

2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes

NILIM Headquarters for Disaster Control in 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes

Responding to the Kumamoto Earthquakes, NILIM sent its staff to the affected areas to investigate the damage to related facilities and provide technical support to prevent a secondary disaster and help in the recovery of damaged facilities in collaboration with related organizations.

Technical Support for Recovery and Restoration

In April 2016, the Kumamoto Earthquakes occurred (M6.5 foreshock at 21:26 on April 14 and M7.3 main shock at 1:25 on April 16).

NILIM announced the response to an emergency immediately after the foreshock and held a disaster control meeting at midnight (Photo 1).

Also immediately after the earthquake, we made efforts to share information on damage and requests from the affected areas and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and sent staff to the areas to investigate the damage, provide technical support in an emergency, and continuously provide technological examination and technical support for recovery and restoration in liaison with the Public Works Research Institute, the Building Research Institute, and the Port and Airport Research Institute.

From the next day of the occurrence to June 17, NILIM sent 323 person-day specialists from various fields and MLIT's Technical Emergency Control Force (TEC-Force) staff members (See Table 1: Number of specialists dispatched by field)

The staff provided technical assistance on what needed to be considered when TEC-Force members dispatched from every part of Japan conducted an investigation of the disaster and the necessity of ensuring technical consistency in the results of emergency inspections. They also reported the results of the investigation and inspections to the heads of local governments (Photo 2).

On July 1, when the projects for the recovery and restoration from the disaster were shifting into full swing, the Kyushu Regional Development Bureau established the Kumamoto Earthquakes Disaster Control Promotion Office to speedily and powerfully promote the projects. Six staff members participated in the Office as the technical supervisor and specialists in such fields as road, erosion control, and rivers. Other staff members participated in a variety of committees established for the purpose of restoration from disaster (Table 2) as specialists to support speedy recovery, liaising with the Kyushu Regional Development Bureau and affected offices. Furthermore, the Kumamoto Earthquake Restoration Research Center conducts a research about advanced technologies that contribute to the recovery in the affected areas from 2017 to 2021.



Photo 1: Disaster control meeting held at the same time with the meeting at the emergency control headquarters at MLIT on April 15

Table 1: Number of specialists dispatched

Field	Specialists dispatched (man-day)
Sewerage	22
River	40
Landslide	72
Road/bridge	122
Building	47
Park	8
Port/airport	12
Total	323



Photo 2: Explanation to mayors on April 28
Okamoto, Director of Sabo Department (left) and Mr. Hioki, Mayor of Nishihara Village (right)

Table 2: Committees NILIM participated in

Midorikawa/Shirakawa Banks Investigation Committee
Technical Committee on the Construction of Tateno Dam
Committee to Investigate the Technologies for the Restoration of the Aso Ohashi Areas
Liaising Meeting to Restore the Roads around the Kumamoto Aso area
Technical Committee on the Route and Structure of Route 325
Project Team for the Examination of Restoration Techniques (bridge, tunnel and civil engineering)
Committee to Analyze the Causes of the Damage to Buildings during the Kumamoto Earthquakes