

Natural Disaster in The World

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Natural disasters have two characteristics. The former is that disaster history repeats itself and the latter is locality. In Istanbul, Turkey, plate boundary earthquakes have occurred 27 times since 438. Mayon Volcano, Philippines had erupted 50 times in 400 years since 17th century, therefore average time interval is 8 years. In Asia, natural disasters hold a certain percent of the world such as number of occurrences : 36%, property damage : 47%, death toll : 62% and number of injured : 89%. The last two has increased due to rapid growth of population in urban area. The combination with gigantic earthquake and tsunami and volcano eruption had occurred in Japan as 1) 864 to 887 with Mt. Fuji eruption, Jogan earthquake and tsunami and Nankai-trough earthquake and 2) 1703 to 1707 with Genroku earthquake in Tokyo, Nankai-trough earthquake and Mt. Fuji eruption. We are now under clear effect of global warming. For example, in South Asia, the number of flooding has increased nearly twice in next ten years. Since 1995 in China, river flood disasters occurred five time with the victims of more than one hundred million. In 2005, hurricane Katrina with category 5 hit New Orleans and just three weeks after hurricane Rita also hit the damaged area. She was also category 5 and they made compound disaster. Finally, we proposed vicious cycle among population increase, disaster occurrence and poverty in rural area and urban area. The pair of two vortexes is very stable, therefore it is necessary to become economic growth to break the vortexes.

Keywords: Natural disaster, Global warming, Vicious cycle

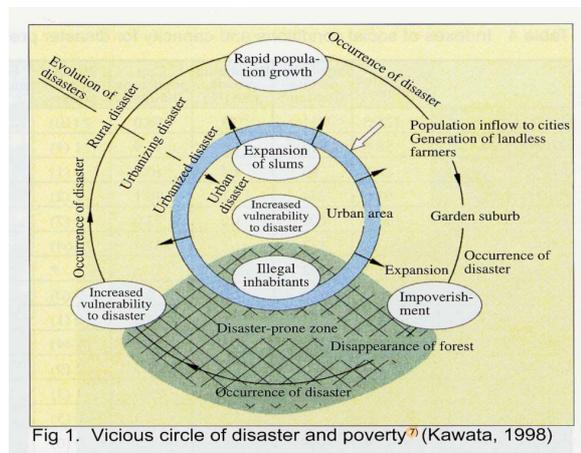


Fig 1. Vicious circle of disaster and poverty⁷⁾ (Kawata, 1998)