Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake: Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture; Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction & Land Readjustment Project of Takatori Higashi Daiichi District

Realizing Resident-Oriented Higashi Daiichi Chiku Development by Two-Step Urban Planning

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture</th>
<th>Important Aspects to Realize “Better Reconstruction”</th>
<th>Process of Consensus Building among Residents</th>
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**Overview of Efforts**

- Located about 7km south of Sannomiya station, which is the center of Kobe City, Takatori Higashi Daichi Chiku is a district extending to the south-east of JR Takatori Station. Before the earthquake, while the district had a scenery of so-called “lower town” consisted of shops, pre-war row houses, etc., it also had problems, such as the accumulation of small and narrow houses, aging housing, the lack of public facilities such as roads and parks.
- In the earthquake, almost all of the buildings in the district were burned down. Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction & Land Readjustment Project was conducted to realize an early reconstruction and a town development reflecting residents’ opinions and develop a safe, secure and comfortable urban area, in order to prepare for future earthquakes.

**Points of Efforts**

1. **Two-Step Urban Planning**
   - In order to achieve two goals of “planned early reconstruction” and “resident-oriented town development”, “two-step urban planning” was conducted.
   - In the “1st step of planning”, the main framework of roads and others was defined. In the “2nd step of planning”, the specific development plan was decided by reflecting residents’ opinions.

2. **Practice of “Reconstruction & Town Development by Collaboration and Participation”**
   - In order to reflect the residents’ opinions in the town development, Town Development by Collaboration and Participation was promoted with three pillars such as “organization of town development council”, “dispatch of town development experts” and “installation of local advisory office”.
   - In particular, the Town Planning Council repeatedly held study sessions with the support of town development experts. The Council effectively functioned as a mechanism to create a future image of the Town and propose it to the major.

3. **Devising Town Development for Disaster Mitigation**
   - Since most of the district was burned down due to the earthquake, and the importance of helping each other in the event of a disaster was reconfirmed, the development of “community road” and “pocket park (small-scale park)” was promoted.
   - Wakamatsu Takatori Park was designed so that an integrated use of two parks with a road running in the middle was possible. In the Park, a 100-ton earthquake-resistant fire protection water tank and a disaster prevention material warehouse are installed.

**Major Events**

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Feb. 1, 1995</td>
<td>Article 84 of Building Standards Law, construction restricted areas announced. (restricting construction in the relevant districts until March 16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17, 1995</td>
<td>The 1st step of urban planning decided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2, 1995</td>
<td>“Council of Reconstruction &amp; Town Development Takatori Higashi” established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, 1995</td>
<td>Project Plan decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 1996</td>
<td>District Plan decided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21, 2001</td>
<td>Land Substitution and Readjustment Project completed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of Pocket Park Development**

| View of Wakamatsu Takatori Park |

Source: Kobe City, Brochure “Town Development by Collaboration and Participation”

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Realizing Early Reconstruction and Development of a Safe, Secure and Comfortable Urban Area

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<th>Map of Project Plan</th>
<th>Change in Cityscape from immediately after the Earthquake</th>
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<td>After the Earthquake (May 1995)</td>
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Before the Earthquake (May 1994)

After the Earthquake (May 1995)

Takatori Shopping Street immediately after the Earthquake (1995)

Cityscape after Project Completion (2001)

Source: Kobe City, Brochure “Town Development by Collaboration and Participation”