

Establishment of the “Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness”

Name: Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness
Amount: ¥30 billion
Purpose: To respond with emergency relief in the event of a major disaster like the powerful earthquake that has been predicted for the greater Tokyo area or the Nankai Trough
Fund-building method: ¥5 billion will be added to the fund each year for six years

Major activities envisioned for the fund:

1. Assistance to support activities carried out by volunteer and nonprofit organizations

Quickly provide funds to support the activities of volunteer and nonprofit organizations responding to on-site needs

2. Dispatching company and student volunteers

Use the Nippon Foundation’s network* to send volunteers from companies and schools to the affected area

* Includes SHINTSUNA, a nationwide network of relief organizations, the Japan Student Volunteer Center, and the Corporate Volunteer Network

3. Support to persons requiring assistance

Work with local governments to ensure that aid is reaching the areas where it is needed and monitor the situation at evacuation shelters. Also assist persons who are particularly vulnerable and have specific needs, including infants, the elderly, expecting mothers, persons with disabilities, and non-Japanese residents. At the same time, provide support to persons who do not evacuate and remain in their homes.

4. Support the establishment and operation of temporary disaster-response FM radio stations

Provide funds to cover the costs of setting up and operating temporary disaster-response FM radio stations, which are effective for disseminating highly detailed, local information including confirmation of people’s safety and lifeline restoration.

5. Assessment of evacuation shelters and promotion of operating models

To strengthen the role of evacuation shelters as focal points for local relief in the event of a disaster, the fund will promote operating models through ongoing practice sessions for the operation of evacuation shelters, and assess evacuation shelters in the event of a disaster.

6. Train volunteer leaders and build networks

Train leaders who can organize and manage volunteers assisting with relief operations, and build networks of organizations and human resources for when a disaster strikes.

The Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness is soliciting donations from individuals and organizations.

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