

Disaster Mitigation Information System in Japan (1)  
- JMA's Warnings and Information on Earthquakes and Tsunamis -  
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Japan is one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world, and has repeatedly suffered serious damage caused by earthquakes and tsunamis. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) is the sole national authority responsible for issuing reliable and timely warnings and information on earthquakes and tsunamis to mitigate disasters and protect life and property.

JMA collects real-time data from seismometers, seismic intensity meters, tidal gauges and other instruments to monitor earthquakes and tsunamis around the clock. JMA uses about 1,000 seismometers all over Japan to issue Earthquake Early Warnings, Tsunami Warnings / Advisories and Earthquake Information. JMA also collects seismic intensity data from about 4,200 stations to issue Earthquake Information and sea-level data from about 180 tide stations to issue Tsunami Information. These networks are maintained under joint cooperation effort with other Japanese organizations. The most advanced networks let JMA issue the most advanced warnings and information in the world.

However, issuing appropriate warnings and

information is not enough to mitigate the disasters. Fast and proper communication and utilization of them are necessary. In the event of major earthquakes or tsunamis, senior government officials of relevant ministries and agencies are summoned to the Prime Minister's Official Residence to respond to the disaster in an appropriate and coordinated way, based on earthquake information and tsunami warnings issued by JMA. The warnings and information are also provided to the public through broadcasting media. Lots of Japanese people can get and utilize them to keep their safety by themselves. Those users of the warning and information should be prepared to correctly understand the contents and the meaning for effective disaster mitigation.

