

**Chengdu Forum on UN-GGIM  
Global Map for Sustainable Development:  
Development and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping  
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**Session 3: Geospatial Challenges in Responding to Urban Disasters**

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**Role of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan in Disaster Response as  
Exemplified in the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011**

Abstract

This presentation reviews the actions that the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) took in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, identifies outstanding challenges GSI faced through those actions, and outlines the potential role of national geospatial information authorities, particularly in disaster-prone countries.

GSI's responses to disasters in general are divided into three phases: Pre-disaster preparation, Responses immediately after disaster, and Support to post-disaster recovery. The presentation summarizes GSI's activities for each of these phases and emphasizes the importance of preparedness during the pre-disaster phase, including doing frequent disaster drills and archiving/updating maps/photos, in order to make appropriate and timely responses, and meet/exceed the expectations of the decision makers.

Another dimension that will be addressed is users of the data provided by GSI. For on-site responders, detailed geospatial information including raw air photos and large-scale maps is appreciated for their activities including rescue operations, while Government decision makers usually appreciate materials that enable them to have synoptic views on the latest situations, including overview of damaged areas and recovered facilities.