

On the 10-year anniversary of the 2011 earthquake

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The Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11 2011 was a disaster of a size that modern Japanese society had never before experienced. Untiring reconstruction efforts continue ten years after the disaster, yet more than 41,000 people there are compelled to live as refugees. I would once again like to express my sorrow for the numerous victims as well as heartfelt sympathy for those affected by the disaster still

faced with trying, tough conditions.

In Japan, most people associate the word “disaster” with natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides.

However, in today’s globalized society, natural disasters are not the only threat. Seventeen years ago I accompanied the

Japanese delegation to a Global Disaster Information Network conference organized by the U.S. State Department.

At the conference, natural disasters as well as other disasters such as pandemics, famine and terrorism were

discussed. Discussion participants also expressed the importance of using telecommunications technology in the

following areas: conveying information, Earth observation, and education and training to ensure that people have

accurate knowledge and take the correct actions to prevent these disasters. That has reached the point at which the

entire Earth must be united to build a safe and reliable world.

In the situation we are in, I think, which is the most important thing. People need to understand that cooperation has more

value than competition. All of humanity must come together
- regardless of the boundaries between individuals, regions
and countries - to solve these issues from a global
perspective.

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