

Initiative 12 Improving administrative functions of municipalities

[Outline of Approach]

- The greatest responsibility in protecting residents' lives and property after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami fell on the coastal municipalities, but as the government buildings and staff were severely affected, administrative functionality suffered significantly. There was therefore a need to provide significant support to these municipal governments in various areas.
- The Iwate Prefectural Government, being the broader regional administrative body in the area, dispatched workers and provided technical advice to the affected municipalities so they could provide adequate administrative services as soon as possible.
- For personnel support, there was a call for dispatch staff from local governments all over the country, and by the end of March 2014, over 1,000 staff had been dispatched.
- In addition, as the municipality services on the system of servers and data were damaged by the tsunami, the prefecture provided a municipal administrative information backup system.

Approach 1: Dispatch of personnel to the affected municipalities

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami had a severe impact on the municipal governments, with a total of 108 staff members in 5 municipalities being killed.

In particular, 33 out of 137 staff members, including the mayor, were killed in Otsuchi, and in Rikuzentakata, 68 staff members, almost a quarter of the total of 293, lost their lives.

Under these circumstances, Iwate Prefecture dispatched human resources and technical advice to the affected municipalities so they could provide adequate administrative services as soon as possible.



Otsuchi Town Hall was destroyed by the tsunami



Current Rikuzentakata temporary government building

In terms of personnel support, local authorities across the country provided support for urgent countermeasures immediately after the disaster, but there was also a need to ensure the availability of employees to gradually restore the affected administrative functions.

In Iwate Prefecture, the dispatch of staff from inland municipalities started around mid-March 2011. At the end of March, Nagoya in central Japan responded to Rikuzentakata's call for dispatch staff, and we now have more than 1,000 staff from numerous local authorities around Japan.

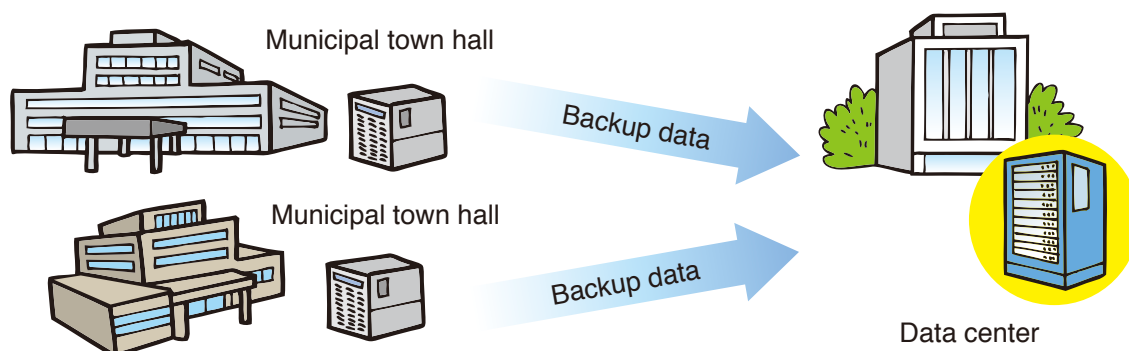
With the gradual recovery of administrative functions and progress in restoration operations, the dispatch number is increasing every year, and is expected to continue to do so until the end of the reconstruction.

Approach 2: "Municipal administrative information backup system" run by the prefecture

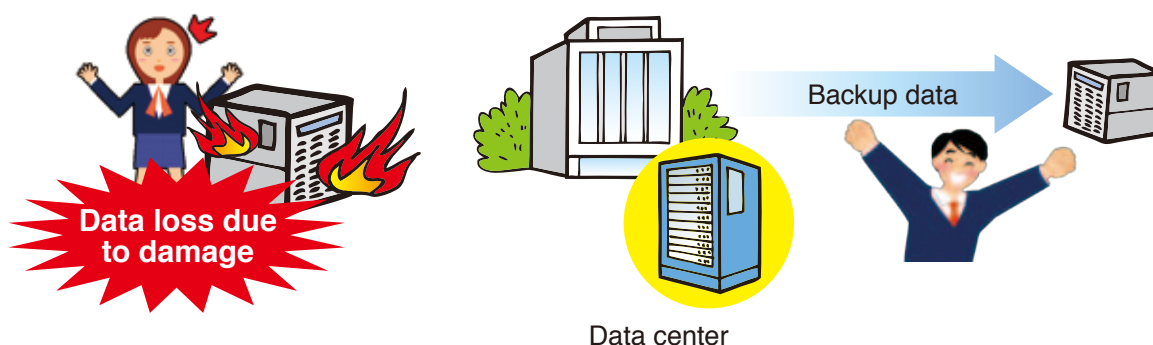
The prefecture set up a municipal administrative information backup system in a safe and appropriate location as the servers and data on the systems that coastal municipalities use to provide services to residents were damaged in the tsunami.

[Example of Operation]

Normal times: Daily backup of municipal administrative information



During disaster: Prompt restoration of backup data during data loss.
(Hardware may also be replaced when damaged)



Securing human resources in the fiscal years 2011 – 2013 (by profession)

	Required staff	Dispatched staff	Administration		Public works	Architecture	Health nurses	Other
				Housing sites related				
Fiscal 2011 (As of 31/3/2012)	—	171	97	—	42	10	12	10
Fiscal 2012 (As of 31/3/2013)	366	321	145	21	127	21	16	12
Fiscal 2013 (As of 31/3/2014)	628	596	294	68	204	38	21	39

Others: Mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, nurses, social workers, nursery school teachers, physiotherapists, judicial scriveners, etc.