

Technologies for Disaster Mitigation

“The Great East Japan Earthquake and accompanying tsunami of 2011 was a wide-range, complex disaster that greatly exceeded the various knowledge and technologies relating to natural disasters that we had fostered until that point and not enough advance measures were in place.” So says Fumihiko Imamura, a world-leading researcher in tsunami engineering and director of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS). On the seventh anniversary of the disaster, we look at some of the measures that continue to be introduced in Japan – and overseas – to prevent and mitigate natural disasters, from a pioneering Earthquake Early Warning system and new modes of education, to quick-build temporary houses and retrofit partial seismic isolation floors.