

## Foreword

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) of 2005 to be held in Kobe-Hyogo is an important event to review the past decade's activities after the Yokohama Conference (held in 1994), and to discuss the international strategies on disaster reduction for the 21st century. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of JAPAN (MEXT) has undertaken various initiatives for the preparation of this conference.

Japan has learned significant lessons in the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake of 1995, and we realized that the key issue of technology development is its link to the regional characteristics, and relevance to the local socio-economic and cultural context. This point was especially highlighted through different innovative research projects under the MEXT flagship initiative titled "Development of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Technologies and Their Integration for the Asia-Pacific Region (EqTAP)" (1999-2004).

On the basis of this recognition, we decided to develop a list of knowledge and implementation technologies for disaster reduction, and to present it in the thematic session entitled "Implementation Strategies for Application of Research and Development on Disaster Reduction" organized by MEXT at WCDR, as one of the typical contributions of Japanese government to the world.

In order to make this list fruitful, the task team entitled "Working Group for Development of Disaster Reduction Technology List" consisting of the specialists and the experts (Chair: H.Kameda) was constituted under the "Committee on Research and Development for Disaster Reduction, Subdivision on R&D planning and Evaluation, Council for Science and Technology, MEXT" in cooperation with other related ministries of Japan.

From the point of view that it is important this list should be easily taken advantage of by developing countries, we mainly selected the technologies which are expected to contribute to the effectiveness for disaster mitigation with low costs. Especially we strived to make much of the technologies including both the dialogues with communities and stakeholders, and the implementation strategies discussed substantially in the planning stage of the R&D projects. The present volume provides a first-step document. It is hoped that next measures will be implemented to extend and enhance this list to the "World List."

Lastly, I really thank those who have contributed to the development this list, and hope that this list will be made good use of by those who are responsible for disaster mitigation all over the world.

January 2005      Takayuki Nakamura, Director, Office for Disaster Reduction Research  
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