

## June\_18\_Streaming\_English\_0845\_

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for attending the plenary. I'd like to make an announcement. We have Japanese on channel one, English on channel two, and French on channel three today. You can find your headsets at the entrance to the room.

Please take a moment to find a seat and turn your phone into silent mode at this time. Thank you.

We are finally here in Himeji for the Ace Understanding Risk Global Forum. We are delighted to welcome you to this beautiful city, Yobasa. We hope we can all learn a lot alongside each other and make new friends.

Enjoy!

Together, let's continue to build a resilient future that honors and protects our cultural heritage while ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities. Thank you very much.

Konnichiwa, good morning. How's everybody? How's that head? Last night, somebody was drinking or having a lot of jet lag. How's the jet lag now? Very good, very good. Thank you very much for coming today early.

We started on time. You are the winners for lunch today. Sunday and yesterday was very emotional. We had a lot of culture. We had a lot of fun. And I saw many of you making a lot of connections. Please keep doing.

This is what makes this community strong. This is what makes innovation. This is what makes us to be more resilient. So, today we will keep learning a little bit. Thank you. The word of today is furin kasan.

Can you repeat, furin kazan? Can you repeat? Furin kazan. Okay. This is a short one. It means as swift as the wind, as quiet as the forest, as daring as a fire, and immovable as the mountain, like you, samurais.

We are starting this week. We have packed agenda. This is the agenda from 9 .30 to 10 .30 after the disciplinary. So you have a lot of things to choose from. You have many sessions, many people to meet.

Please take a picture so you know what you are going to miss when you go to the other session. And take a picture of where the map is. You will need it. This is a big venue, and you will find this very hand.

Okay. So let's start. Let's start with the first plenary of understanding risk. And please give some pons and applause to Mr. Guan Zeng Chen, Vice President of the World Bank.

Good morning, everyone. Good morning, governance side two, and distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues and our partners, and participants of Understanding Risk 2024. I hope you all enjoyed the opening session last night, and of course, networking last night as well.

It's really my honor to welcome you to the first panelist session of Understanding Risk 2024, and host here in the resilient Hyco Perfection. We extend our deep appreciation to governance side two for his presence and his support to this event.

This session not only inaugurate UR 2024, but also serve as a prelude to the 30 years anniversary of the great Hassan Avaji earthquake next year. The 1995 earthquake with a magnitude of 6 .9 came over 6 ,400 lives and caused damage exceeding \$100 billion.

This tragedy highlight the importance of robust disaster response and preparedness. The lesson learned from the tragedy, we shape our understanding of urban

vulnerabilities and common resilience, community resilience, and also influence the global disaster risk management practice.

Today, we acknowledge the remarkable resilience and recovery of the people of Hyco Perfection. The advancement in earthquake resistance and disaster response provide invaluable lesson to all of us. And this forum is a testament of the enduring spirit and determination.

I think behind me, you remember last night, the students' calligraphy of the theme of the UR 2024, tradition, resilience, and innovation. And I certainly hope that theme will continue to inspire all of us in these professions.

Also, I should mention the recent devastating earthquake in other part of the world, including this country, in NATO Peninsula, in Japan, in Turkey, in Yemen, Afghanistan, Morocco, really undermining all of us of the work that are ahead of us in terms of preparedness and recovery of all these disasters.

While climate change -related disaster has been a global focus, we also have to be reminded of this natural disaster and committed to address the vulnerabilities and improve our preparedness and ability to recover from this kind of natural disasters.

Our comprehensive approach to ensure support for disaster risk management in all forms, enhancing resilience worldwide. Learning from the global best practices and also adapting them to local content is the key to our recovery and preparedness strategy.

And Japan's disaster risk management knowledge and practices are highly regarded, which is another reason why we are holding this conference here in Japan today. We certainly hope that the UR 2024 will provide an opportunity to reflect on the progresses, but address the remaining challenges and to chart a path forward for all of us globally.

We look forward to a continued collaboration and learning from each other. With our practitioners, we're connecting over 20 ,000 experts and practitioners over the world.

With over 130 countries we presented in this forum today, it certainly is a great learning event.

It is with this remark, then let me say, introduce our governors, our hosts. It's really a pleasure to introduce Governor Saito for Yoko Perfecto. Governor Saito has first-hand experience in the post-disaster response, having led the recovery support for the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake recovery effort during his tenure as the finance division chief in the Miyaki Perfecto.

His insight and leadership are invaluable as we reflect on the past and also reflecting on the futures, on how we can improve our resilience and preparedness in response to all these challenges. And thank you and welcome to UR 2024.

Thank you. Thank you. Governor Sato, please. Thank you. Thank you.

of yoga prefecture. Did you enjoy energy evening last night? I wanted to participate, but because of the official duty, I was not able to participate.

Thank you very much.

of yoga prefecture including himeji very tasty so in the following couple of days i hope that you will enjoy delicious sake as well as a fantastic food available in yoga prefecture i hope you enjoy all of them

that you are today.

This is a very precious opportunity given to me. Thank you very much. The World Bank, at this punctuating moment of prelude to the 30th anniversary of Hanshin, our great earthquake, you are holding this U .R.

2024, the first ever in Japan and first ever in Asia to be held in Himeji City. Thank you very much for choosing Vice President Kuan Chen and other leadership of the World Bank. I'd like to thank you for choosing Yoga Prefecture.

So at this place of keynote address, I will be talking about the creative reconstruction from the great Hanshin Awaji earthquake. It is to build back better. We are going to create society better than the disaster time.

So this is the ideal of creative reconstruction and it is called build back better. It is the universal ideal. I hope that our experiences and lessons would be capitalized in various countries in their preparedness and response to disasters.

First, I'd like to explain the outline of Yoga Prefecture. Yoga is located in three hour bullet train ride by Shinkansen and it is located almost in the center of Japan. It is facing three oceans, Sea of Japan, Seto Inland Sea and Pacific Ocean.

This is the only prefecture in Japan facing three oceans. It is becoming a very important transportation hub inside and outside Japan together with Osaka and Kyoto. This is creating the Kansai Metropolis together with Tokyo Metropolis.

Today I'd like to talk about three agenda items. The first one is lessons learned from Hanshin Awaji earthquake. The second one is contribution to the international DRR. And the third one is my comments toward Osaka Kansai Expo, which will be held next year.

First, a little explanation about the earthquake.

This is the movie. This is the movie.

This is, there is a short video, so I would like you to watch this short video. On the 17th of January 1995, magnitude 7.3 major earthquake hit southern part of Yogo Prefecture. It was immediately beneath at the city center, so the fatal toll was 6,437, 104,000 houses collapsed and then 7,000 houses burnt.

It was a major disaster.

At that time, as I said,

of 1995 when earthquake hit. I was 46 years old, so at the time of earthquake 30 years ago I was 15 years old. At that time I was a senior high school student. During my senior high school days, I was born in Kobe, but junior high school and senior high school I went to school in Matsuyama, so I spent in dormitory.

So the earthquake hit, so my house was in Kobe city. So immediately after the earthquake I went back to Kobe. Fortunately my house and my parents were intact.

Nuts.

injured. But my house was in Nagata Ward in Koba City. We were running a factory of plastic shoes and this was very much damaged and the running management of this factory became very difficult and the factory itself had to be closed in a couple of years hence.

So the earthquake is not only giving damage in hardware but it gives serious damage to the soft aspect of your daily life including indigenous industry. So DRR is important and nurturing indigenous industry is also important so we have to look after the development in a comprehensive way.

So I joined the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication as it looks after the old municipalities. After the East Japan Great Earthquake, I was associated with the disaster reconstruction from Itate Village of Fukushima Prefecture and Miyagi Prefecture and I became a governor of Hyogo in 2021.

So three years almost as a governor. So next outline of the earthquake. So it happened on 5 o'clock 46 minutes past the hour on the 17th of January 1995. The toll was 6,434. The total and half the destroyed houses accounted for 250,000.

So what characteristic of this earthquake? It was the first ever earthquake where epicenter was just beneath the city center in a modern big city and the damage was concentrated in the city center. The second one was that this earthquake hit in Japanese society, a mature society, aged society.

This was a large earthquake hit for the first time the local community where the aging was proceeding. So build back better concept. The idea is that not only we go back to the status of pre-disaster days, we wanted to build better society.

So this is the reconstruction model which was emulated in the East Japan earthquake of 2011 as well as a common earthquake which happened in 2016. This ideal is carried through. As you all know, in 2015 at the UN conference on DRR, Sendai framework was adopted and under the notion of build back better, this framework is positioned as the priority action that all countries should take in terms of this disaster reconstruction.

So I would like to talk about a late professor who supported this reconstruction. Unfortunately, in April of this year, he passed away.

So next, yeah.

In January, we will be having the anniversary of 30 years since the great hunching of the earthquake. We were counting on his support, so it is to my greatest regret. He was a victim himself, and he lost some of his students' bitter experience.

So bitter experience was held in his heart, and then he was associated with the restoration clan of this prefecture. He kept communicating the idea of creative reconstruction. So he led various reconstruction conferences of East Japan earthquake and Kumamoto earthquake.

He made a great contribution. I'd like to pray for the peaceful soul resting in peace of late Dr. Yokebe, and we will carry on his flame the idea of creative reconstruction. From the earthquake, we learned a lot of lessons, and five items can be characterized.

Based upon those lessons, we want to become the developed prefecture when it comes to DRR, and we have promoted the DRR policies. The first one is preparedness for disasters. During the normal time, you have to have preparation ahead of other prefectures.

We have established the disaster superintendent in 1996. Also, we strengthened the manpower for the disaster reconstruction, and at that time, there were only 20 officers, but now we have about 70 officers within the prefecture, three times strengthening of the manpower.

So wherever disaster strikes, we will be able to have six wider area disaster bases located in the prefecture.

Thank you very much.

Furthermore, we have established a mutual aid system for housing reconstruction, which is unique to Hyogo.

I'll talk to you later.

The system was introduced because there was no national support system for housing reconstruction at the time of the earthquake, and affected people had difficulty rebuilding houses by themselves. It is a mechanism with which maximum 6 million yen will be paid out as benefits for housing reconstruction by paying a premium of 5,000 yen per year.



The mutual aid system promotes housing reconstruction by filling the gap between public help and self-help such as earthquake and insurance coverage.

If that's the way to go, come along.

Second lesson we have learned is the importance of initial response. Public transportation was disrupted immediately after the earthquake, and many of our staffers could not commute, resulting in less than a sufficient disaster response.

Learning from this experience, we established a 24-hour monitoring and immediate response system, and now three officials are stationed at Hugo Disaster Management Center on both day and night shifts.

We have also established a disaster standby accommodation within 30 minutes' walk from the prefecture office so that our staff can come to the prefecture office on foot. Furthermore, we have developed the Phoenix Disaster Management System, which connects the prefecture municipalities' police, fire departments, self-defense forces, and others to promptly share information.

The third lesson we have learned is the importance of DRR capacity of communities. In the aftermath of the Great Hanshi-Nawachi earthquake, about 80 percent of the trapped residents were rescued by their neighbors.

It is feared that the police, fire department, and self-defense forces may not be able to immediately come to rescue in the aftermath of a large-scale disaster. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen DRR capacity of communities based on the notion of mutual help.

That's when duties were shown.

Apart from municipal fire departments in Japan, we have a volunteer fire corps that whose members engage in firefighting and disaster prevention activities on a non - regular basis while having other jobs.

We have also seen a growth of volunteer DRR organizations after disaster, which conduct DRR activities in each community. Hyogo Prefecture is working hard to strengthen volunteer fire corps and volunteer DRR organizations.

Hyogo has the largest number of volunteer firefighters and the highest rate of areas covered by volunteer DRR organizations in Japan. We have so far trained more than 3 ,600 DRR leaders of volunteer DRR organizations.

The fourth essence is a coordination among DRR agencies. In Japan, we have a support framework depending on the scale of disaster. As the scale increases, the support framework gets upgraded and expanded from a prefecture block of prefecture sent to the entire nation.

What is unique to the Kansai area is the framework of union of Kansai governments. The union is a special regional public entity comprised of 12 prefectures and cities designated by the ordinance. In which Hyogo Prefecture is in charge of DRR in the union.

The union supports its members once there is a disaster in the region of the union. In addition, the union works in unison to support other regional blocks experiencing disasters. For example, on the heels of the Noto Peninsula earthquake in January, each member of the municipality assigned to it to provide comprehensive support.

Hyogo Prefecture, for instance, was assigned to Suzu City in Noto Peninsula. This system is called the counterpart system whose benefit is that an assigned union member will be able to promptly, flexibly, and continuously provide support in a responsible manner.

The system was introduced by the union of Kansai governments for the first time in Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan earthquake, which has been adopted by the national government as the basic system to support affected municipalities.

In the aftermath of the Noto Peninsula earthquake in January, Hyogo Prefecture has provided its all-out support. The earthquake hit Noto on the 1st of January, and on the very next day, on the 2nd, Hyogo Prefecture's staff was already in Noto.

The Prefecture and its municipalities have dispatched a total of more than 3,800 people and provided 50,000 meals, 10,000 liters of water, and other supplies, and offered more than 300 million yen of relief donation.

It doesn't need, it's still.

of the salient characteristics of initiatives by Hyogo Prefecture and by the Union of Kansai governments is that prefectures and municipalities extend support on their own initiatives without waiting for the national government's instructions.

After the disaster, we have seen developments of clusters of international GRR agencies at Hat Kobe and in Miki City. As the core for Hat Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture established a disaster reduction in human renovation institution, or the DRI, to showcase items related to disasters, collect relevant materials and to conduct research and other activities in a centralized fashion.

International Recovery Platform, UNDRR, Kobe Office, IRP, International Recovery Platform, ADRC, Asian Disaster Reduction Center, JICA, and other international organizations in the field of DRI are there.

Thank you very much.

Organizations constitute the DRA, or Disaster Reduction Alliance, with the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution as its secretariat, to conduct cross-border DRR and humanitarian assistance activities in collaboration.

Meanwhile, Miki Wide Area DRR headquarters houses the E-Defense, a 3D full-scale earthquake testing facility.

Even Scott can say so the demons in last year It's like the man

A full-scale seismic isolation testing facility, e-isolation, was installed right next to e-defense. It is expected that these two facilities would serve as the center for research into global seismic-resistant structures.

The fifth lesson is the importance of building disaster-resilient communities, i.e., investing in hardware or tangible infrastructures. Pro-active DRR measures are key in preparation for natural hazards that are becoming more frequent and intense.

We are developing infrastructure in a well-planned manner to realize safe and secure prefecture. We are particularly focused on actions against earthquakes and tsunamis, including preparation for an anti-traff earthquake-comprehensive flood control measures, action against sediment-related disasters, and enhancement of emergency transport routes.

We are deeply grateful that rescue supplies, donations, and rescue teams were sent from around the world to Hyogo immediately after the Hanshi-Nawachi Great Earthquake. We believe it is our turn to pay back to your generosity by sharing our experiences and lessons learned.

That is why Hyogo Prefecture is active in supporting disaster-affected areas abroad. When a major disaster occurs outside Hyogo Prefecture, the Prefecture sends consolation fund of 1 million yen. In addition, as a way to directly support affected areas overseas, the Prefecture dispatched its staff to support psychological and medical care in the aftermath of 2008 Sichuan earthquake and 2015 Nepal earthquake.

In the aftermath of 1999, northwest Turkey earthquake in 2003, southeast Iran earthquake, the Prefecture extended support with monetary donation collected from its citizens. Thank you. Thank you.

In the wake of a Turkish earthquake that occurred in February last year, we implemented a project to support Turkey because we had longstanding exchanges with Turkey. In addition to the presentation of one million yen in sympathy money, donations were solicited.

Surprisingly, more than 35 million yen in donations were collected and presented to the local community for the purpose of providing scholarships to university students in need based on the local needs.

Matta, kemi.

In addition, we have collected donations through the hometown tax donation, and so far over 13 million yen as donations have been collected, which has been used to subsidize the activities of private organizations.

The prefecture that engaged in support activities in Turkey six times in JICA in total. In addition, we cooperated with JICA support activities in Turkey.

Well, in Ukraine...

And this is not about the disaster, but this is about the war. In order to achieve the reconstruction from the war, it is very important to provide support. In March last year, a yoga prefecture set up a study group to apply the philosophy of creative reconstruction to the reconstruction of Ukraine.

This study group is headed by myself. As a result of the four meetings held, it was recommended that support be given to Ukraine that takes advantage of yoga's strength in areas such as prosthetics, rehabilitation, and mental health care in Ukraine because of the landmines, children, and so forth, and also their limbs or extremities here in yoga prefecture.

Prosthetics are provided, and also it is said that we have a top class of our techniques and skills in providing such services in prosthetics to children. Therefore, we need to develop many people from Ukraine by inviting them to come to yoga prefecture in order to develop them as a talent for providing such medical services.

And when they return to Ukraine, so they will be able to provide services to those injured people. Frank, we had the meetings online with the governors of Ivano, Franki, Lucille, and Mikolayu, and concluded a memorandum of understanding regarding reconstruction assistance from Kyogo Prefecture.

In the future, Kyogo Prefecture is merely one of the prefectures in Japan, but we'd like to start to continue to provide what we can do over here. Next year, we will have the mark the 30 years since the Great Hanshin -Avaja earthquake and Osaka cancer export will be held next year.

Therefore, efforts are being made to disseminate and pass on the experience and lessons of the earthquake. And we will roll out the 30th anniversary next year, and January 17th is the 30th anniversary.

So we are rolling out the 30th anniversary commemorative programs for the earthquake. The prefecture, cities, towns, and companies and organizations will widely collaborate to conduct various commemorative projects to reflect on the disaster and convey the importance of disaster preparedness.

In that sense, this World Bank UR 2024 Global Forum will segue into these events that we are trying to roll out going forward, and we will use the outcomes of this forum to build momentum for our programs.

We appreciate this very much. So outcome of this forum will be received, and we would like to increase and build momentum for our programs to commemorate 30th anniversary. Let me introduce the Expo. The Expo 2025 Kansai Osaka Kansai will be held from April to October next year with Yume Shima in Osaka City as its main venue.

The expected number of visitors is approximately 28 .2 million of which approximately 3 .5 million will be inbound visitors from abroad. With 161 countries and regions participating, the world's attention will be focused on us Kansai.

Yoga prefecture will also take advantage of this opportunity by carrying out a yoga field pavilion and a yoga expo league in order to communicate concept of creative reconstruction domestically and internationally.

The yoga field pavilion will be the site where its local people showcase their respective field of activities embodying the SDGs across yoga prefecture. In this pavilion, which will be created artificially on the site of Yume Shima, but we hope that many people will visit yoga prefecture, experiencing a farming and sake brewery and local industries in Himeji, and also leather industry to make products,

and those sites of activities will be regarded as pavilion. And I hope that many people will actually visit the site to see the real manufacturing, real activities on the site. That is our concept. So I hope that during the export period, including all of you here, I hope that you will visit yoga prefecture once again and look at the programs and learn and experience them.

It's on the hill, we've eaten up our video in a while.

And if you go through the pavilion, we'll carry out over 200 programs so far. And this is not something we are doing on ourselves. But the private sector people would like to take initiatives to conduct these programs.

And there will be programs based on the experience and lessons. And there are programs which will allow you to experience the simulation of the disasters. And by

combining these tours and the hands-on DRL experience and learning at the DRL-related facilities with the field pavilions and tourism resources in the surrounding areas, we are promoting DRL tourism, which is expected to have a synergistic effect of studying DRL while having fun and raising DRL awareness while enjoying local attraction.

We will offer monitor or trial tours and disseminate recommended routes and other information through a dedicated website and pamphlets. In this sense, this UR 2024 Global Forum is an excellent opportunity for visitors to experience the DRL tourism that Prefecture is promoting.

We have prepared a full study tours for foreign participants in Kobe, Hanshin, Awaji, Kitaharima, and Tajima. We have heard that many applications were received and that the tours have been already fully booked.

We hope that you will have a good time and join the tours.

Thank you very much.

At the Expo 2025, Osaka Kansai, the BIE, will set eight theme weeks based on the global issues. In addition to the eight theme weeks, Hyogo Prefecture sets two themes unique to Hyogo, making a total of 10 themes for the Hyogo Expo Week.

One of the unique themes is the theme of this presentation, Creative Reconstruction from Disasters, Creative Recovery from Disaster Week. It's scheduled to be held in September next year, and international symposia and other events will be intensively held under the theme of recovery and disaster prevention.

The Creative Reconstruction Summit will be held as the core event during the week for Creative Reconstruction from Disasters, where the heads of local governments affected by the Great East Japan earthquake and the Kumamoto earthquake, as well as those from overseas such as Turkey and Ukraine affected by disaster in the war, will gather to exchange opinions on Creative Reconstruction.



Such summit will be held. The results of the exchange of opinions will be compiled into the Hyogo Declaration and which will be disseminated to the world. We would like to use the knowledge gained from the discussions at the UR 2024 as a legacy for the discussions at the next year's Summit on Creative Reconstruction.

Thank you very much.

for your kind attention. I would like to conclude my presentation in the hope that the creative construction initiatives that our prefecture has been implemented for the past 30 years since the earthquake and will be of help in strengthening disaster countermeasures in other countries, as well as in the discussions at this forum.

Thank you very much.