

WORKING GROUP: GENSAI DESIGN

First of all, I express deep regret over the victims of disasters.

The word “GENSAI” was born in 1995 after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Disaster which happened in the early morning of 17th January 1995 caused by the great earthquake in South part of Hyogo prefecture Japan. The earthquake triggered by the dislocation at the Akashi channel, 34.36 N, 135.03 E, under 14 Km, then impact along the Rokko mountains. The magnitude was 7.3. In this disaster, 6433 persons died, about 35,000 persons wounded, 100 thousand houses were totally broken, and 320 thousand took refuge in maximum.

The GENSAI was combined by two characters, one is reduce and the other is disaster. In Japan, we used BOUSAI more frequently, which means to prevent for the disaster. Faced to such great natural disaster, we felt that human have no power to control nature. We considered that reduction of victims and damage by natural disasters such as the earthquake, volcano, etc. may be more important idea than prevention. So, The GENSAI means action to reduce victims and damage occurred by the natural disasters.

This is the story of birth of the GENSAI.

There are two types in disasters. One is natural and the other is man-made, such as war, dispute or criminal. Even in case of natural disasters, human’s behavior affect the damages. The earthquakes, the volcanic eruptions, the storms or the floods are just natural phenomena when nobody died or loose one’s property.

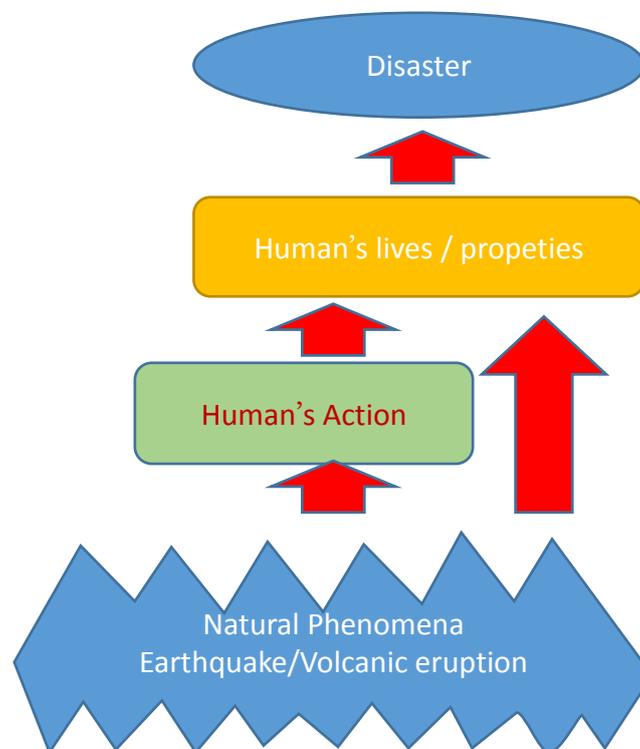


Figure 1. The relationship between the natural phenomena and the disasters



The GENSAI Design

We have no power to restrain not only natural phenomena but also international dispute, however we can reduce the victims or damages, and we can protect properties against the disasters by Design. We call such design as the GENSAI Design.

There are four phases in the disasters; Survive, Refugee, Recover and Prepare. When some disaster happens, we must know what happen at when and where to make right decision to escape or protect life as soon as possible. Then we have to survive in hard environment without light, drinkable water, food, any information, and so on. We also may help others without tools. In these phases, a lot of items are required to support us, however we cannot carry or stock all of them. Some preparations are tend to forgot or invalid in long term storage.

In the stage of recover, we have to consider re-build the society stronger or more useful than before. And we have to archive our experiences for the next disasters.

The key point of the GENSAI Design is that the disaster happens in daily life without any prediction, but not so often through one's life. The items useable in emergency must be well known these existence, usage and function by the user, and they must be kept ready to use. This means they are designed to be used in daily life or as one's belongings.

90 minutes Work shop

15 minutes: Introduction to the GENSAI Design by Mr. Jiro Ssagara

15 minutes: Lecture by Mr. Barbabas Wetton

45 minutes: Discussion by some groups

15 minutes: Presentation by some groups

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