

Report on  
**Disaster Risk Prevention and Preparedness Workshop**

November 23, 2024 (Saturday) | 15:00 – 16:30 (90 minutes)  
Seminar Room 8, 3F General Research Building, Saitama University

A workshop titled "Disaster Risk Prevention and Preparedness" was organized on November 23, 2024 (Sat), to enhance the awareness and preparedness of Nepalese residents in Saitama City regarding disaster risks. Recognizing the linguistic and cultural backgrounds of the community, the workshop aimed to address specific needs and gather valuable insights to improve disaster preparedness strategies.

A total of 16 individuals participated in the workshop, comprising both Nepalese and Japanese individuals, including family members.



### **Workshop details**

#### Part I: Survey presentation

The first segment of the workshop featured the presentation of results from a questionnaire survey conducted in October 2024. This survey was a collaborative effort with Saitama City and targeted all Nepalese residents of Saitama City aged 15 and above. The primary objective was to understand the community's awareness and understanding of disaster prevention measures.

#### Part II: Opinion exchange and open discussion

The second segment focused on an open discussion where Nepalese participants shared their insights and suggestions. The discussions were dynamic, reflecting the participants' commitment to improving disaster preparedness within their community.

### **Participants' voice**

Participants provided several actionable suggestions to enhance disaster risk awareness and preparedness. Below are the participants' words:

- we do not know where the shelters are in the event of a disaster. It is requested that such information be provided by the local government in English.
- it would be effective if evacuation-related (pre- and post-disaster) signs outside in the streets are posted in the local language (Nepali). The Nepalese community can help in translating the signs if it is difficult for the local government to implement.
- we receive newsletters in Japanese from Saitama City every month, but as I cannot read Japanese, the newsletter is discarded immediately. It might be effective if such newsletters could be at least in English. Alternatively, placing a QR code for the digital version of the newsletter on the cover page of the Japanese newsletter would allow easy use of machine translation to grasp the information.
- most of us use Google Maps. If authorities could add evacuation centre information on Google Maps, it would be very practical to reach the evacuation centres. Preferred evacuation routes could also be embedded in Google Maps, if applicable.
- lack of information related to disaster risks and how to prepare for them is a main issue for many. To address this, authorities could use services like Facebook (or any other SNS) to spread information in English.
- as of now, neighbourhood connections with Japanese residents are very poor. I do not even know whose house is next to mine. There should be initiatives by the authorities to enhance neighbourhood connections so that we can act as one in a time of need.
- I have never participated in any disaster drill due to lack of information. Information on such drills should be provided so that foreigners could also join and prepare for possible disasters.

- cultural aspects are very important, particularly regarding food that one can eat on religious grounds. Such needs should be considered even during disasters, especially in evacuation shelters.
- workshops like this should be more frequent so that many people can participate and exchange opinions. Such workshops can be organized either by the university or local authorities.

The "Disaster Risk Prevention and Preparedness" workshop successfully addressed critical aspects of disaster preparedness faced by the Nepalese community. The voice of workshop participants and constructive suggestions from the Nepalese community (through questionnaire survey) highlight the need for more inclusive and accessible disaster risk information and resources. Moving forward, implementing the suggested recommendations will significantly enhance the community's resilience and ability to effectively respond to disasters.

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