

Webinar on Disaster Response
Resilient Libraries: Responding to Global Climate Change
October 21, 2025

The importance of collaboration and establishing mutual support networks to improve disaster resilience

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International
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Library
Associations and Institutions

Description in the IFLA manual

IFLA Disaster Preparedness and Planning : A Brief Manual (2006) **(Excerpt)**

PREPAREDNESS (GETTING READY TO COPE)

8. Establish and maintain links with outside agencies and individuals (Excerpt)
- Expertise
 - The local community and residents
 - Other libraries, archives and other cultural institutions (museums, galleries...) in the city, region and/or country.

<https://repository.ifla.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/b797c1d6-414b-4587-80f1-188c22cadb45/content>

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1. About disaster resilience



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Definition of "Resilience"

Disaster Risk Reduction Terminology

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

<https://www.undrr.org/terminology/resilience>

Definition: Resilience

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Understanding disaster resilience (part 1)

◆ Disaster resilience:

Ability to overcome disasters = Integration of prevention and resilience

- Prevention: the ability to limit damage caused by disasters
- Resilience: the ability to enable rapid recovery and reconstruction of functionality

◆ Relationship between each entity and disaster resilience

Disaster resilience is formed through the interrelationship of the following entities:

- Individual capabilities (Self-help)
- Community capabilities (Mutual aid and Cooperative aid)
- Society capabilities (Public aid)

Understanding disaster resilience (part 2)

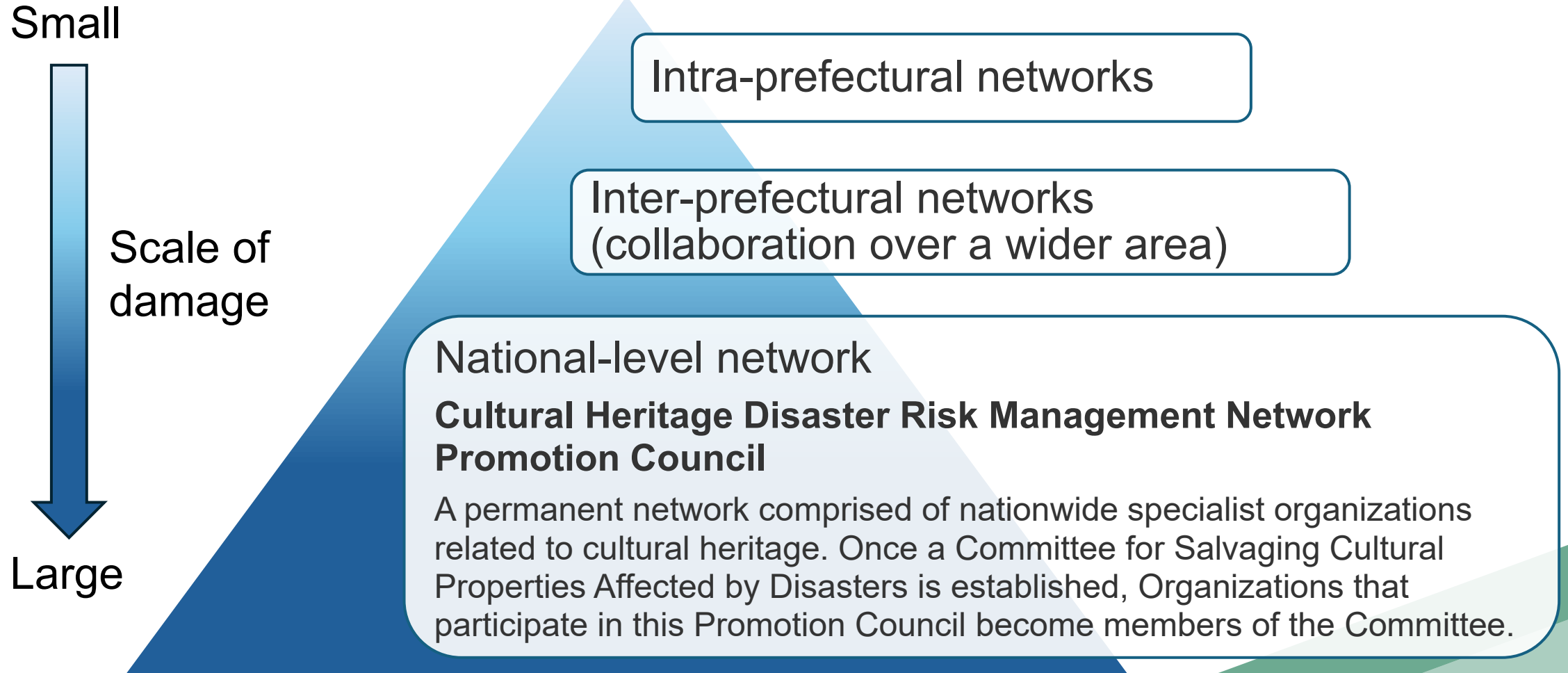
- ◆ Increasing disaster risk due to changing circumstances
 - External factors (e.g., increased frequency, widespread coverage, and severity of meteorological disasters due to climate change)
 - Internal factors (e.g., changes in local communities)
- **To improve resilience, it is necessary to secure human resources that enable appropriate and efficient disaster response.**
- **It is important to establish mutual support networks between communities and organizations, both nationally and regionally, in consideration of factors such as the scale of the disaster and increasing disaster risk due to changing circumstances.**

2. Various networks to rescue and support damaged cultural heritage and libraries in Japan



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Coordinated networks for handling cultural heritage disaster risk management and emergency response in Japan



Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Network Promotion Council (Secretariat: Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center)

◆ Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Network Promotion Council

<https://ch-drm.nich.go.jp/english/about/meeting.html>

- As of March 2025, 28 organizations related to cultural heritage participate.
From the library field, the Japan Library Association and the National Diet Library are participating.
- This also includes university research institutes, academic societies, and Shiryo Nets (A Shiryo Net is a volunteer organization in which various stakeholders around a region work together.)
- The “Disaster Response Guidelines of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Network Promotion Council”

◆ Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center

<https://ch-drm.nich.go.jp/english/>

- Established in October 2020
- In collaboration with various organizations and networks related to historical culture, it carries out a variety of activities as the hub of a national-level disaster risk management network not only during disasters but also during normal times.

Overview of rescue and support activities for disaster-affected libraries (part 1)

- ◆ Ishikawa Prefectural Library: As the hub of the prefecture's library network, and the liaison and coordination point with external support organizations
 - Providing various types of direct support to disaster-affected libraries and recruiting volunteers for work
 - Collaborating with the Japan Library Association: Responding to the needs of disaster-affected libraries, etc.
 - Collaborating with the National Diet Library: Responding to water-damaged local materials (implementing emergency measures and restoration work)

Overview of rescue and support activities for disaster-affected libraries (part 2)

- ◆ Japan Library Association (JLA): As a national library organization
 - The JLA's Library Disaster Preparedness Committee exchanged information with disaster-affected libraries and conducted multiple on-site surveys, working hard to understand their current situation and support needs. This information was presented at events to promote disaster prevention at the National Library Conference (held annually by the JLA and other organizations).
 - Annually providing grants to support the recovery and reconstruction of damaged libraries.

Overview of rescue and support activities for disaster-affected libraries (part 3)

◆ National Diet Library (NDL): As a national library

- Providing information related to the earthquake and other disasters
- Supporting rescue efforts and emergency response efforts for damaged materials
- Collaborating with a disaster recovery digital archive within Ishikawa Prefecture through the National Diet Library Great East Japan Earthquake Archive (an archive for passing on records and lessons learned from the earthquake to future generations)

<https://kn.ndl.go.jp/en/#/>

- Leveraging our network of public libraries to share information and hold events to promote and raise awareness of disaster prevention

3. Summary



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Summary

- Under the common goal of preserving and passing on the region's cultural heritage, it is important to establish mutual support networks with neighboring municipal governments and institutions related to cultural heritage in normal times, maintain regular collaborative relationships, and make appropriate improvements in response to changes in the situation.
- This framework also includes collaboration with networks involved in various aspects of local cultural heritage, as well as collaboration with experts and specialized organizations that understand how to rescue cultural heritage.
- It is also important to establish a national-level support network in the event of a large-scale disaster.
- Given the limited resources available, let's work to develop more efficient and effective mutual support networks!

Planning and production of a pamphlet featuring the cultural property rescue awareness manga

December 2024, planned and produced by the Ishikawa Shiryo Net with the collaboration of other related organizations.

Posting URL:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ishikawashiryonet/%E5%95%93%E7%99%BA%E3%83%9E%E3%83%B3%E3%82%AC>



<Pamphlet title page>



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References

AMANO Masashi, MATSUSHITA Masakazu et al. (2024)
How to Preserve Local Historical Culture: Methods and Ideas for Rescuing Materials during Disasters (English version included),
Bungaku-Report Co., Ltd.
Fully Open Access: <https://bungaku-report.com/preserve-en.html>

Last access: October 15, 2025

THANK YOU

If you have any questions, please email us at this address.

PAC-ASIA: pacasia@ndl.go.jp

The contents of this report are introduced in the following article.
Please refer to it if you are interested.

[CDNLAO Newsletter](#) No. 106, September 2025



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