

Current Situation and Issues of Disaster Risk Reduction Principal System for Disaster Education in School

Shunji Ozera and Yukiko Takeuchi

The Faculty of Advanced Science and Technology of Kumamoto University

E-mail: s-ozera@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Keywords: Disaster Risk Reduction Principal System, The 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, disaster education, management of school safety, education board of Kumamoto prefecture

Abstract

Many schools in Kumamoto faced serious damages due to the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In addition to the damages of school buildings and equipment, school teachers were required to play various roles such as management of evacuation centers, safety check of students, preparations for restart of school and so on. From these lessons, the education board of Kumamoto prefecture established “Disaster Risk Reduction Principal System” to public school in 2017. “Disaster Risk Reduction Principal” plays important roles as coordinating the advancement of disaster reduction and disaster education in schools, but there are concerns of increasing the responsibility of teacher appointed for this position.

The purpose of this research is to understand the current situation and issues about “Disaster Risk Reduction Principal System”. This research conducted questionnaire survey to “Disaster Risk Reduction Principal” and interviews with teachers in Mashiki Town as this is one of the most damaged regions by this earthquake in Kumamoto prefecture. In addition, this paper also showed the results of survey conducted with education board of Hyogo prefecture and Miyagi prefecture. Both prefectures were also serious damaged due to the “Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake” (1995) and “The Great East Japan Earthquake” (2011), and they carried out the new program about disaster risk reduction or disaster education based on the experience of those disasters. So, the purposes of these interviews are to identify the issues and lessons of precedents and to reflect them for the future of “Disaster Risk Reduction Principal System” in Kumamoto prefecture.

The survey results found that key issues were lack of concrete contents/curriculum and lack of the time for education management/coordination. Based on the survey results, this paper presented four recommendations such as, “expansion of exercises and improvement of concreteness in training for teachers”, “holding of workshops for first-time Disaster Risk Reduction Principal”, “establishment an opportunity of information exchange between Disaster Risk Reduction Principals” and “improvement of cooperation between schools and local organizations”.