

Publication state: Japan  
ISSN: 2423-8260

Publisher: J-INSTITUTE  
Website: <http://www.j-institute.jp>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.22471/disaster.2017.2.2.01>

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## The Importance of Education and Training of Local Government's DISASTER Management Public Servants

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### Abstract

*The various disasters that are happening all over the world are becoming increasingly difficult challenges. The management of the disaster with inherent attributes of risk and uncertainty is recognized by almost everyone as a public issue that governments must respond to immediately. As disasters have long and short-term effects not only on human and material damage but also on the public health safety net and social and political settings, an effective management system for disasters is important.*

*It can be said that the disaster management work in the local government at the forefront of protecting the lives and property of the people is very important. For large-scale disasters beyond the scope of local government, central government's personnel and budget support is needed, but the primary response is to be conducted quickly and flexibly at the local government level.*

*Therefore, it is important to improve disaster management capacity of public servants who perform disaster management work in local government, and education and training for their capacity building is important.*

**[Keywords]** *Disaster Management System, Education and Training, Local Government Function in Disaster Management, Disaster Management Competency, Disaster Management Official*

## 1. Introduction

In Korea, stated as a basic idea, Article 2 of the Basic Law on the Disaster and Safety Management confirms that the basic duty of the state and local government is to prevent disaster and to minimize the damage when disaster occurs, and that when all citizens and nation-local government conduct activities related to the protection of people's lives and physical safety and property[1], safety is given priority so that citizens can live in safe society from disaster, which emphasizes the role of disaster management in local government[2].

Disaster management is important for the local government because the local government is at the forefront of the administrative

organization and can protect citizens' property and life near the site where disaster occurs. Second, the influential scope of contemporary disaster is limited within the region, and the local government's role in disaster management is emphasized because it requires routine and pre-emptive measures in accordance with local characteristics in that it occurs repeatedly in a short period of time[3]. Therefore, it is required to strengthen disaster management capacity through education and training of disaster management public servants performing these tasks.

## 2. Local Government Functions in Disaster Management

The local government must function differently from the central government or other relevant agencies for effective disaster management. First, local government plays an important role in the overall process of disaster management activities[4].

Second, local government is responsible for the function of coordination in disaster management, and it listens to the opinions of various organizations and organizations and plays a coordinating role to select and implement the most reasonable alternatives[5].

Third, it should be located at the forefront of the disaster scene. In addition, when disaster occurs, the increased costs including restoration costs[4] should be covered by the local government.

Fourth, the disaster management capability of local government should be strengthened. Increasing the disaster management capability of the local government is a long-term alternative to effectively managing local disasters and preventing them from expanding into large disasters.

### **3. The Importance of Disaster Management Training to Strengthen the Capacity of Disaster Management**

In Korea, the "Disaster and Safety Management Basic Act" specifies the importance of education to strengthen the disaster management capacity of public servants. In Article 26-2, the chief of the disaster management responsible organization is required to promote the disaster prevention education, training and disaster management prevention in advance to prevent the disaster in the field of the duties to be managed, and in Article 29-2, it is stated that there should be a separate statute for the education of disaster safety workers and that public servants and employees who are responsible for disaster and safety management in disaster management institutions should receive regular and periodic professional education conducted by the Ministry of Public Safety and Security, as prescribed by the Prime Minister[6].

To enhance the capacity of disaster management, the development of human resources, the legal framework, the development of institutions, and appropriate policies should be combined. In particular, in the development of competency related to disaster management, it is necessary to educate the talents by training the knowledge and skills together with disaster management related diagnosis, policy, planning, supervision, evaluation, and on-site level.

### **4. Disaster Management Education in Korea**

The disaster management system of Korea started with the establishment of the Fire Bureau in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in November, 1948, and the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs in June 2004 established the National Fire Agency, and the Safety Policy Officer in the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs. In 2013, it was expanded to the Safety Management Headquarters in Ministry of Security and Public Administration, and in April of 2014, following the disastrous Sewolho incident, the government organization law was revised in November of the same year, and it was separated into the Ministry of Public Safety and Security, which is a specialized safety department directly under the Prime Minister's Office. In July of 2017, the disaster management headquarters in the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, which integrated the Ministry of Public Safety and Security, was launched.

Education and training in relation to disaster management is conducted through the National Civil Defense Disaster Safety Education Center. The National Civil Defense Disaster Safety Education Center opened a linkage curriculum to support the national disaster management policy, established medium- and long-term development strategies for the relocation of the national safety education research complex, newly established "disaster support capacity support center" to strengthen capacity for social disaster, strengthened "civil defense, emergency pre-

paredness" for establishing steady preparedness posture, and has been implementing education and training aimed at training disaster safety, civil defense, and emergency human resources to enhance the quality of education courses as a priority project to strengthen "education and training evaluation."

In the National Civil Defense Disaster Safety Education Center, 141 courses divided into disaster safety, civil defense, emergency preparedness, school safety, life safety, job, international disaster prevention, and cyber education are in operation. Disaster safety education is divided into basic education and professional education, and professional education is divided into prevention, preparation, response and recovery.

Through newly opening a disaster preparation and correspondence course, expansion of earthquake-related education, newly opening a specialist enrichment course, compulsory education for pre-education before set education, it made efforts to improve the recommendation and educational effects of prior learning, but except for the new course of disaster prevention and safety management (15 days), the rest of the curriculum mainly consists of one to five days of one-off education, and the contents of the lecture are also usually composed of the lecture types. This suggests that there is a limit in establishing a cooperative system and nurturing field-oriented specialists which are emphasized in many previous studies.

## 5. Conclusion

To enhance disaster management expertise should be accompanied by capacity strengthening in terms of human personnel as well as the reorganization of the government system and systemic improvement. In other words, customized education should be conducted to increase the on-site responsiveness of public servants participating in disaster sites from various agencies, central government offices and local governments, and there should be practical training and on-site experience lectures for them. In this way, it is necessary to ensure that training is in place

for local conditions, and the trainings for disaster management should be conducted in conjunction with local disaster prevention agencies, surrounding regions, and even local residents.

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