

Community Design with Countermeasures for Disaster

What is the Point of Disaster Countermeasures in Mukojima?



High density wooden houses area

The High Density Wooden Houses Area and Vacant Houses

In Mukojima, the high density wooden houses area has spread out. Wooden houses are built along the narrow and winding alleys, so the concern is serious for fire spread and failure in escape at a big earthquake. Also, as the number of decrepit vacant houses increases, the risk of arson, illegal dumping and building collapse have risen.

Sumida Ward government, where Mukojima is located, has worked on improvement of building resistance to fire, street widening etc. as physical countermeasures for disaster. The residents also have done activities like setting up rainwater tanks.



Decrepit and dangerous house



Fireproof buildings along a trunk road



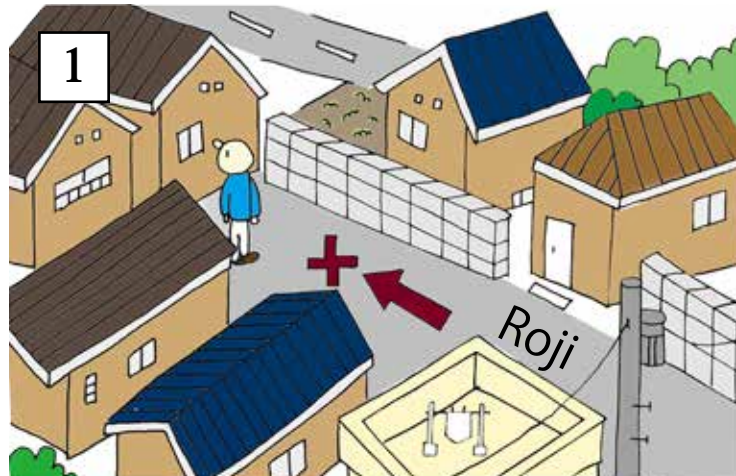
Road widening

Activities of Countermeasures for Disaster in the District

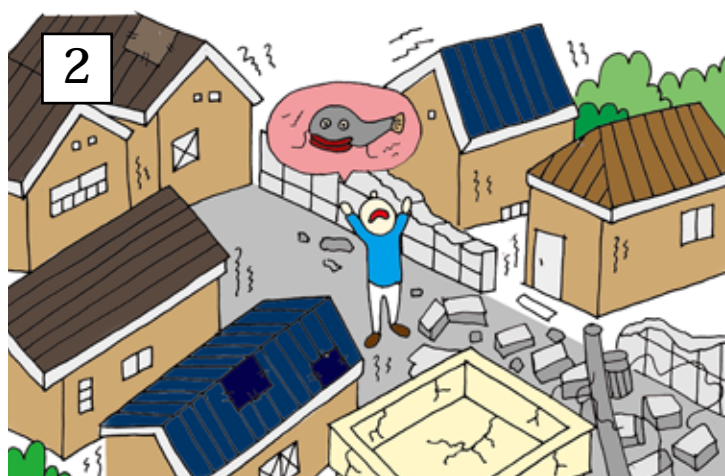
After The Great East Japan Earthquake, people's consciousness for community-based disaster countermeasures has risen, not just relying on local government. Community oriented activities will raise the sense of self protection, and enhance mutual helps in neighborhood. In Mukojima, disaster prevention activities have been well done, based on the strong community tie. Recently, the residents and local government started collaboration in taking disaster countermeasures.

• Security Improvement in "Roji" neighborhood

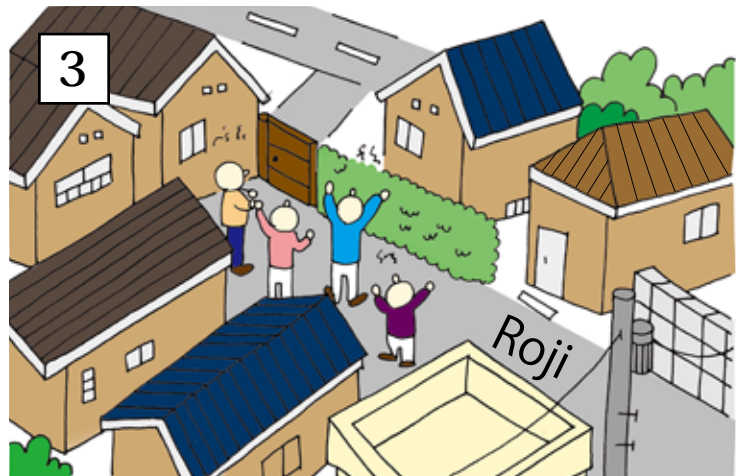
The area includes narrow and winding alleys called "Roji". People may fail to escape if walls or buildings fall upon the alleys at disaster. Yet, Roji is an important and favored community asset. So the residents have started activities to improve the neighborhood with preserving Roji, not just widening them. They review the area, identify dead-ends and decrepit and dangerous vacant houses, to find the best escape routes. Then they remove dangerous fences, clean up the Roji to secure the escape route.



There is a dead end..



We cannot escape!



If we had more escaping routes..



We can escape!

• Removal of Vacant Houses

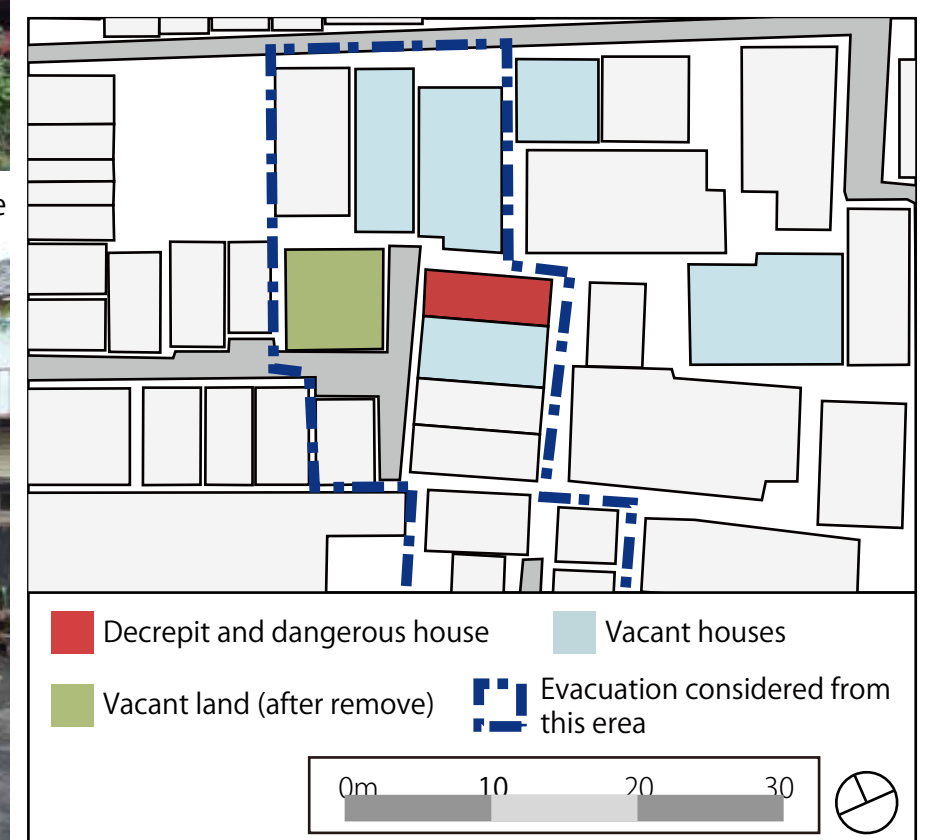


Before



After

There are deteriorated and dangerous houses, not renovatable, by left un-maintained for so long. So in Mukojima, the residents identify such old and dangerous vacant houses, and the owners remove such ones with support by the local government. With collaboration of the residents and the local government, dangerous vacant houses have been removed one by one. This steady activity is improving the security and living environment in the community.



Case study

• Disaster Countermeasures Education Workshop

The workshop, where kids and parents enjoy learning security measures, have been hosted in Mukojima since 2009. Many young families are attending to this friendly workshop. As such, community design with countermeasures for disaster is going on, by having young generation's participation throughout Mukojima.



Poster



Kids and parents learning about disaster countermeasures by play games

