Risk management and networking

Role of the Multicultural Society Coordinator at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake

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Sendai International Relations Association
Who takes a role of multicultural problem-solving in your community?
Self-Introduction

Sendai International Relations Association (2000-)

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (2009-2010)

Research Fellow, the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (2010-2013)
Sendai International Relations Association (SIRA) was established in 1990 with the aims of promoting international exchange and supporting the community regardless of language, nationality or cultural differences.
Sendai International Relations Association

Japanese class for foreign residents
Sendai International Relations Association

International Education for students
Sendai International Relations Association

Sendai World Festa
What I will talk about:

1. What’s the ‘Multicultural Society Coordinator’?

2. Case: Great East Japan Earthquake

3. Role of the Multicultural Society Coordinator in Risk management and networking
What’s the Multicultural Society Coordinator?

“A profession in which individuals create, develop and promote programs to realize a society where all people can live comfortably by overcoming differences in language and culture.”
“Designs the process of Participation → Cooperation → Creation in order to communicate and sympathize with a diverse range of individuals and bring out practical solutions.”
Overview of Sendai

Capital city of Miyagi Prefecture, Japan

Largest city in the Tohoku region

Population: 1,070,000
Foreign residents in Sendai

About 1,000,000 (0.9%)

Country
China: 38%, Korea: 24%, Viet Nam: 5%, Philippines: 4%, U.S.A.: 4%

Residence-status
Students: 27%, Permanent residents: 25%, Special permanent residents: 16%
Great East Japan Earthquake

On March 11, 2011, coastal areas of the city suffered catastrophic damage from a magnitude 9.0 offshore earthquake which triggered a destructive tsunami.
Great East Japan Earthquake
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Great East Japan Earthquake
Radio broadcasting in foreign languages just after the earthquake
Collaboration with foreign residents
An evacuation center

Disaster Multilingual Support Center
Networks effectively functioned
Send a “sense of security”
Send a “sense of security”
Find agenda in Dialogue
Collaboration with foreign residents in a regional disaster prevention
Multilingual Disaster Prevention Video

12 languages

YouTube
Multilingual Disaster Prevention Video
Role of the Multicultural Society Coordinator in disaster prevention policy

- Create Network
- Make measures of a local government function
- Find agenda in Dialogue
Multicultural Society Coordinator should be professionally positioned in a local government policy.
Thank You!

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Multilingual Disaster Prevention Video

https://www.youtube.com/user/SIRAsendai/videos