

Overview of the Restoration Program from the Giant Earthquakes and Tsunamis Project

Kato Teruyuki Restoration Program from Giant Earthquakes and Tsunamis Research Group[1]

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The giant earthquake occurred off Sumatra Island, Indonesia and generated large tsunami in Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, and caused devastating disasters in the Asian countries. Crustal activity increased after the event; March 2005 Nias Earthquake, April-May 2006 Merapi Volcano eruption, May 2006 Central Java earthquake, July 2006 South Off Java earthquake and so on. Motivated by the giant earthquake and tsunami, we have initiated a research project called the Restoration Program from the Giant Earthquakes and Tsunamis under the MEXT Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology (PI: Teruyuki Kato). The presentation overviews the project.

The objective of this project is to propose a restoration program from giant earthquakes and tsunamis such as the earthquake in the Indian Ocean that occurred on December 26, 2004. We tackle this problem from four distinct sub-theme;

- 1) Clarification of mechanism of the giant earthquake and tsunami and its prediction.
- 2) Research on developing human resource for enforcing the human power against the natural disaster.
- 3) Research on effective use of tsunami warning system and mitigation of tsunami hazard.
- 4) Restoration program and city planning from the disasters due to giant earthquakes and tsunamis.

Each sub-theme includes 3-5 research subjects. The program strongly encourages synergetic efforts among international community of related scientists through international workshop/symposium as well as related field research. The term of the project is three years; April 2005 to March 2008.