

The Procedure for Making the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle

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CONTENTS OF THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE CHRONICLE

To represent the “reality” of the so-called “disaster” that occurred since March 11, 2011, it is necessary to collect as comprehensively as possible information about the events that we consider would not have occurred if the Great East Japan Earthquake or Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster had not happened. Therefore, we have attempted to intensively collect information about events related to the following topics.

Basic information about disasters caused by earthquakes and tsunamis

For example, the information about seismic centers and seismic intensity, tsunami arrival times at each place, death and injury numbers, and the number of refugees.

Nation-wide events that occurred in Japan

For example, events related to the national government or national economy, Self-Defense Forces, Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and its impact, The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), infrastructure, academic community or expert organizations, Japanese civil society, urban life, and the media.

Local events that occurred in Japan

For example, events particular to the Tokyo Metropolitan Region (including the rolling blackout), and events related to each devastated area in the

Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate prefectures.

Events that occurred overseas

For example, measures against the Great East Japan Earthquake or Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster taken by governments of various nations or by international organizations, and the other nationwide or local events particular to each country.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In the making of the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle, the following sources of information were available for use in the collection of the information about the events.

Existent Chronicles

Existent chronicles inserted in national newspapers, magazines, and journals have been utilized to establish the fundamental frame of the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle. In particular, the “*Daishinsai Document* (大震災ドキュメント)” in Asahi Shimbun is central to this frame.

National Newspapers

To create the fundamental frame of the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle, information obtained from articles in national newspapers is included. In particular, all the articles in Asahi Shimbun from March 12 to May 12 were surveyed. Other National Papers, such as Yomiuri Shimbun, The Nikkei, Mainichi Shimbun, Sankei Shimbun, and Nikkan Sports, were used auxiliary.

Local Newspapers

Detailed information about events particular to each local area, which is not usually included in national newspapers, was obtained from articles in local newspapers. These included Tokyo Shimbun (Tokyo), Kanagawa Shimbun (Kanagawa Pref.), Chiba Nippo (Chiba Pref.), The Ibaraki Shimbun (Ibaraki Pref.), Jomo Shimbun (Gumma Pref.), Fukushima Minpo (Fukushima Pref.), The Kahoku Shimpō (Miyagi Pref.), and Iwate Nippo (Iwate Pref.).

Overseas Newspapers

Information about policies made by the other nations' governments or the reactions of international civil society was obtained from articles in overseas newspapers. Examples of these newspapers include Rénmín Rìbào (China), Liberty Times (Taiwan), The Chosunilbo (South Korea), and Berliner Zeitung (Germany).

Websites, Magazines, Journals, and Fliers

Detailed information obtained from websites, magazines, journals, books, and fliers is also included in the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle to cover events that are not usually dealt with in mainstream media. This includes information about anti-nuclear power movements and other activities of Japanese civil society organizations, reactions of academic communities and expert organizations, or activities of the Self-Defense Forces.

ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE PROCEDURE

The selection of reliable sources of information and abstractions of events inserted into the Great East Japan Earthquake Chronicle are not necessarily made in accordance with uniform standards, and as

such may cause bias to be attached to the Chronicle. However, the Chronicle is not a comprehensive list of events that occurred in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake or Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. Rather, it is a list of symbolic events which fuels the imagination to consider the spread and depth of the impact of these disasters. Under such intentions, there is certain validity to the procedure adopted in the process of making the Chronicle, even if it includes some shortcomings.