GGS Theme 2: Outline and Summary of the Project

Project Title	**Enhancement of urban disaster resilience through activities of local participatory platform**		
Project Duration	2 years 8 months	Grant total	JPY 30,000,000
Name of Organization	Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University		
Project Leader	Kenji Okazaki	Title	Professor
Keyword	City Disaster Resilience, Stakeholder Participation, Capacity Development, GEM (Global Earthquake Model)		
Project location	Kathmandu (Nepal), Yangon (Myanmar)		

【Project Summary】

Catastrophic natural disasters have been occurring frequently over the world in recent years, killing hundreds of thousands of people. Urban disaster risk is also on the rise due to rapid urban growth and vulnerable buildings and infrastructure. As the level of disaster resilience of a city can be defined as a total of physical vulnerability and capacity of all stakeholders, all the stakeholders should build up their capacity jointly to improve hard and soft measures in order to enhance the resilience of the city.

This project aims to enhance resilience of cities against natural disasters through capacity buildings of stakeholders in a city. The pilot projects will be conducted in two selected cities from Asia, which is prone to various severe disasters, namely, Kathmandu (Nepal) and Yangon (Myanmar). Kathmandu will target earthquake disasters, trying to assess ongoing recovery and reconstruction activities after the 2015 Nepal Earthquake, and reflect the findings of the project to these activities for "Build Back Better". Yangon will target earthquake and cyclone disasters. The project will be conducted for nearly three years.

The two cities will establish a local platform, in which all stakeholders for disaster reduction will participate. They will work together at the platform to understand and assess the disaster risk of the city, estimate probable damages, propose policies, and make action plans. Some local projects for disaster education and community-based disaster management will be also implemented. In order to facilitate these activities, three counterpart organizations will be selected from governments, universities, and NGOs. The municipality will manage the platform, while the university and NGO will give technical advices to the platform, and will be assigned to implement projects for disaster education and community-based disaster management projects. These counterparts will receive technical support from Japanese experts and receive financial assistance to cover part of actual expenses as a seed money.

For risk assessment and damage estimate of earthquakes and capacity development, Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation will assist the two pilot cities jointly. The GEM Foundation is a public-private partnership that drives a global collaborative effort to develop high-quality resources for assessment of earthquake risk and to facilitate their application for risk management. The tools, data, and methods of GEM will be applied to the pilot cities. Some international experts from GEM and supporting international organizations like UN/Habitat will visit the cities to provide technical assistance, teaching how to apply the GEM methods. Some cities which have already conducted similar GEM projects may assist the pilot cities, transferring their experiences (south-south cooperation).

It is expected through these activities that all the stakeholders will be able to better understand the risks and probable damages caused by natural disasters as their own problems to be tackled, and will be motivated or be willing to take appropriate actions for disaster reduction by themselves. In this way, the resilience of the pilot cities will be enhanced.

Japanese researchers will conduct some specific researches in cooperation with the local academicians at inter-disciplinary basis, combining engineering, sociology and humanities. Incorporating the results of the pilot projects and the academic researches, a universal model for enhancement of urban resilience will be developed. The model will be freely available with archived data on the web. The participating international organizations and experts will encourage other cities in the world to utilize the model through their international network. The pilot cities are also expected to transfer their experiences to other cities in the country and neighboring countries. In order to disseminate the findings of the project and exchange information, international conferences will be held twice during the project, at the beginning and the end of the three year project.