

## Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster and IHDP

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The Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster of May 2011 caused unprecedented damage in Japan, particularly on the coastal areas of East Japan facing the Pacific Ocean and in part of Fukushima Prefecture heavily contaminated by radioactive substances ejected from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The effect of the Disaster has been far-reaching not only spatially, but also socially, economically, culturally, humanly and scientifically. IHDP (International Human Dimensions Programme), as the main international social/human global environmental initiative, can play an important role in re-shaping the existing global environmental research and disaster research by incorporating them into a larger research framework. Prior to the incidence, IHDP officially launched a new core project entitled IRG (Integrated Risk Governance Project) in 2010. It has been a timely and foresighted initiative in view of the East Japan Disaster and the other recent mega disasters endangering human society with increasing frequency and severity. The paper shows what we have learned from the Disaster, and discusses why and how IHDP, with its core projects including IRG, can contribute to the new research framework and enhancement of global sustainability.

Keywords: IHDP, human dimensions, IRG, human geoscience, sustainability