

Interim evaluation report (draft): Risk Management Group

1. Objectives

The tasks of this research are to comprehensively take into consideration the securement of fairness and efficiency of society as a whole, with the goal of establishing so-called “Public Risk Management,” or risk management of society as a whole, then to identify the interactions of various entities’ behaviors and activities, and to establish the concept of appropriate risk management in order to solve various social problems related to safety. Concerning a number of specific problems, moreover, we will develop risk management technologies to realize a safe and secure society.

In addition, we will make use of the strengths of this group—that it is a cross-sectional group covering different mission programs—to gather the results of risk management that have been brought about by various mission program groups and to make them a universal science and technology for society. By so doing, we will construct a methodology from individual cases to universal rules which is the major academic significance of science and technology for society.

2. Members

Name	Affiliations
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Toshitaka Katada	Associate Professor, Gunma University
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3. Target achievements

The ultimate goal of this program is to build a general understanding of risk management toward safety issues from the perspective of society, or, in other words, to build a concept of Public Risk Management. Based on the methodology of Public Risk Management that has been constructed, the roles that each entity should play have been clarified, depending on the characteristics of various risks. As a result, guidelines can be provided that would contribute to minimizing—in a broad sense in terms of society as a whole—the costs of risk management activities, which until now have been conducted individually by entity and by individual entities, based on the issues at hand.

In the process of conducting research, we have been called upon to make an overview, from the perspective of each entity, of various safety issues taken up by the mission programs, as well as to visualize the activities/behaviors of relevant entities from society's perspective. Through these activities, we can obtain systematic results on (1) evaluation methods and systems concerning risk management performances of municipalities that play a major role in urban-level risk management, (2) evaluation methods and systems concerning corporate risk management activities, (3) the formation of citizen's decision making and consensus, and (4) evaluations and systems of ideal NPOs. As seen, the primary results of our activities are to systemize the design of risk management systems that help reduce social costs as a risk management technology for the entire society (Public Risk Management), to construct the framework of how such technology should be handled by society as a whole, as well as to come up with risk management technologies for each entity. We believe that these results will allow us to present a universal perspective on individual safety/security issues.

4. Status and self-evaluation

4-1. Status of research

For the initial year, we focused on clearly showing the social risk-sharing structure and on building the concept of Public Risk Management. We hope to obtain perspectives on the current risk management structure by (1) increasing comprehensive studies on how risk management between various sectors should be, a subject that until now has been studied by the science and technology for society mission programs, and (2) conducting research that focuses on municipalities that have the greatest responsibilities for risk management during natural disasters as well as on the behaviors of private companies that have potential influence. We placed particular emphasis on the relationship between municipalities and citizens and on the public role of private enterprises, to identify the current status of social behaviors and activities. Since our country suffered numerous natural disasters this fiscal year, moreover, we are conducting awareness surveys targeting residents of sites where disasters have occurred.

4-2. Self-evaluation

Our research is being carried out using a new, innovative approach, specifically, a comprehensive examination of various risks (which have been considered targets of individual analyses) and the identification of roles that various entities should play in society. This approach cannot be undertaken with ordinary styles of research. However, we feel that, by taking on a mission program format, we can combine the results of

individual sectors with ease. Furthermore, since we were able to establish a cross-sectional, strategic research group that covers different entities, we believe that our research has a tremendous edge and is unparalleled even from an international perspective.

We focused on earthquakes and floods that occurred this year, in a flexible and efficient manner. This focus was extremely significant in terms of implementing this research since we were able to obtain primary, real-time data. These prompt, flexible reactions could not have been carried out if our research had been the usual type, in which members are recruited from the general public. This research development was made possible because we made use of the advantages and strengths of the mission program to allocate the resources in a flexible and concentrated manner.