WHO collaborating center seminar to share experiences of natural disasters among China, Indonesia and Japan

Asia-Pacific is the region most adversely affected by disasters. Evidence from Great East Asia Japan Earthquake showed that persons with disabilities are two times more likely to die than the general population when a disaster occurs. National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities in Japan have studied disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities since Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, and disseminated related information through the Internet and WHO collaborating center seminar with representatives from Republic of China and Indonesia in February of 2012.

A red dot on the right map shows the place where a big earthquake hit.

Sharing educational materials of disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities

Two accessible manuals, three brochures, three leaflets and an iPad application for disaster preparedness were developed and evaluated. Some of them were translated into English to share with counties around the pacific rim.

Gathering and developing experiences of persons with disabilities at evacuation drills and developing measurement of environmental safety for persons with disabilities in natural disasters

- In addition to disability awareness by community residents, participation in community activities by persons with disabilities have increased after they joined the community disaster drills.
- Evacuation Drills at Urakawa, which was awarded United Nation Zero Project, have been continued for 10 years by a team of group with mental illness, local government, neighborhood agencies and researchers.
- Zurayata Project runs disaster preparedness group works and evacuation drills as a part of peer activities.

Left: Neighbors lifted the wheel chair up and down the stairs in the second year of a disaster drill. Right: Announcements were written down on a board for the deaf at a community disaster drill.

Left: Evacuation drills for tsunami at Urakawa. Right: Members in Zurayata Project.