

The Great East Japan Earthquake – two years on

Two years after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, Japan is determined to accelerate the “revitalization process” by focusing on three pillars, namely:

- (i) Economic Revival - More than US \$106 billion to be set aside for stimulating the economy through job creation, enhancing innovation, reconstruction efforts, strengthening domestic demand, etc.
- (ii) Reconstruction - Budget of approx. US \$266 billion secured for FY2011-2015, to accelerate the reconstruction work of disaster-affected areas in Tohoku region
- (iii) Crisis Management - Investment of US\$23.4 billion for strengthening social infrastructures to ensure readiness for any future crises or disasters

BEFORE



Drowned runways of
Sendai Airport

AFTER



Restored runways of
Sendai Airport
(April 2011)

BEFORE



Collapsed roofs of
Sendai station

AFTER



Restored Sendai station
(April 25, 2011)



Subsided Joban Expressway



Restored Joban Expressway
(March 17, 2011)



Displaced family

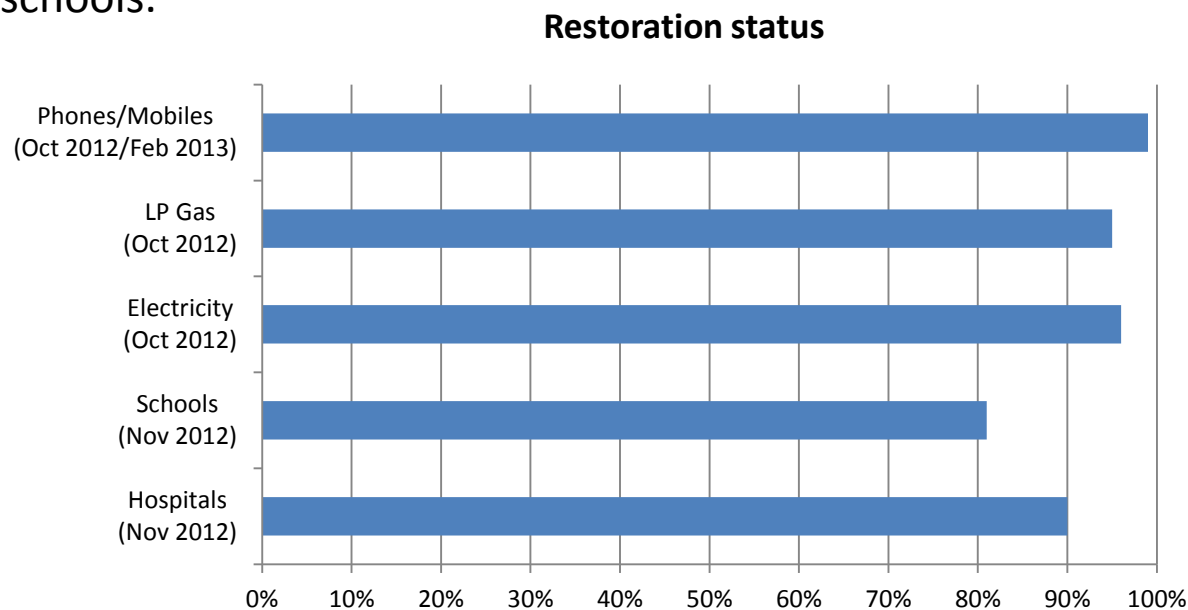


Family moves to a
temporary house

1. Progress made towards Reconstruction

Steady progress is being made in the post-earthquake reconstruction process. Immediately following the earthquake & tsunami, some 470,000 people were evacuated, and public or temporary housing has been made available to all of the 320,000 people displaced.

Vital infrastructure such as major roads and rail networks was quickly restored, while essential public services were quickly re-established, including 90% of affected hospitals and 81% of schools.

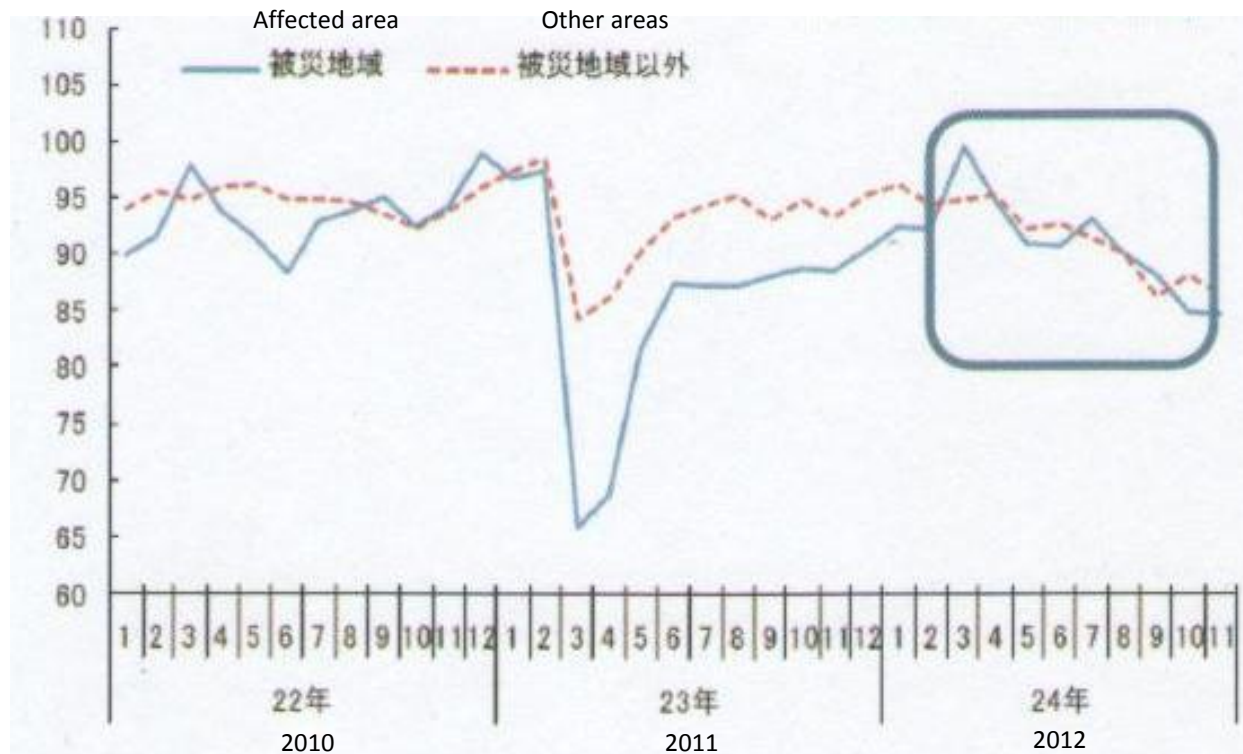


Source: Reconstruction Agency

Japan is committed to incorporating advanced technologies and new methods into reconstruction initiatives to ensure sustainability and energy-efficiency.

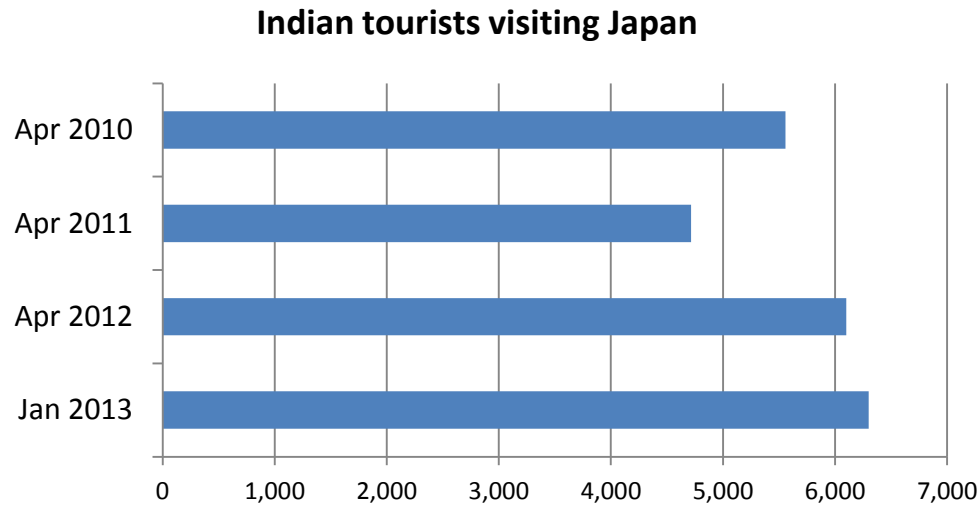
Businesses that were damaged in the earthquake, including automobile companies, are now back on their feet and set to return to globally competitive status. According to the overall indices of mining and manufacturing of Japan, there is only a slight difference between the affected areas in comparison with the non-affected areas.

Indices of mining and manufacturing between the affected area and non-affected areas



Source: Reconstruction Agency

Tourist numbers have also bounced back. The number of Indian tourists visiting Japan were 6,300 in Jan 2013, compared to 6,100 in Apr 2012, 4,715 in Apr 2011 and 5,557 in Apr 2010.



Source: JNTO

Many countries have now lifted or eased restrictions on the importation of foods from Japan, which had been imposed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. As of March 2013, ten countries (Canada, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Columbia, Guinea, Myanmar, Malaysia and Serbia) have completely lifted radionuclide-related restrictions on food products from Japan.



Indian guests enjoying SAKE (Japanese rice wine) from Japan including Daishichi Sake Brewery Co., Ltd. (Fukushima Prefecture) at a promotion event held on 30th March 2012 in New Delhi

2. Assistance from Indian government & its people

Japan expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and friendship of its international partners, especially India.

India sent relief consignments of 26,000 blankets, 13,000 mineral water bottles and 10 tons of high-calorie biscuits, all of which were truly appreciated by the evacuees in the disaster-struck areas.



Relief materials - Blankets



Relief materials - water bottles



Relief materials - Biscuits

India dispatched a 46-members team of the National Disaster Rescue Force of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assist relief efforts in the tsunami-ravaged Onagawa town, Miyagi Prefecture, from 28th March to 8th April 2011. The team, braving severe climatic conditions, helped in recovering dead bodies and also several important documents of the residents. Their efforts were highly appreciated by the local people.



Indian NDRF rescue team at Onagawa town, Miyagi

Donations of approx. Rs.28 crores were received from the people of India belonging to different walks of life.

With the prayers and support of our generous friends in India and all over the world, Japan has managed to recover in record time and emerged even stronger as a nation. Japan will continue to contribute actively to addressing global challenges, and hopes to return the favour through its on-going commitment to development aid programs, human rights and human security.



Indians observing silence at the memorial event to remember the victims of the earthquake (March 11, 2012)

3. Japan's commitment towards global disaster management

Japan is committed to sharing knowledge and lessons learned from the earthquake and subsequent recovery process with the international community. To this end, Japan organized conferences on Disaster Reduction and Nuclear Safety in 2012. Japan will also host the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Japan faces a number of challenges and is proactively addressing immediate issues such as post-earthquake reconstruction, economic revitalization and disaster prevention, as well as long-term challenges such as demographic change and the transition to a 'green' economy.

Based on the instructions of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan will conduct a review from scratch the Strategy for Energy and the Environment adopted by the previous DPJ administration, and set out responsible energy policies that take into account a range of perspectives, including stable energy supply and energy cost reduction. The previous administration's policy, which aimed to "enable zero operation of nuclear power plants in 2030s" will be reviewed.