

Tsunami and Fukushima Disaster: Design for Reconstruction

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Editors

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 Springer

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Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to write a foreword for this book. The book targets a very important and relevant topic of designing recovery. Six years have passed from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011. Different lessons are learnt in different parts of the affected areas, however, this book is possibly a unique attempt in English to describe the recovery process with specific and detailed field activities.

Community based recovery process has become popular in recent years, and there are different techniques used to receive community's views, perceptions and participation in the recovery process. This book exemplifies different design technology, which is used with the participation of local communities to get their views on the spatial issues of recovery. The book also illustrates the importance of blending local knowledge and external expertise to reach a workable and innovative recovery solution. The three key lessons in designing recovery area can be summarized as: flexibility and openness in local governance system, creating an environment and way to incorporate community's voice, and appreciating external expertise.

Within past six years, we have witnessed several other disasters in Japan, as well as in different parts of Asia and world. The 2013 typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) of the Philippines has emphasized the need of risk perception and appropriate community actions. The 2016 Kumamoto earthquake has shown us the importance of lesson sharing within Japan itself. The lessons analyzed in the book is not only important within the affected region in Tohoku, but also can be applied widely in other parts of Japan. Moreover, the basic principles of community involvement in co-design recovery process can be used widely in the other disaster-hit areas in Asia and the world.

I sincerely believe that the findings of the book will be useful for the researchers, practitioners and decision makers, and this book will be a unique reference document for designing future recovery process. I congratulate the editors for bringing out this valuable piece of work, and to all contributing authors for their detailed analysis and important findings.

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