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JOURNAL OF

Disaster Research

AIMS & SCOPE

The *Journal of Disaster Research* provides timely, topical information on disasters related to information, lifeline infrastructures, traffic, terror, and similar events not directly due to war. The Journal's target audience is those who fight disaster in their capacity as researchers, engineers, disaster prevention managers, administrators, diplomats, and disaster-related NGO and NPO personnel.

The term "disaster," which comes from the Latin "dis," or "ill," and the Greek "astron," or "star" – hence "ill-starred" – refers to misfortune, adversity, and retribution for disregarding the laws of Nature. This translates as "saigai" in Japanese, where "sai" means malfunction in the expected flow in things and "gai" means nonachievement of things expected. This in turn suggests that social systems, including private lives, are disrupted due to malfunctions in the system. Disaster is thus closely related to all aspects of human life and social activities. The more convenient private life becomes, and the more complex society becomes, the higher the potential for disaster, increasing the importance of disaster prevention.

Disaster prevention has been a vital issue since ancient times. By their nature, microscopic studies on such topics as the earthquake resistance of reinforced concrete structures and macroscopic studies on a broader scope are equally vital.

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