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[Abstract Title]

Communicating risk to the public: A study of public risk perception, risk information disclosure and trust in Japan

[Abstract]

Past experiences have suggested that the more people are aware of potential disaster risks, the more prepared they are likely to be, and the less likely that they will be taken by surprise when disasters occur. This study draws upon the Japanese context, where citizens are threatened by natural hazard-triggered technological accidents (Natech), but are not provided with sufficient and timely information to prepare and/ or respond. Two thousand questionnaires were distributed to households in the Osaka Bay and Tokyo Bay areas. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with representatives from governments and communities in various areas of Japan. By investigating the current status of Natech risk information disclosure, understanding government's and public's risk perception and their mutual trust in Natech risk management, this study seeks to identify: 1) citizens' demands for risk information when faced with Natech threats; 2) the amount of sensitive risk information that government is willing to disclose, in order to help citizens to prepare for, and respond to, potential threats. The results of this study are expected to pave the way for legislative transformation in this disaster-prone country, while the overall goal is to create a more informed and transparent society that can withstand existential risks.



[Keywords]

risk communication; risk information disclosure; risk perception; trust;
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