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Urban Renaissance Agency

Sharing UR's experience in disaster reconstruction to earthquake-affected municipalities in Turkey

UR has been supporting the disaster reconstruction in Turkey, which was suffered extensive damage by earthquake on February 2023 at the request of JICA.

We dispatched two director generals who had long experience in disaster reconstruction of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake or the Great East Japan Earthquake as experts last October.

Last December, officials from the six affected municipalities visited UR head quarter and attended a lecture by Mr. TOMITA Kohei and Mr. SAKO Kiyoshi, who were dispatched to Turkey.

Mr. Tomita introduced the collapse of buildings and expressways, and the large-scale spread of fires in dense urban areas in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and then shared the redevelopment projects such as the Sumiyoshi Station East area and HAT Kobe that UR had undertaken. What he emphasized the most was that the importance of structured organization and the reconstruction plan for post-earthquake.



Mr. Sako explained the enormous damage caused by the tsunami in the Great East Japan Earthquake and the affected areas became extensive, and there was a need for rapid reconstruction with a large and diverse range of projects at one time, however, the request was made to UR due to the lack of human resources and experience in the affected local governments. He also introduced the establishment of organizations to proceed various projects same time, how UR conducted many projects, using examples such as the Shizugawa district of Minamisanriku Town.



Municipalities officials, who have been facing the delay in reconstruction, showed a

strong interest concerning drawing reconstruction plans and coordinating with projects and many questions were asked during the lecture.

In the presentation of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, they asked the methods such as the installation of temporary housings, the construction of a high-rise building applying the high-level use of land and coordination with rights holders.

Regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake, questions raised such as coordination with landowners and land regulation in relocation to higher ground, sale of land creation, the utilization of land readjustment project in suffered areas, and installation of disaster prevention infrastructure.

Participants also expressed interest in the demarcation roles between the national and local governments and the involvement of private sector.

The two lecturers concluded their lectures by emphasizing what matters most is the dialogue with the affected peoples and flexible changes of implementing projects based on the dialogue.

Finally, Mr. Sincer from Kaharamanmaras Metropolitan Municipality, where the two lecturers visited, extended their gratitude for UR's support and sharing of experience of disaster reconstruction.

End

