-made disasters that have occurred since the first edition went to press. It also includes the study of new measures taken to overcome disasters since that time. Accordingly, additional keywords and illustrative examples have been incorporated.

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