

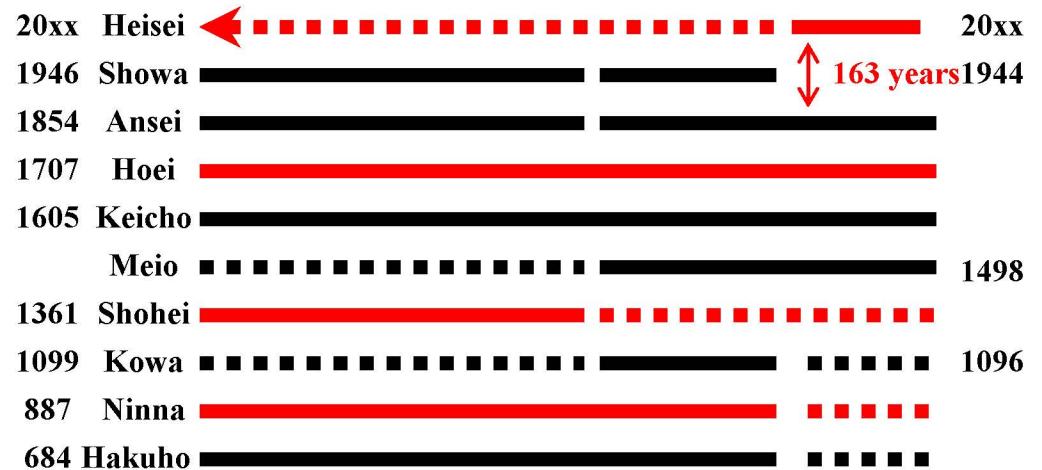
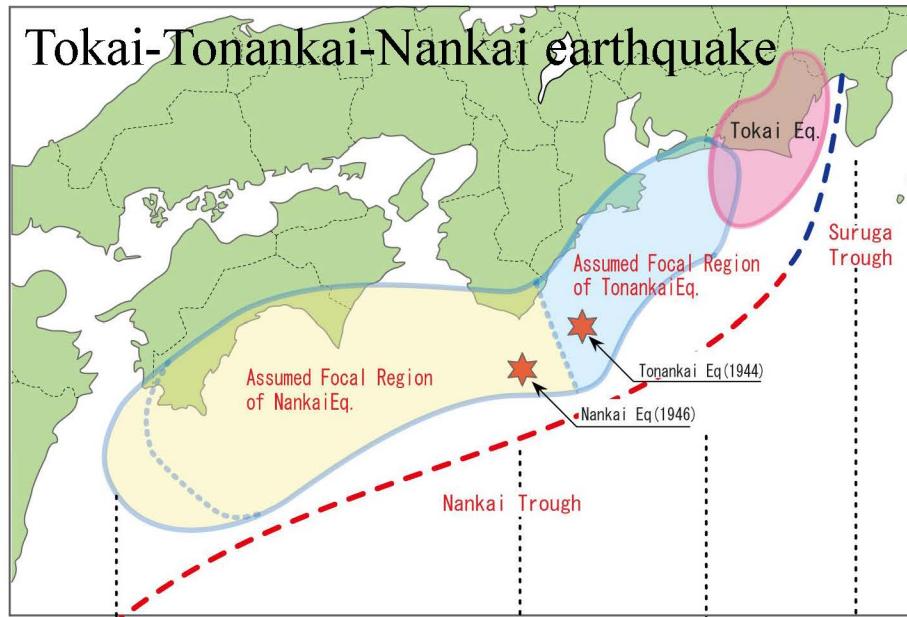
# Tsunamis and countermeasures in Tohoku Region

Anawat Suppasri,  
[suppasri@irides.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:suppasri@irides.tohoku.ac.jp)

Tsunami Engineering Research Division  
Disaster Risk Evaluation Research Field  
International Research Institute of Disaster Science  
Tohoku University

# Earthquakes in Japan

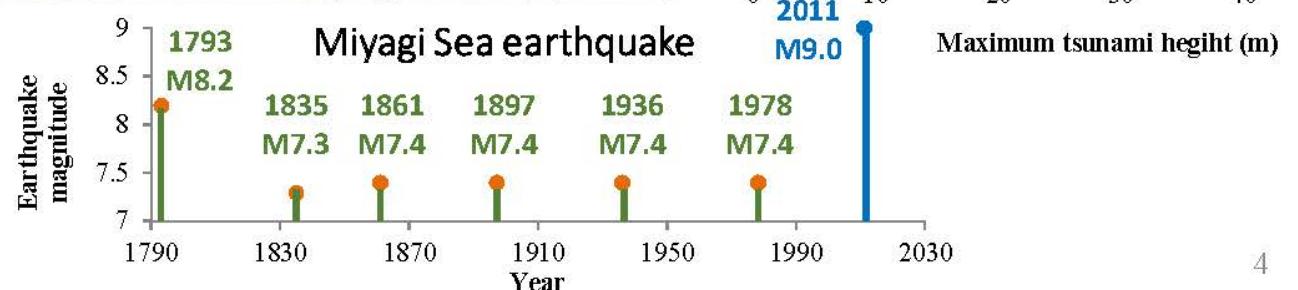
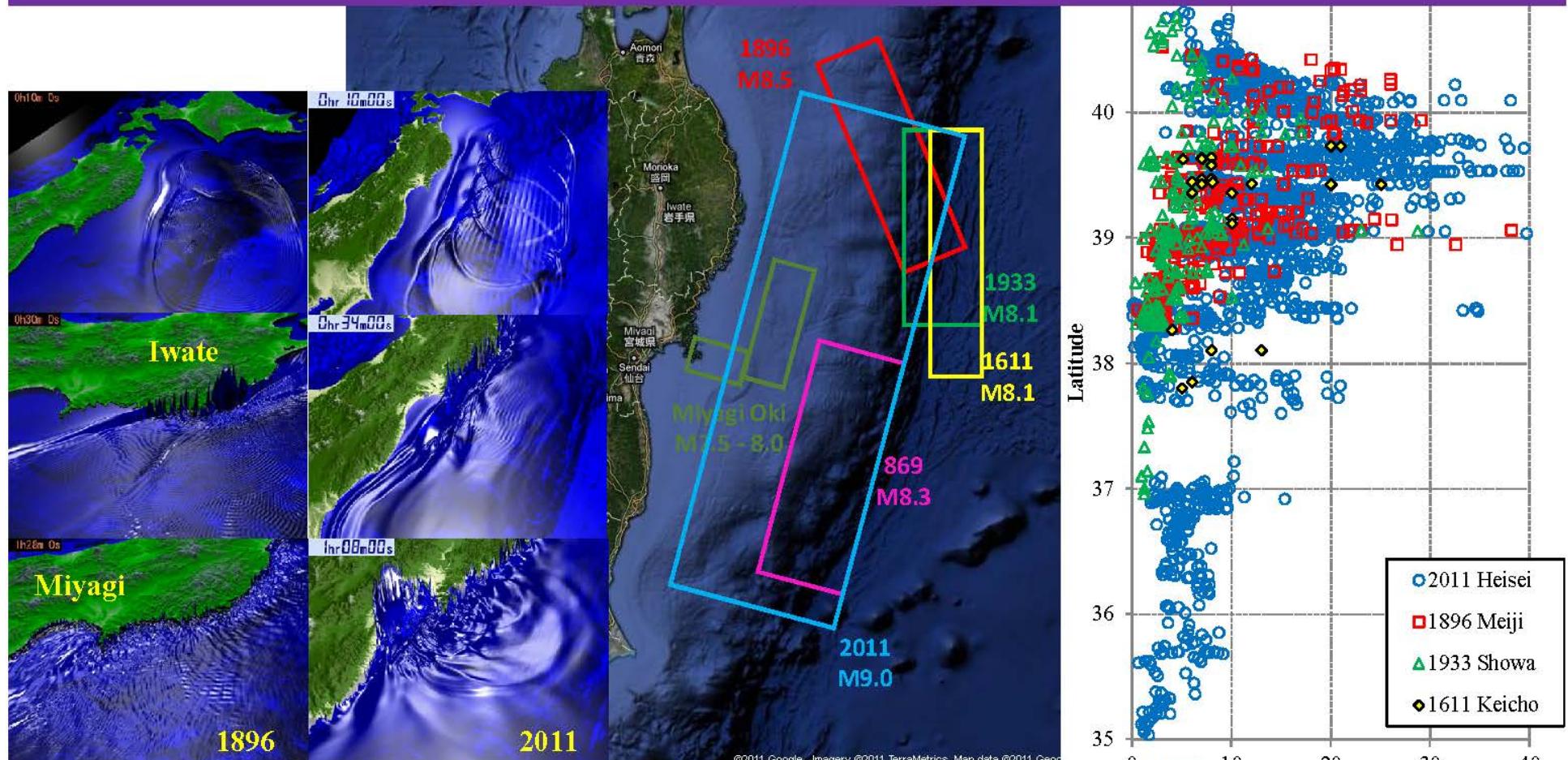
## Earthquake possibility in Japan



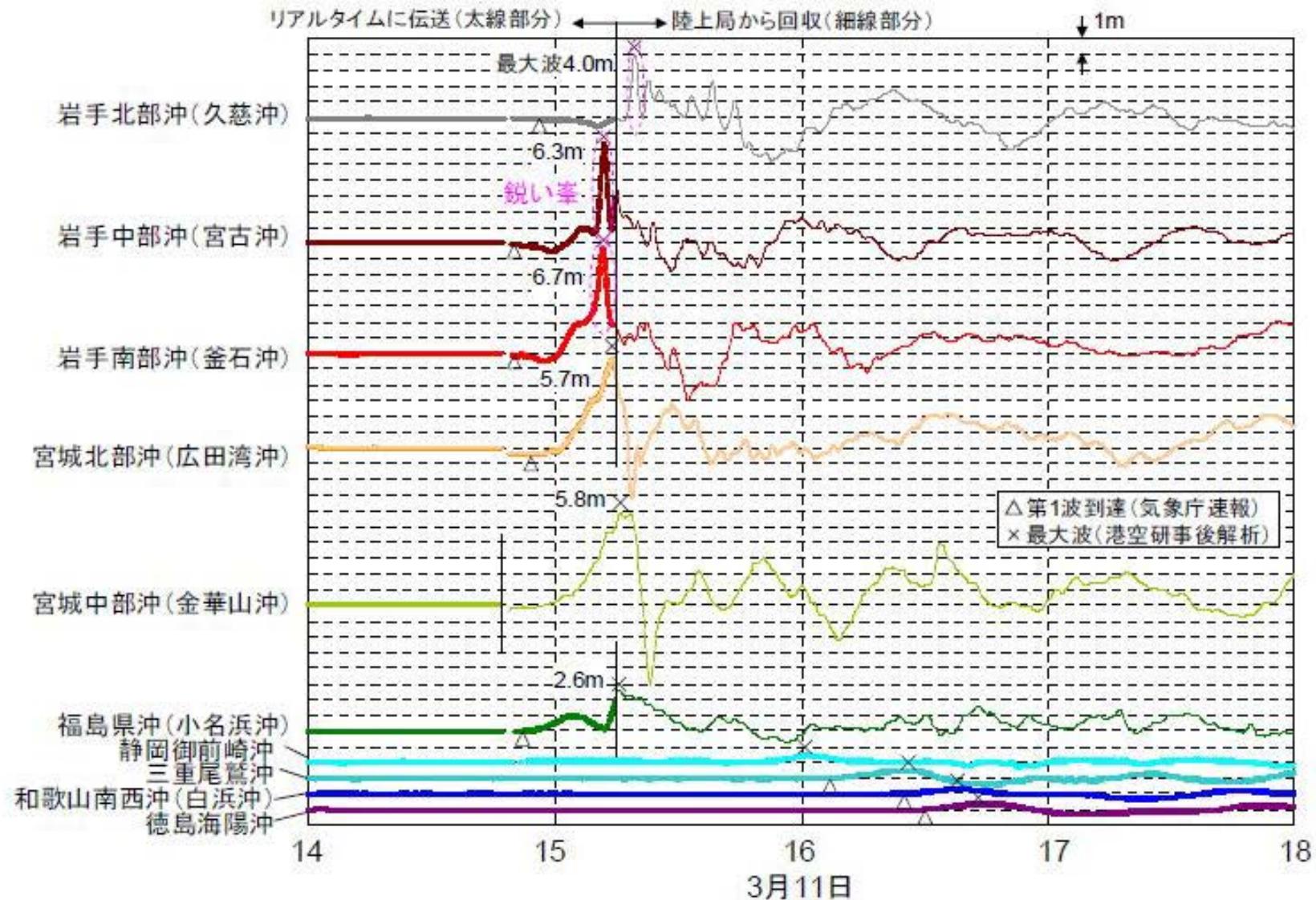
# Learning step by step from historical tsunamis in Japan

- Early period:
  - Felt a shake = tsunami is coming & No tsunami in Japan Sea side
- 1896 Meiji Sanriku tsunami: tsunami-earthquake type
  - Small shake but large tsunami (38.2 m / 22,000 deaths)
- 1933 Showa Sanriku tsunami: Outer-rise earthquake
  - Large shake and large tsunami (28.7 m / 3,000 deaths)
- 1960 Chile tsunami: Far-field tsunami from M9.5 earthquake
  - No shake but large tsunami (10.7 m / 142 deaths)
- 1983 Japan Sea tsunami: The first recent tsunami in Japan Sea
  - Warning after 14 mins but tsunami arrived after 12 mins (14.9 m / 104 deaths)
- 1933 Okushiri tsunami: Just 10 years after the 1983 event
  - Waning after 5 mins but tsunami arrived after 2-7 mins (32.0 m / 230 deaths)
- 2011 Tohoku tsunami: M9.0 never record in Japan
  - Large shake and large tsunami (40.5 m / 19,000 deaths)

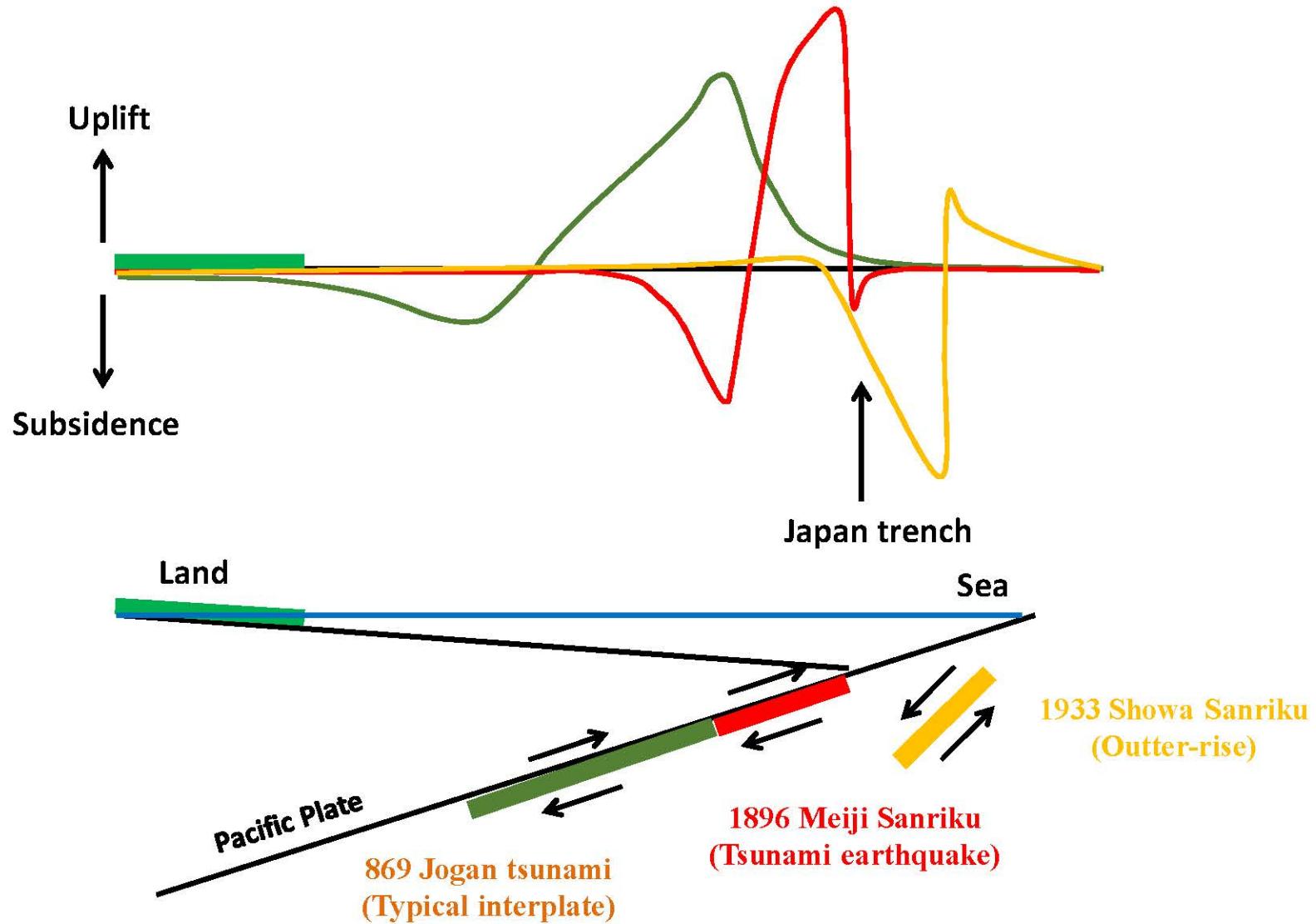
# Tsunamis in Tohoku Region



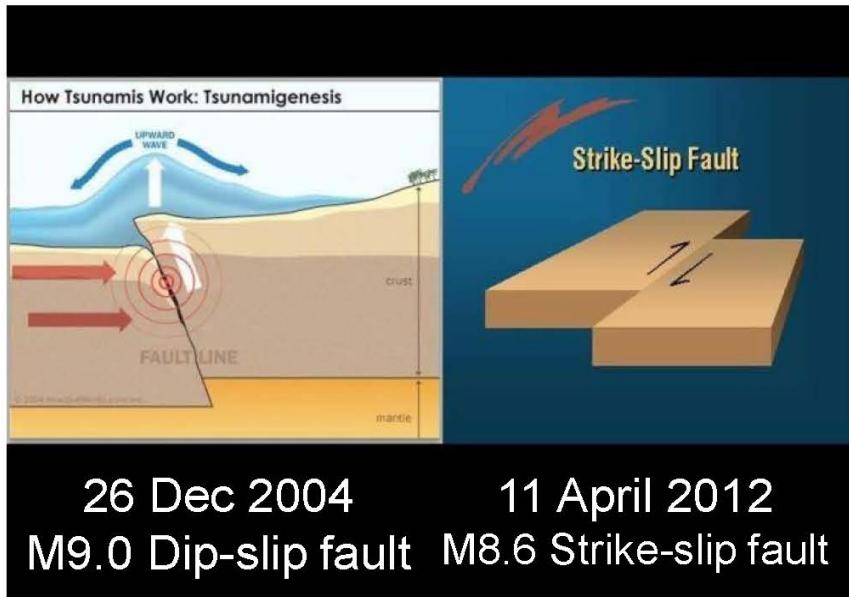
# Observed tsunami waveforms



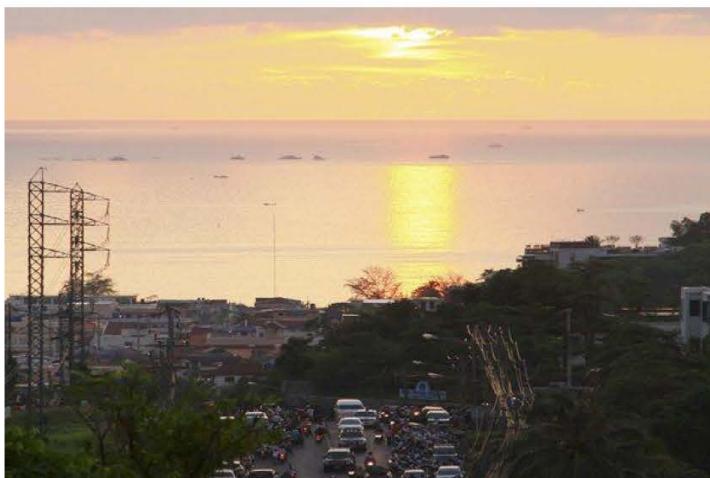
# Earthquake generation mechanism and seafloor deformation



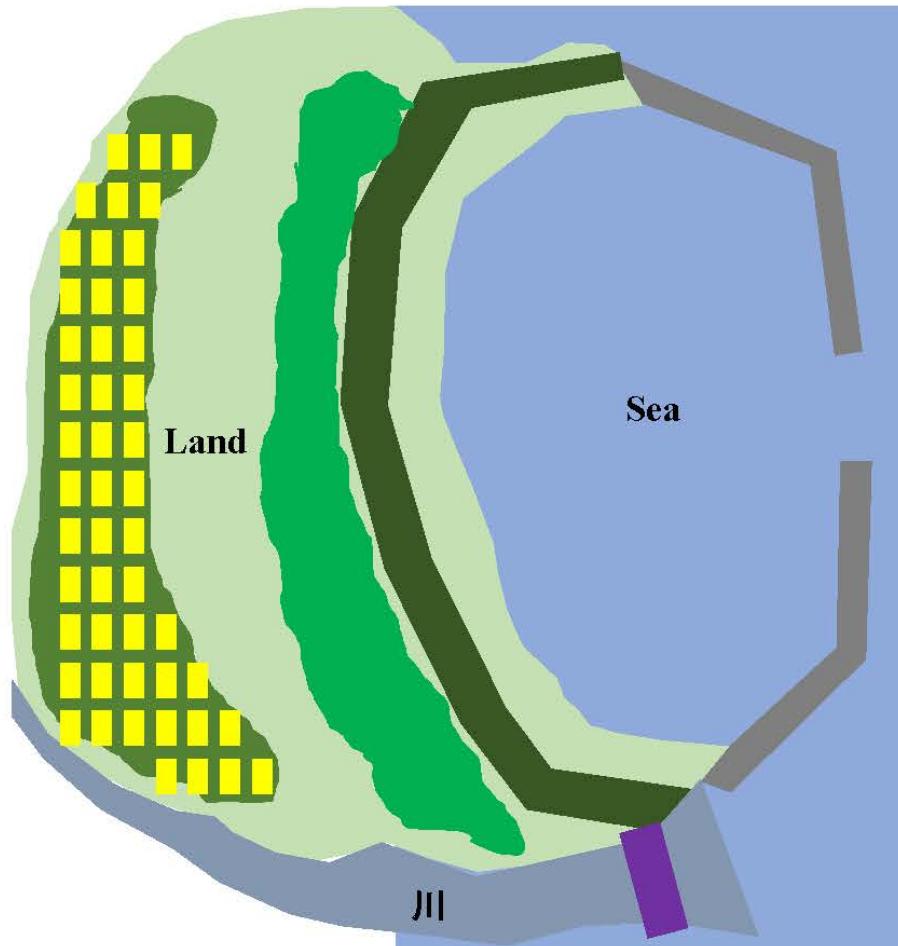
# Strike-slip fault: No or small tsunami



No tsunami **but**  
very serious  
traffic jam



# General tsunami countermeasures



Breakwater: Kamaishi



Water gate: Fudai



Seawall: Taro



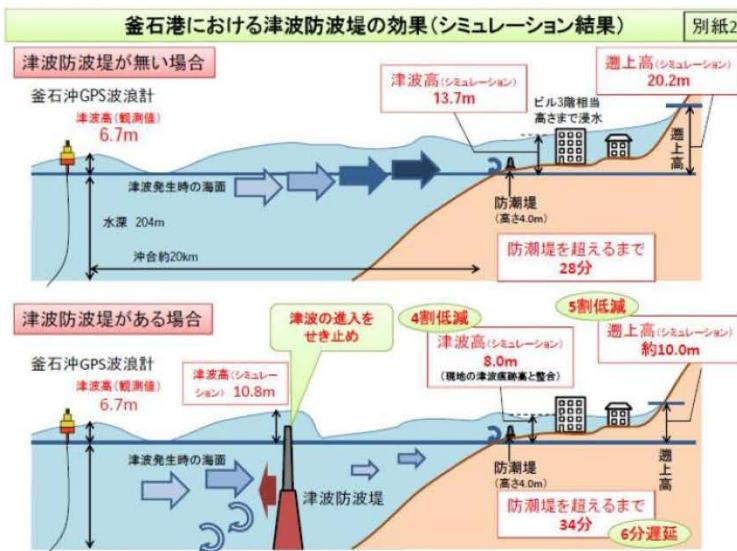
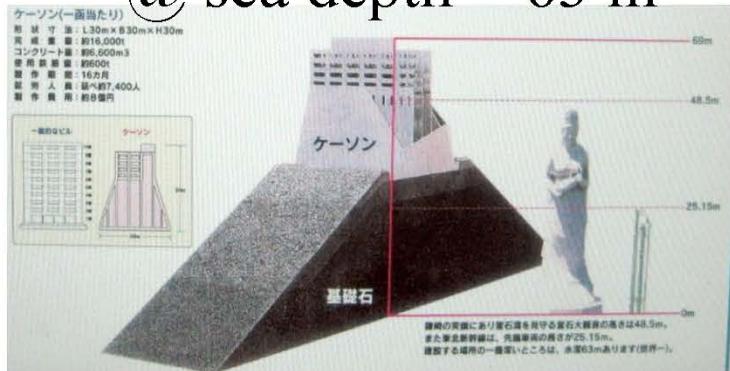
Control forest: Rikuzenakata

Highland residence: Toni-hongo

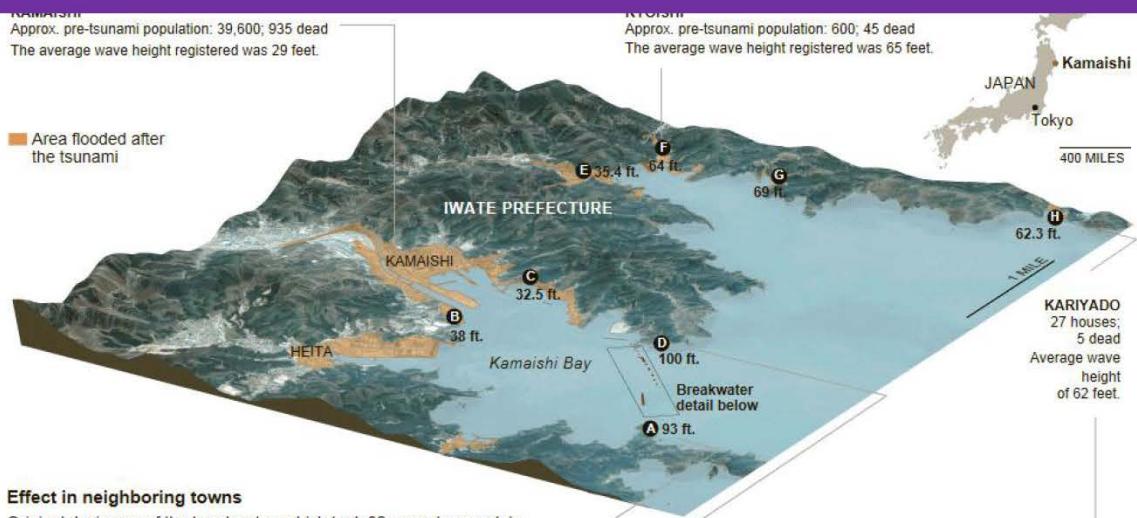


# The world's largest breakwater

## Kamaishi breakwaters @ sea depth = 63 m

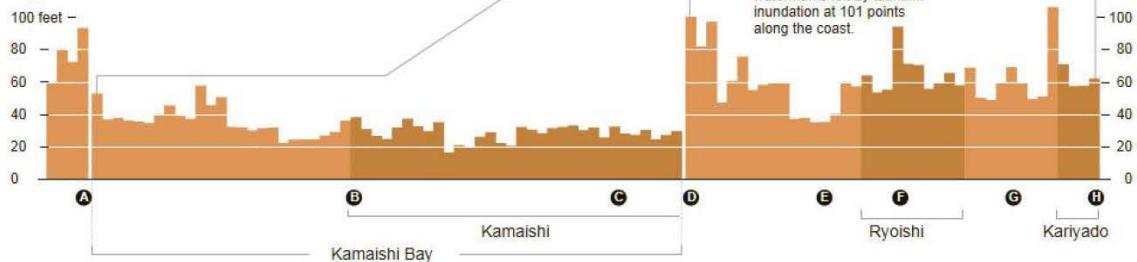


<http://livedoor.blogimg.jp/shyogaiitisekkeisi2581/imgs/4/a/4aab1165.jpg>  
<http://f.hatena.ne.jp/images/fotolife/k/kimkaz/20110401/20110401220511.jpg>  
<http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~wilkins/energy/Resources/nuclear/japan/GIF/kamaishi-breakwater.png>



### Effect in neighboring towns

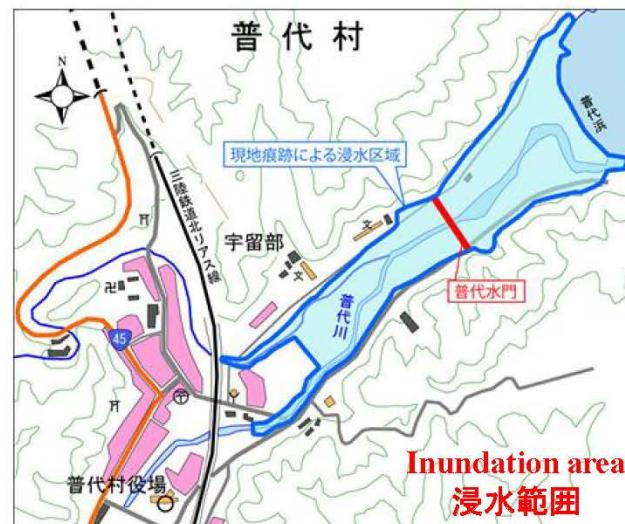
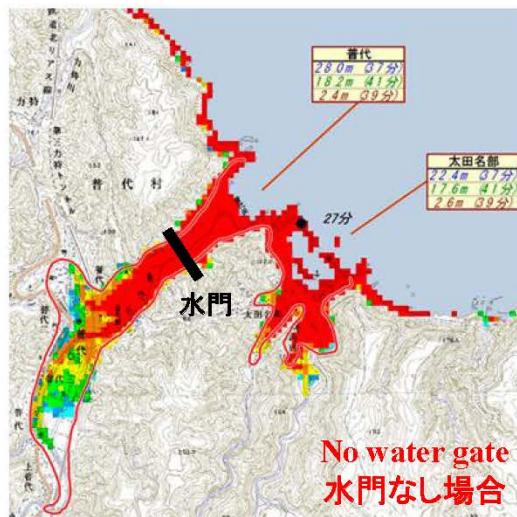
Original designers of the breakwater, which took 30 years to complete, worried that it would increase tsunami waves and redirect them toward Ryoishi and Kariyado, which were destroyed by waves twice the height of those that landed in Kamaishi.



### Remaining breakwater



# Tsunami gate – Zero casualty in Fudai



## Toni Hongo village: Highland residence

明治三陸津波(1896)

波高: 14.5m\*

死者: 2136人(唐丹村)

流失倒壊戸数: 224戸(同上)

再生形態: 集団移動

昭和三陸津波(1933)

波高: 9.3m\*

死者: 209人

流失倒壊戸数: 101戸

家屋流失倒壊区域(坪): 25500坪\*

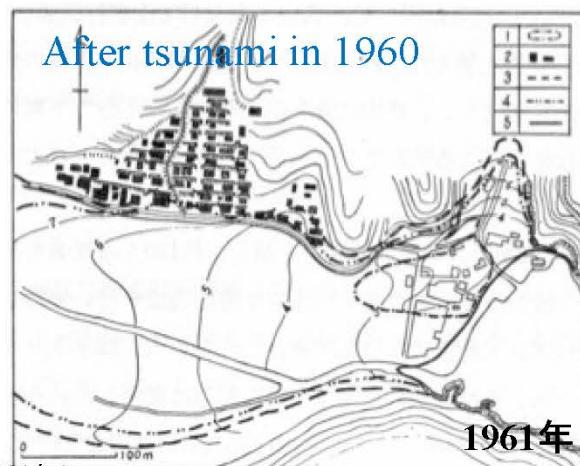
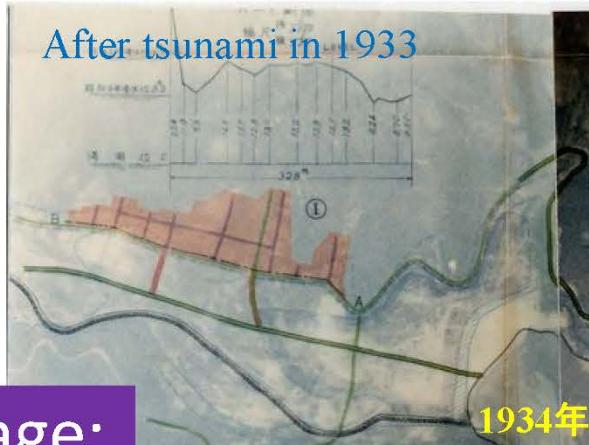
浸水家屋: 101戸

再生形態: 集団移動

移動戸数: 101戸

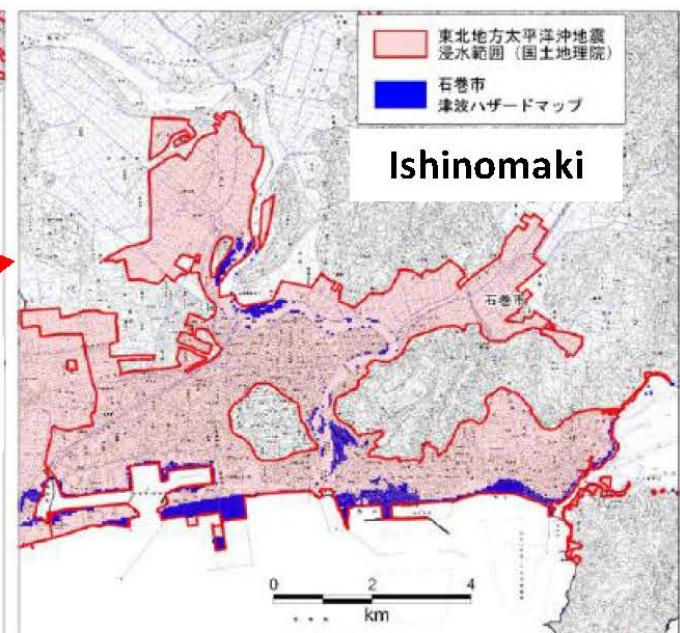
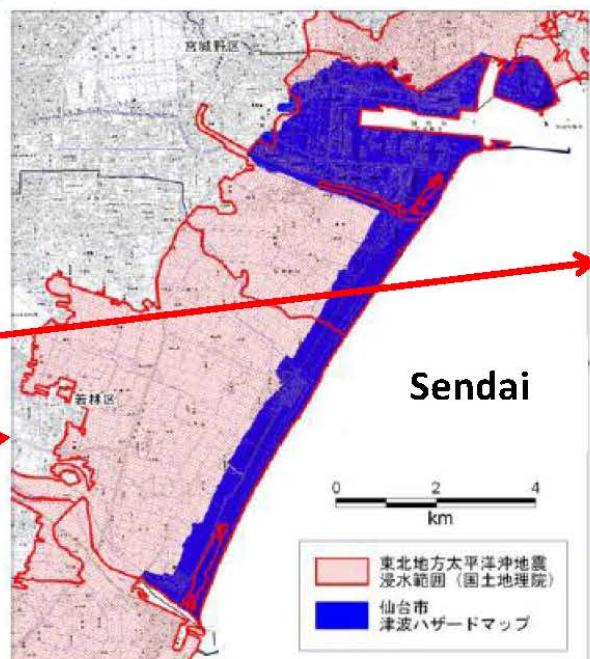
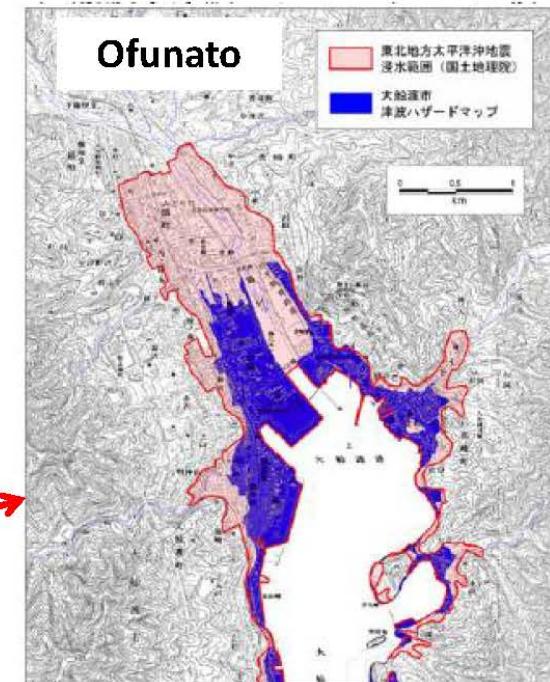
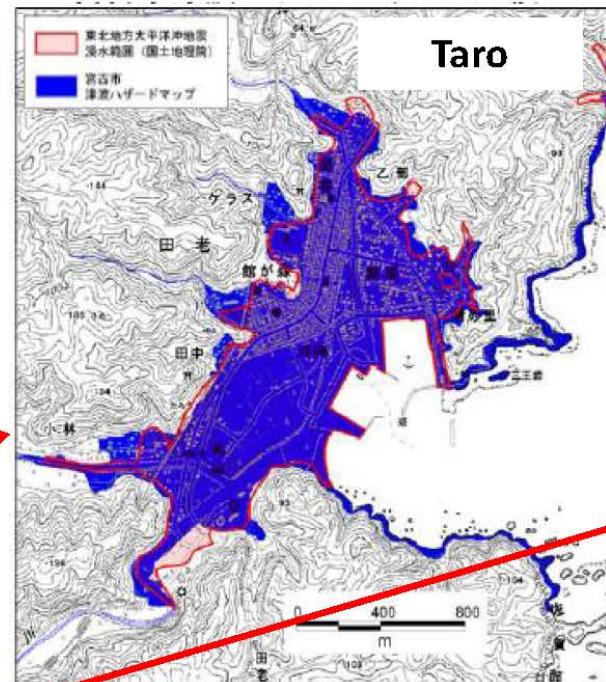
達成面積(坪): 5637坪

<http://d.hatena.ne.jp/meiji-kenchikushi/19530101/p1>



# Hazard maps

Red: 2011 tsunami inundation area  
Blue: Predicted inundation area



(出典)・東北地方太平洋沖地震浸水範囲:国土地理院資料より作図  
・ハザードマップ:仙台市「仙台市津波ハザードマップ」、石巻市「石巻市津波ハザードマップ」

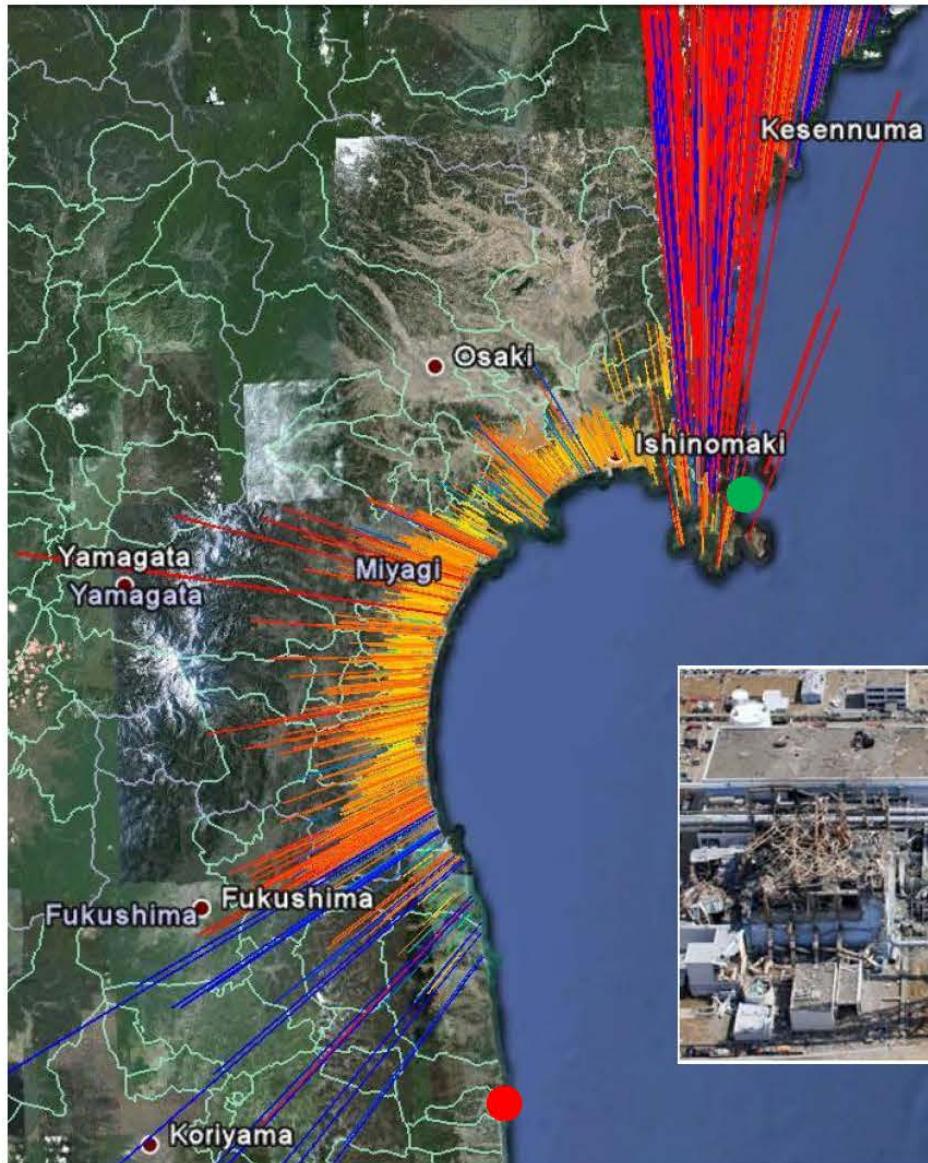
# Overtturned buildings in Onagawa



Onagawa town 女川町  
Max. inundation depth = 18 m  
最大津波浸水深=18 m 程度



# Fukushima Dai-ichi and Onagawa NPPs



Height (m)	Fukushima	Onagawa
Estimated tsunami	5.7	9.1
Plant elevation	10	14.8
The 2011 tsunami	13	13

**Fukushima:** Less impact from 1896 and 1933 Sanriku tsunami. Original land elevation was 30 m but cut off to the present elevation of 10 m considered hard foundation

**Onagawa:** Closer to affected areas from historical Sanriku tsunami (About 3 m at Onagawa)



# Tsunami countermeasures in Japan

- 1896 Meiji-Sanriku tsunami: by individual  
Moving high ground
- 1933 Showa-Sanriku tsunami: by country and prefecture  
Moving high ground + Seawall in some areas
- 1960 Chile tsunami: Structural measures  
Seawalls, breakwaters and tsunami gates
- 1993 Okushiri tsunami:  
Structural measures, town planning and combination with soft measures
- 2011 Great East Japan tsunami:  
Prevention → Reduction

# Date Masamune's intelligence (1611 tsunami lessons)



In 1935

[http://yaplog.jp/sendai\\_kaze/monthly/200807/](http://yaplog.jp/sendai_kaze/monthly/200807/)

Won the Siege of Osaka in 1615 !!!



1. Control forest
2. Navigation canal
3. Land use management

# Reduction effect from coastal forest

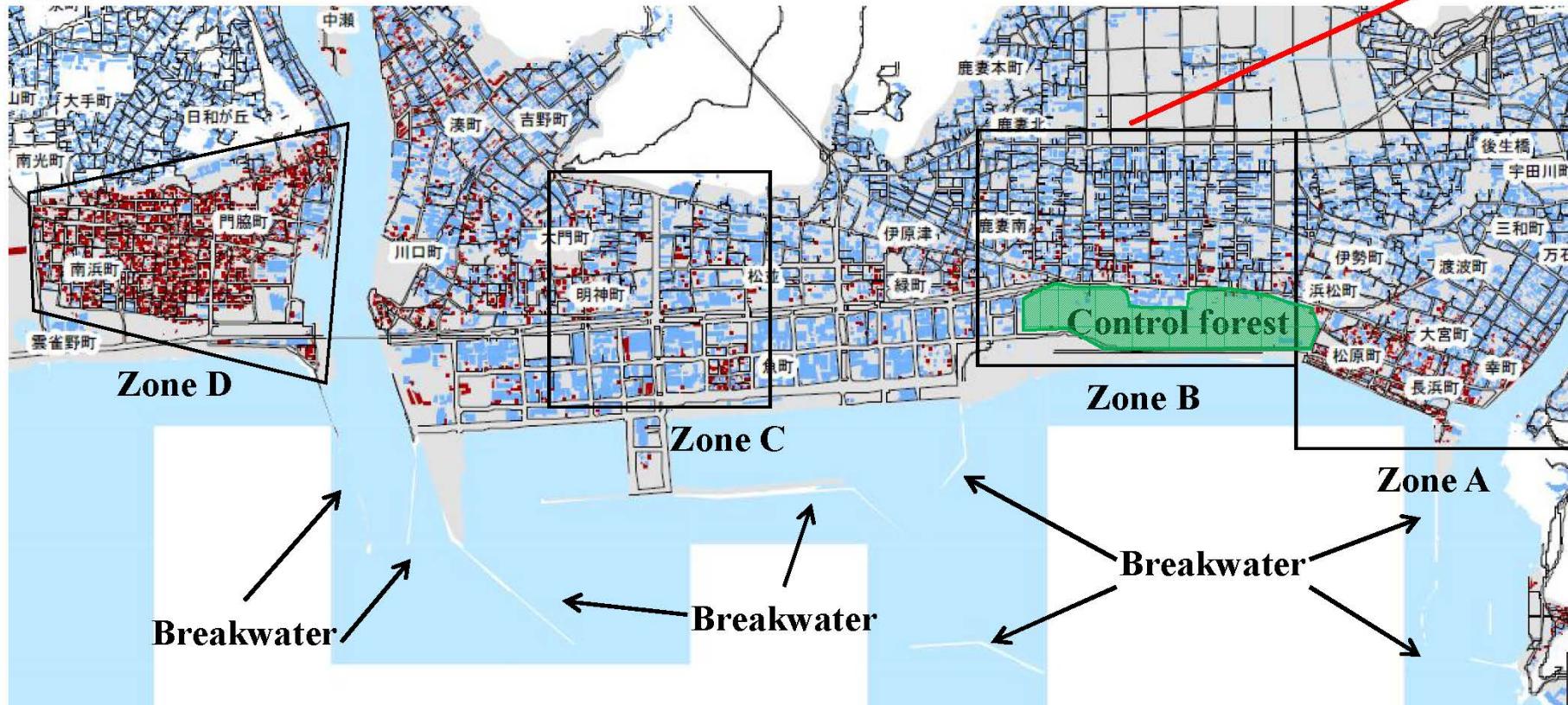
## 森林で津波の減衰力確認 仙台で地盤工学者会

東日本大震災で被害を受けた沿岸部や丘陵部の復旧・復興策を、地盤技術の視点から探るシンポジウムが1日、仙台市内で開かれた。地盤工学会東北支部（支部長・飛田善雄東北学院大教授）の主催で、研究者や市民ら約350人が参加した。

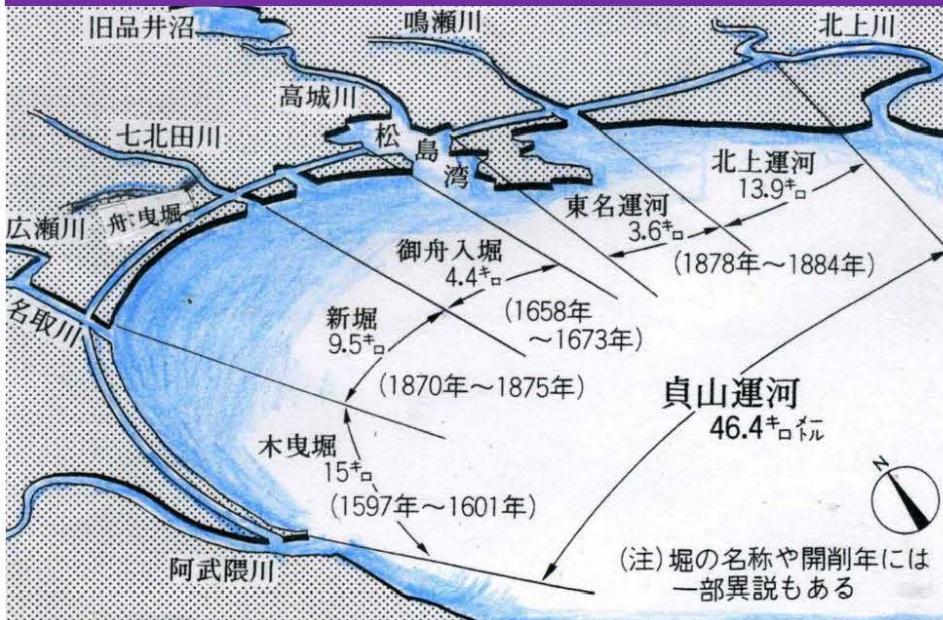
総括報告で宮城県の海岸林の被災状況を調査した宮城豊彦東北学院大教授（地形学）は、森林による一定の津波減衰力が確認された一方、抜けたり折れたりして流木となり、集落を襲った事例を紹介した。

流木の原因として津波だけでなく、震動と地下水上升による地盤の沈降や液状化の影響も指摘。海岸林の残存状況は、地盤が50センチから1メートル程度高いだけで大きな違いが出た。1~2メートルの盛り土で、流木防止にかなりの効果がある」と述べた。

丘陵部の宅地被害では、森友宏東北大助教（地盤工学）が宮城県の実態を発表。造成年代との関連に着目し、現行の都市計画法で宅地開発が許可制になった1968年以降の造成地では、全半壊家屋が少なかったことを報告した。岩手、福島両県の被災宅地の事例や復旧策などの解説もあった。



# Reduction of the flow velocity in the Teizan canal



The longest man-made canal in Japan

# Land use planning

Towns and villages in Edo period (1603-1868) were located outside inundation area



平川、2011



19

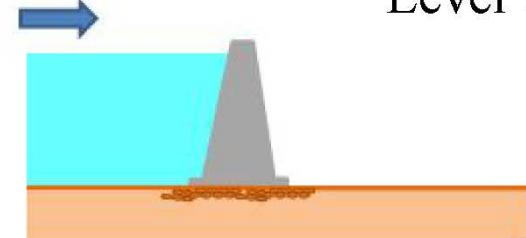
# Level 1 & Level 2 tsunami

## Level 1:

High frequency (30-200 years) but small to moderate tsunami.

Community should be mostly protected by coastal defense structures.  
Height of coastal structures were decided by past Level 1 tsunami events

レベルⅠ津波



Level 1

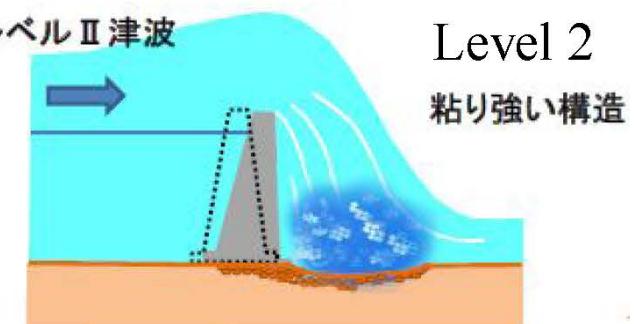
## Level 2:

Low frequency (200-1,000 years) but very high tsunami.

Forget about properties but secure evacuation routes for safe evacuation.

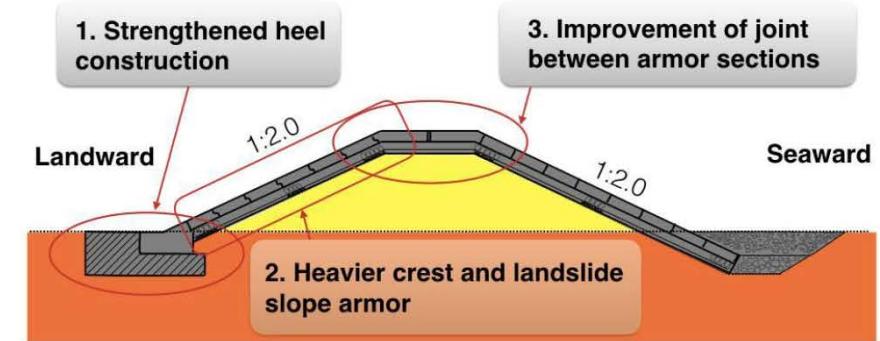
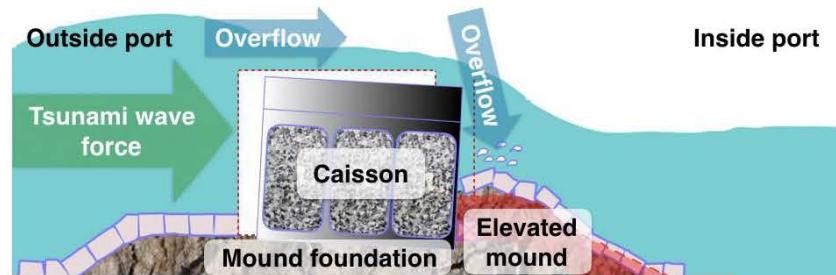
Coastal structures should be strong enough even in case of the overtopping.

レベルⅡ津波

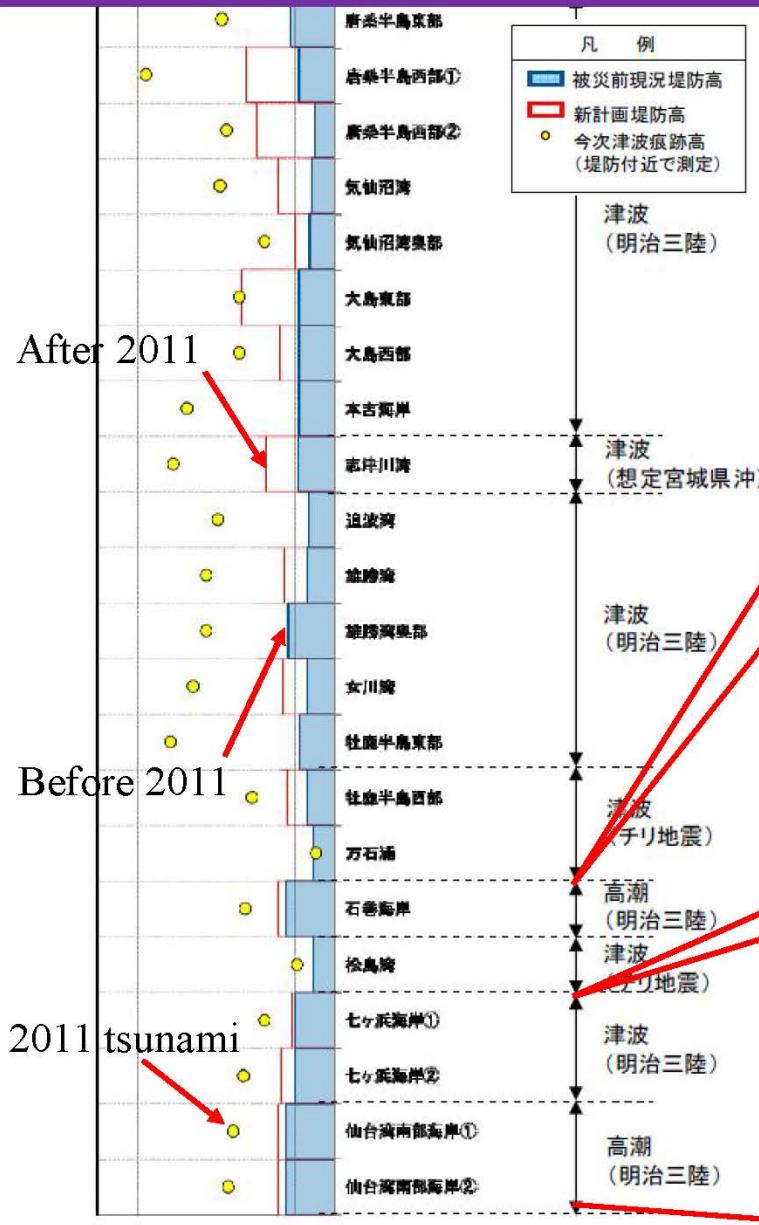


Level 2

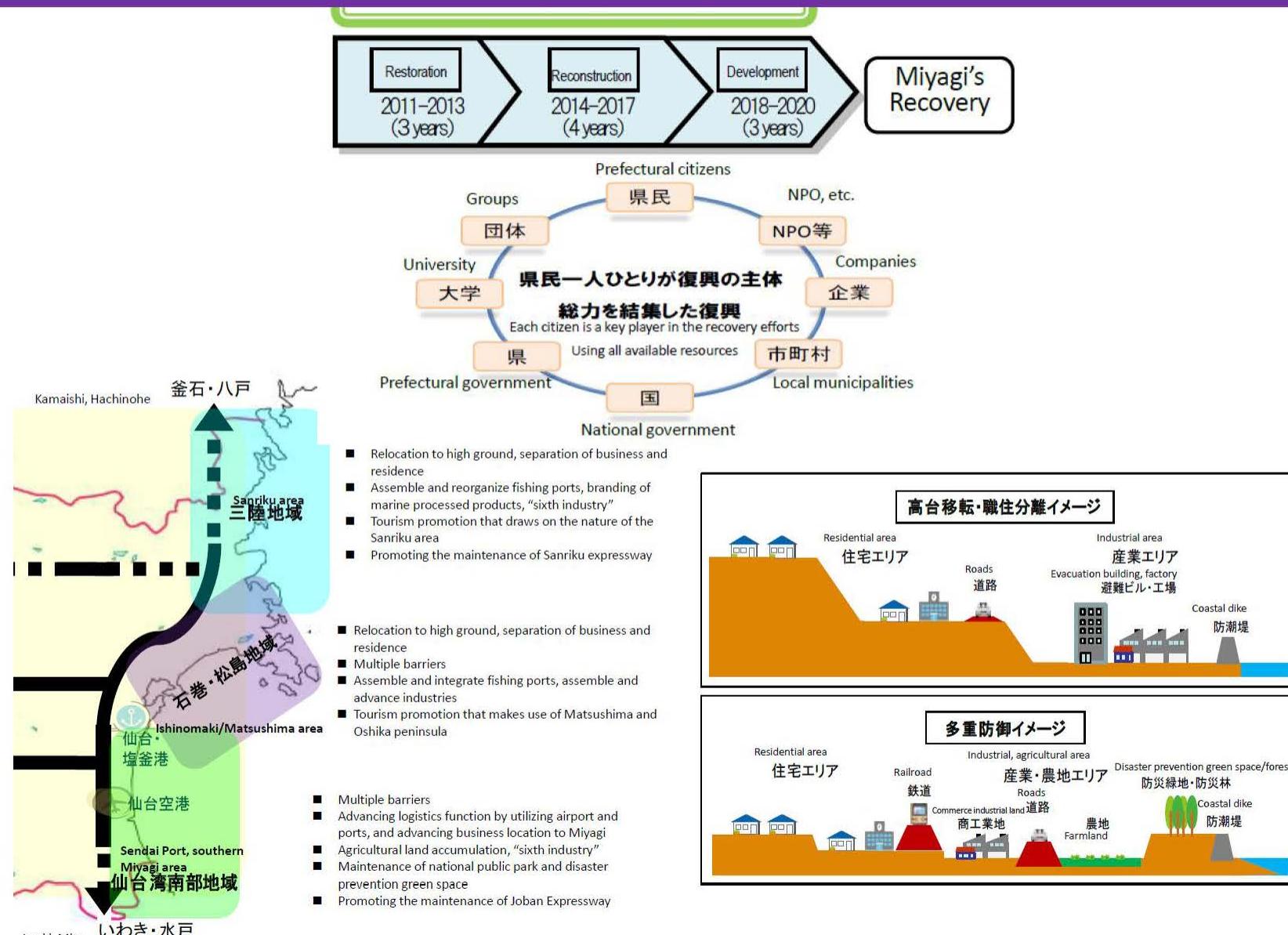
粘り強い構造



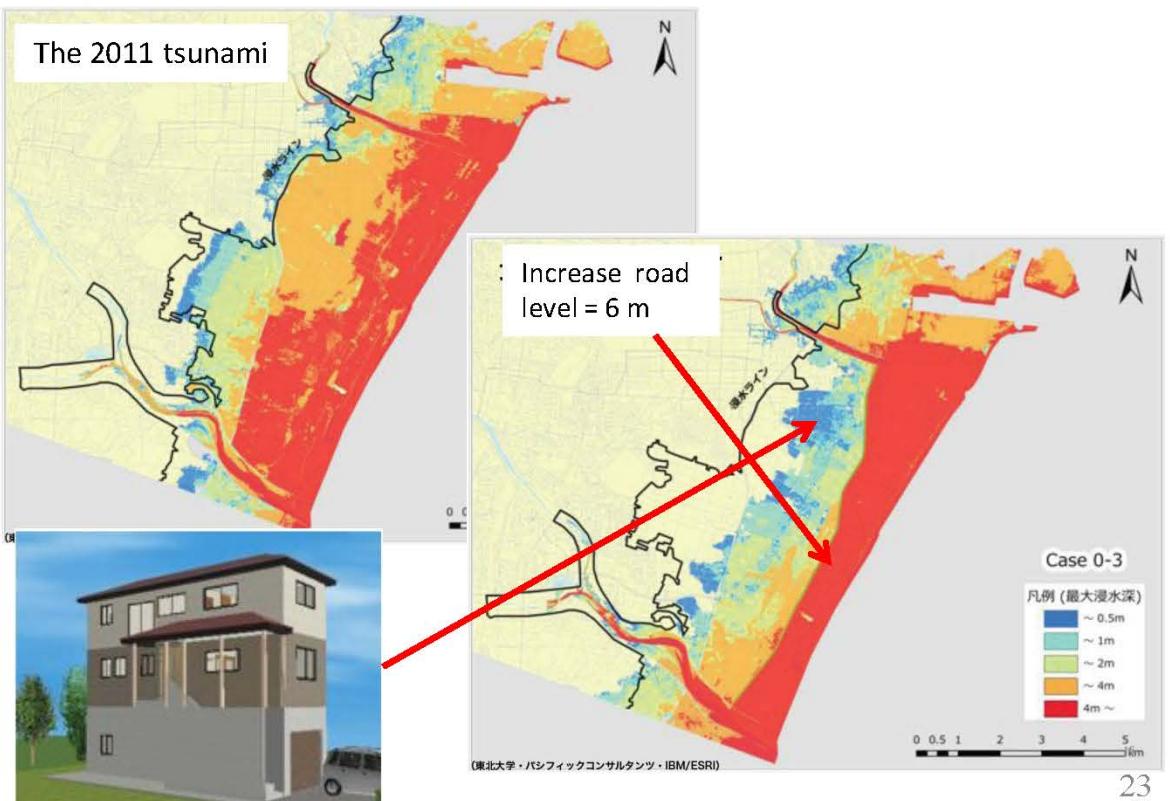
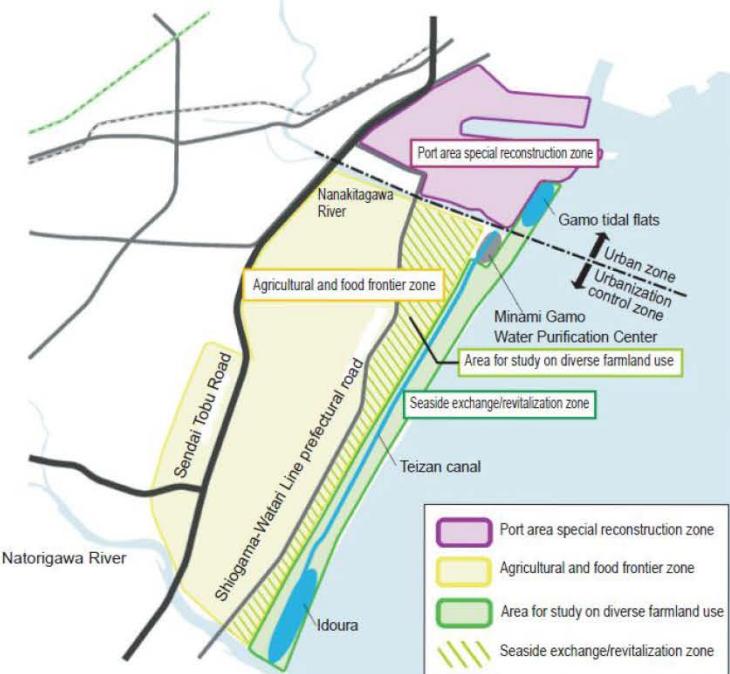
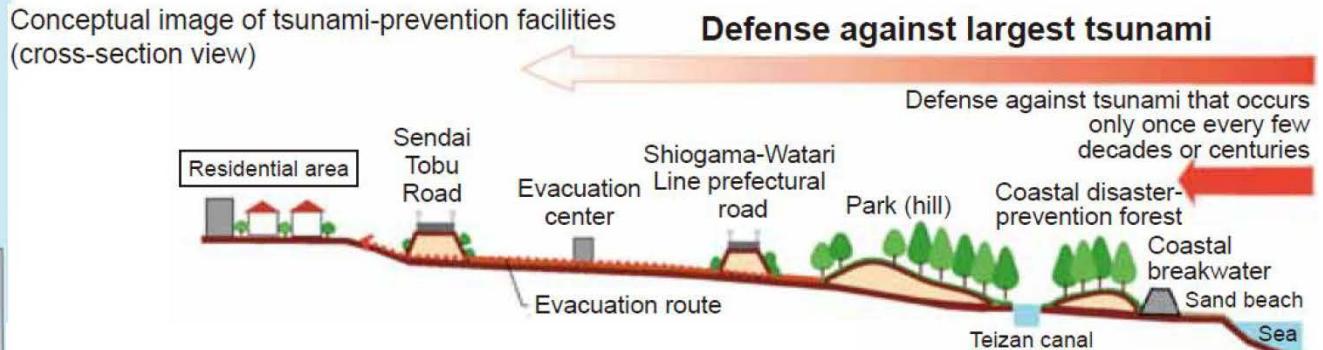
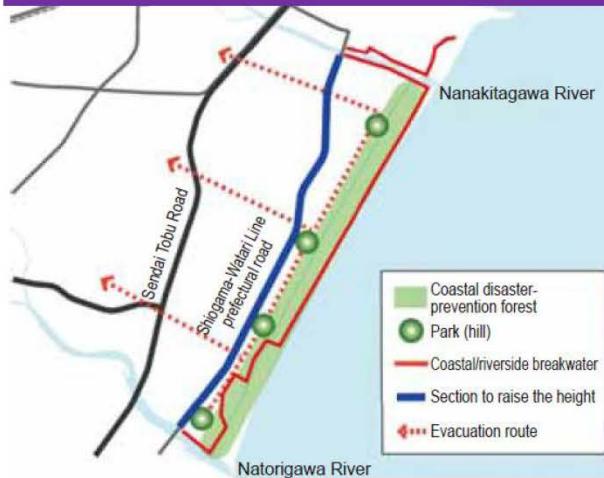
# New height of seawalls in Miyagi prefecture



# Reconstruction plan of Miyagi prefecture

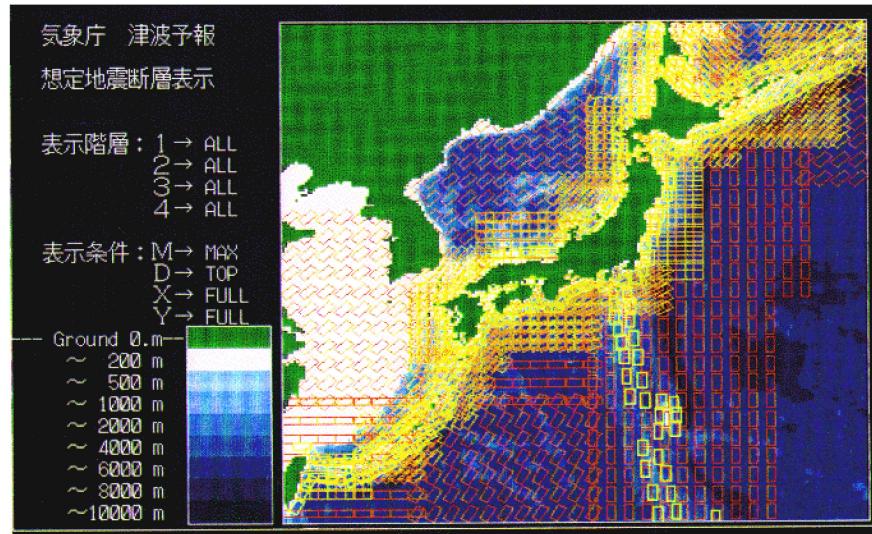


# Sendai city plan: land use management

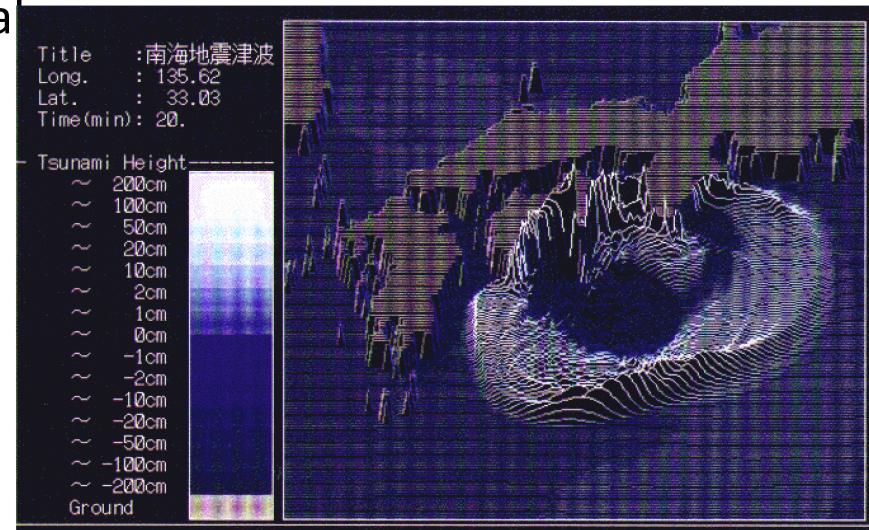


# Tsunami warning system in Japan

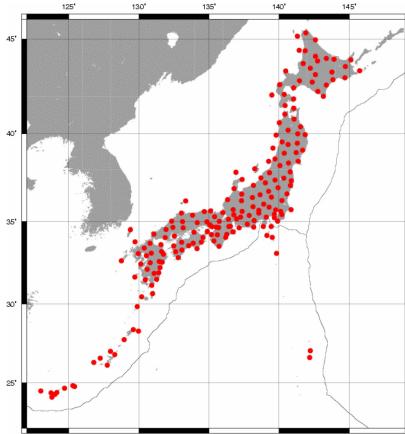
Assumed faults around Japan  
(100,000 cases)



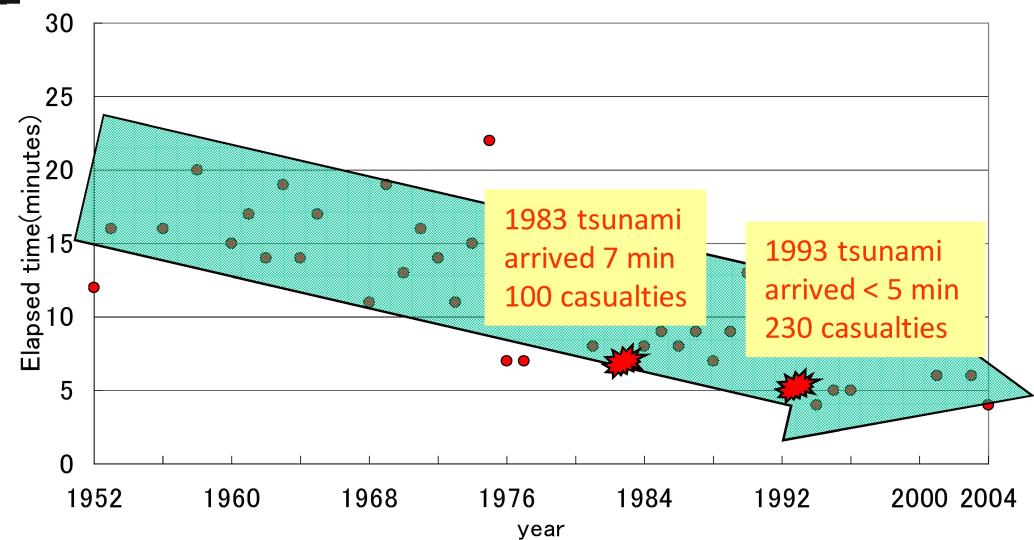
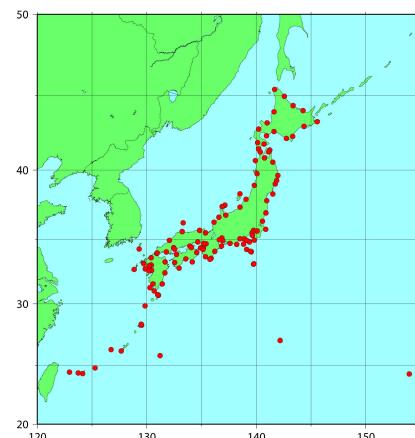
Numerical simulation results stored in data



Seismic Network



Sea Level Network



# Tsunami warnings during the 2011 tsunami

## Local Event      Information

14:46 Earthquake

14:49  $M_{JMA} = 7.9$  Major      Tsunami Warning -  
Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima

14:50      Tsunami Information -

Iwate: 3m, Miyagi: 6m,  
Fukushima: 3m, etc.

Only up to M8.0 in the database

15:10 GPS buoys > 3m

15:14      Tsunami Warnings/Advisories extended

15:14      Tsunami Information -

Iwate: 6m, Miyagi: over 10m,  
Fukushima: 6m, etc.

Tsunami hit the nearest coast

15:21 Tide gauges at Kamaishi (Iwate) > 4.1m (scale out)

15:30      Tsunami Warning extended

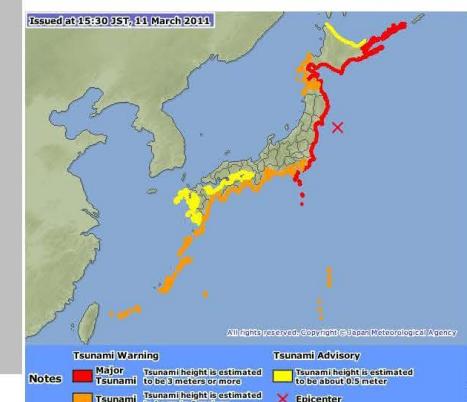
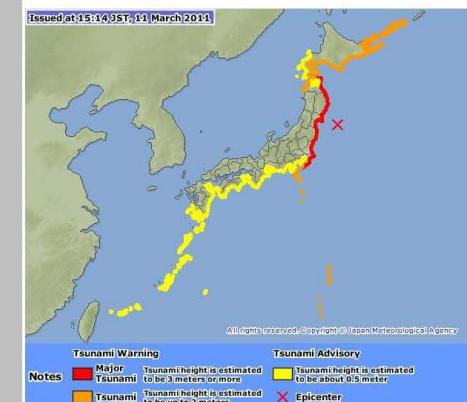
15:31      Tsunami Information-

Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima: over 10m, etc.

16:00       $M_{JMA} = 8.4$

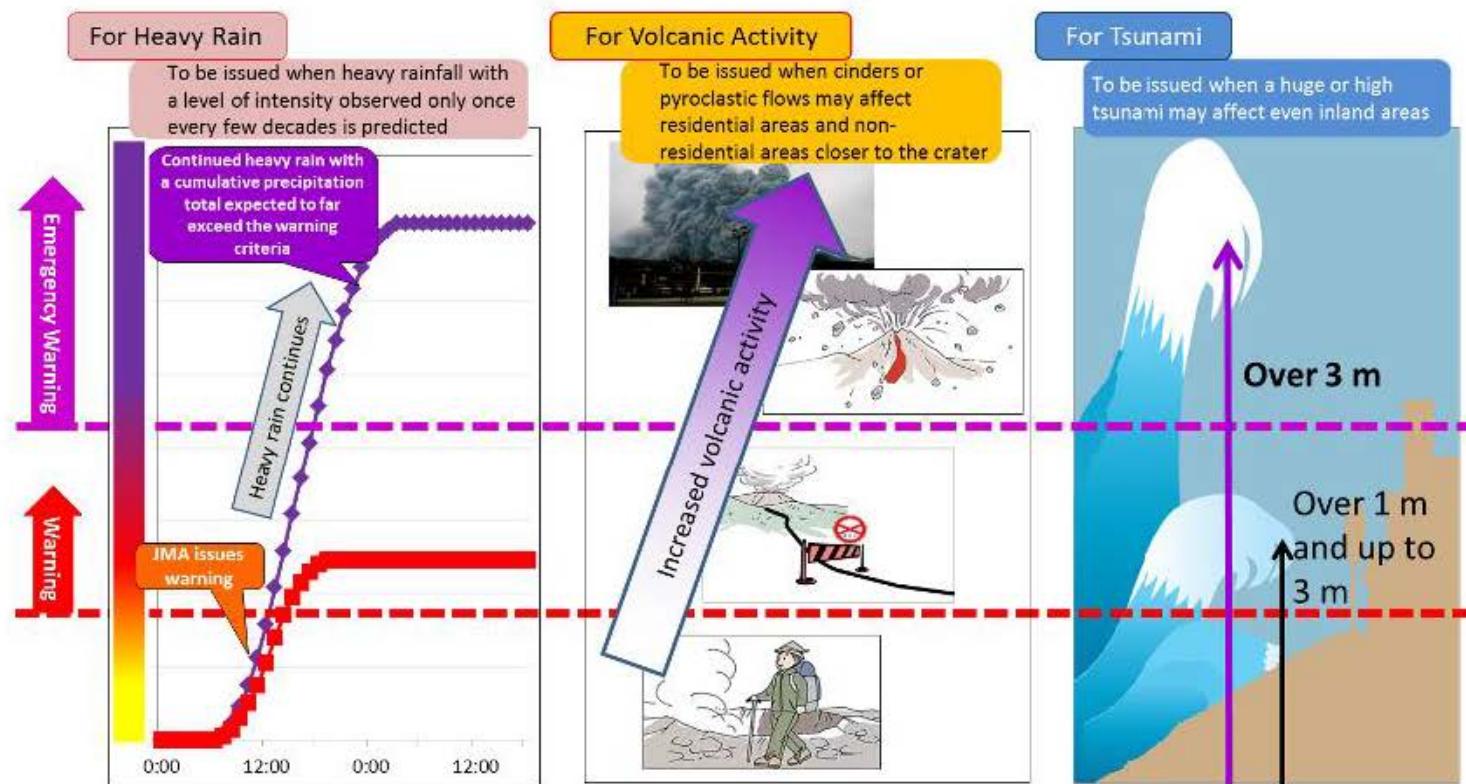
17:30  $M_w = 8.8$

13<sup>th</sup> May     $M_w = 9.0$



# Improvements from the 2011 tsunami

Tsunami warning and watch		Previous system (8 levels)	Present system (5 levels)	
		Announce tsunami height	Message	Estimated tsunami height
Warning	Major tsunami	> 10 m 8 m, 6 m 4 m, 3 m 2 m, 1 m 0.5 m	> 10 m 10 m 5 m 3 m 1 m	> 10 m Major High
	Tsunami			5 m - 10 m 3 m - 5 m 1 m - 3 m
Advisory	Tsunami advisory		-	20 cm - 1m



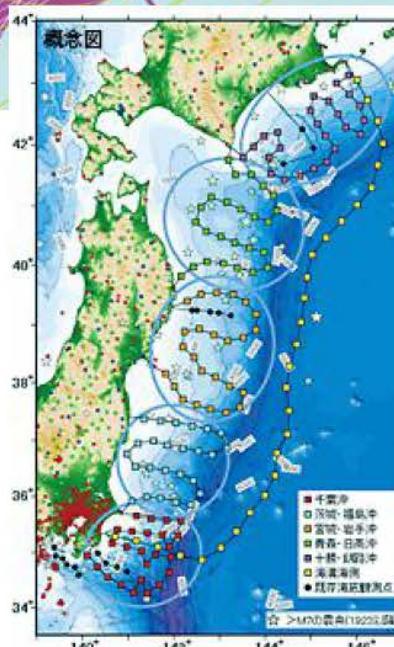
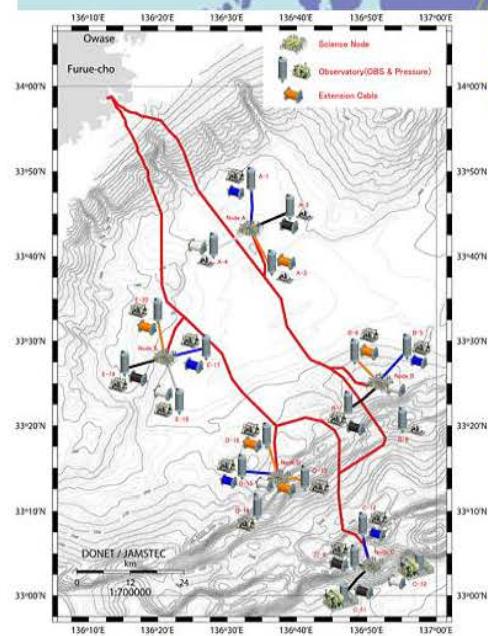
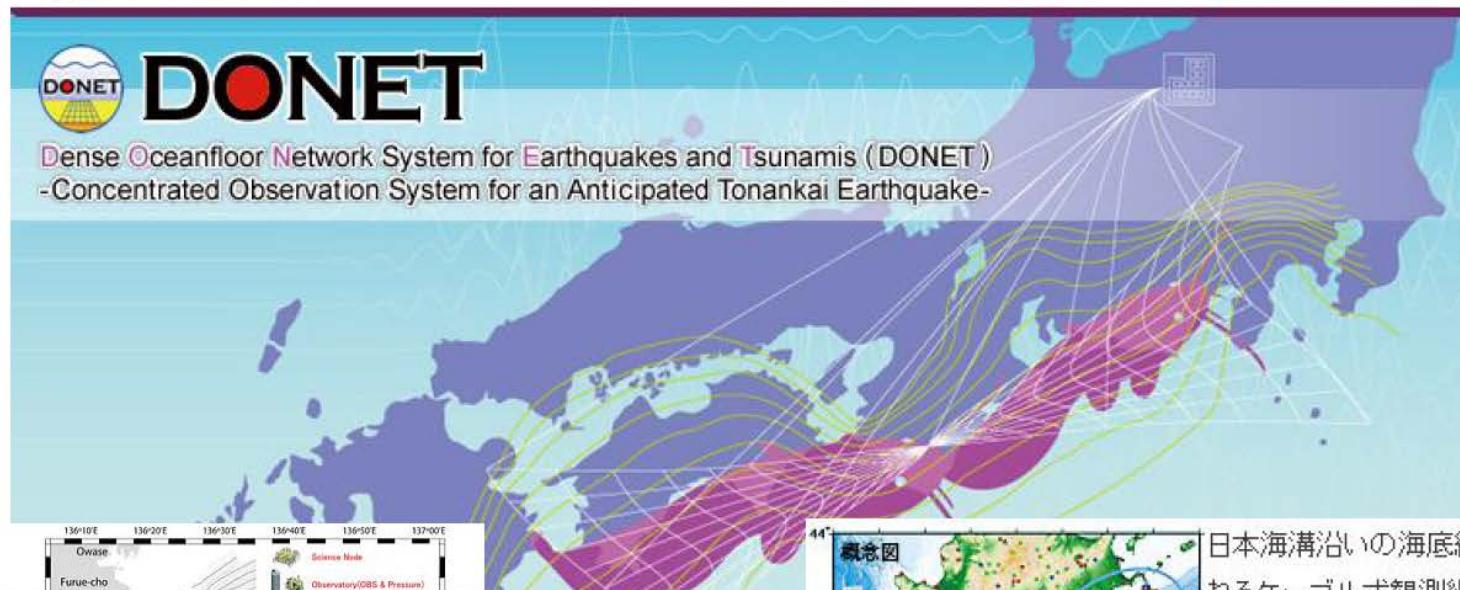
Source: JMA

# Advance observation technology



[Japanese](#)

[Contact Us](#)



 **NIED** 独立行政法人 防災科学技術研究所  
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention

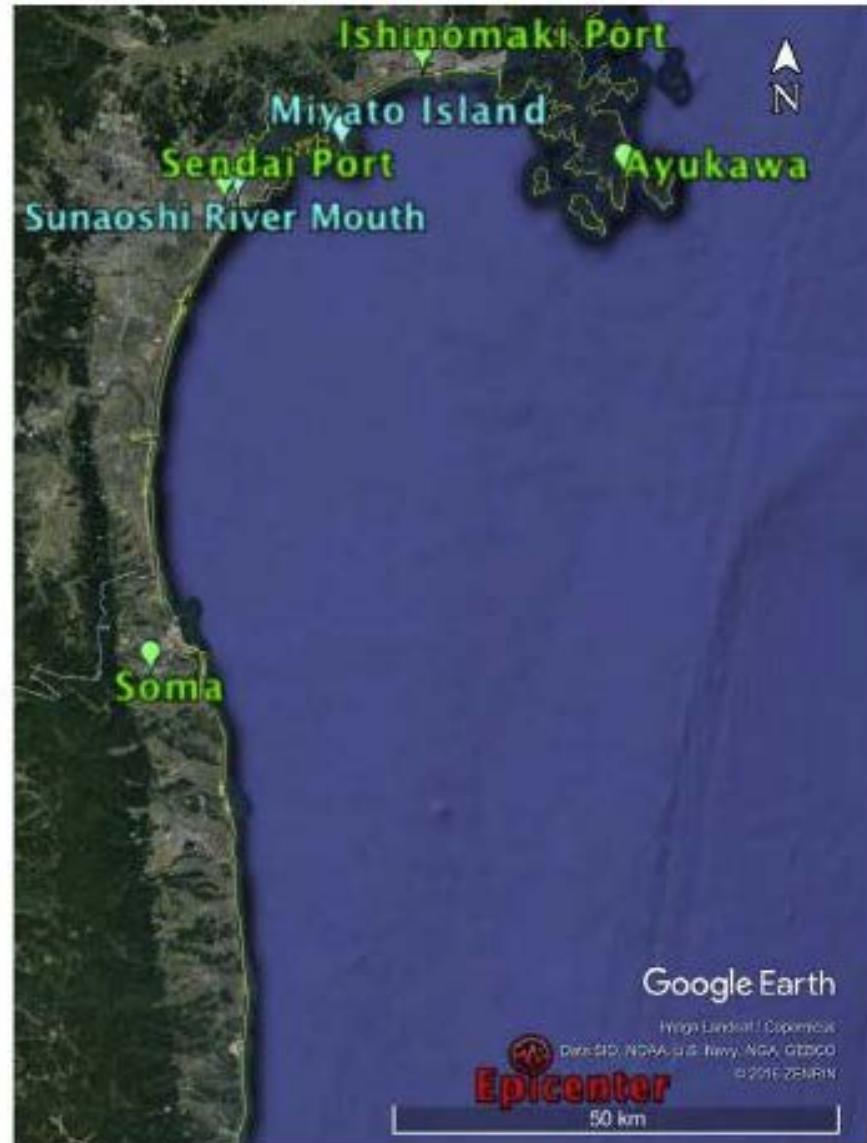
[http://www.bosai.go.jp/activity\\_special/the\\_third/ev/earthvol-04.html](http://www.bosai.go.jp/activity_special/the_third/ev/earthvol-04.html)

<http://www.jamstec.go.jp/jamstec-e/maritec/donet/index.html>

# Characteristics of the 2016 Fukushima tsunami

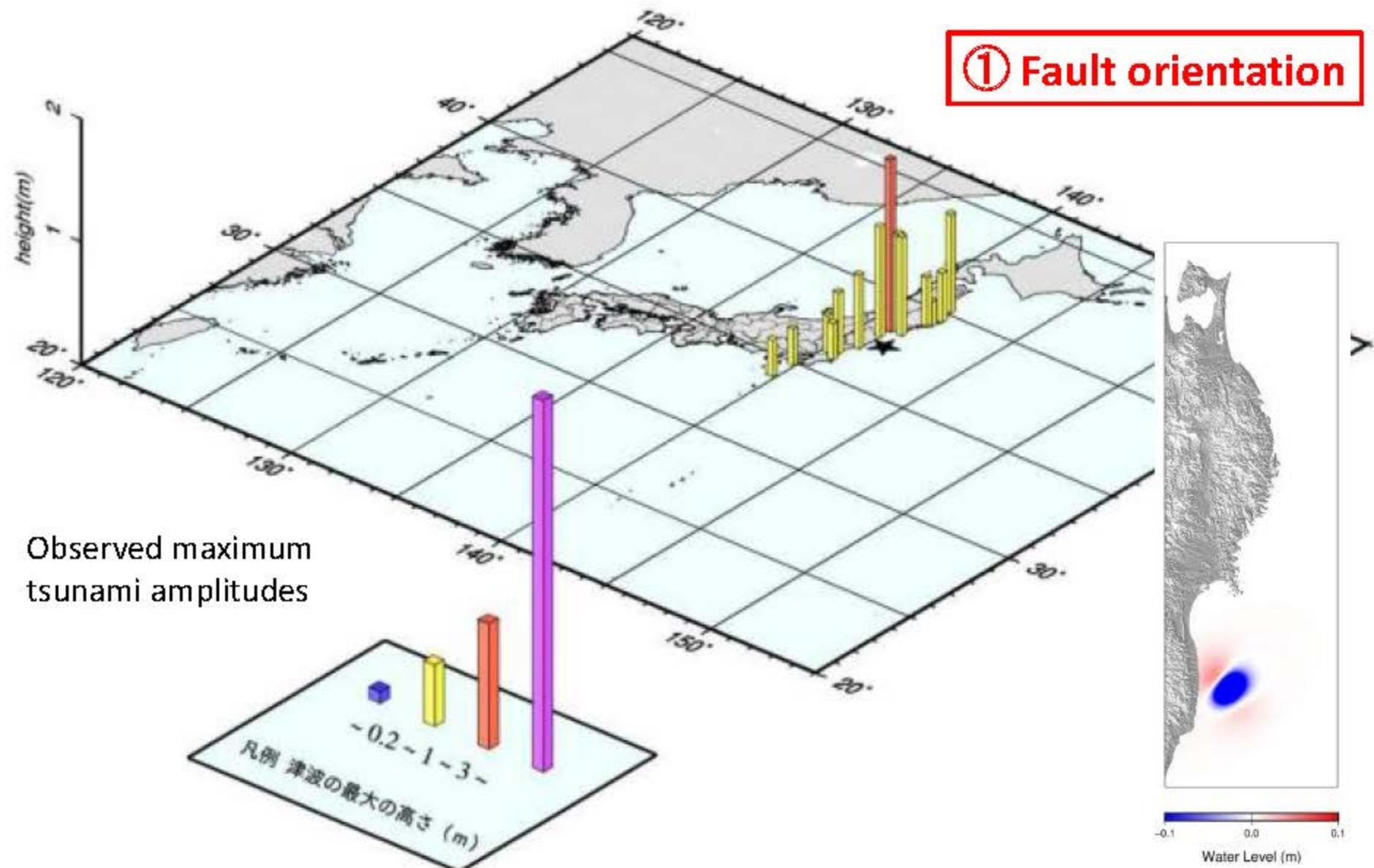
- ① The highest observed tsunami was in Sendai
- ② The second wave was the largest
- ③ Tsunami threat level was elevated from “advisory” to “warning”
- ④ Local runup was higher than the observed amplitude
- ⑤ Tsunami intrusion into rivers
- ⑥ Tsunami warning and broadcasting

# ① The highest observed tsunami was in Sendai

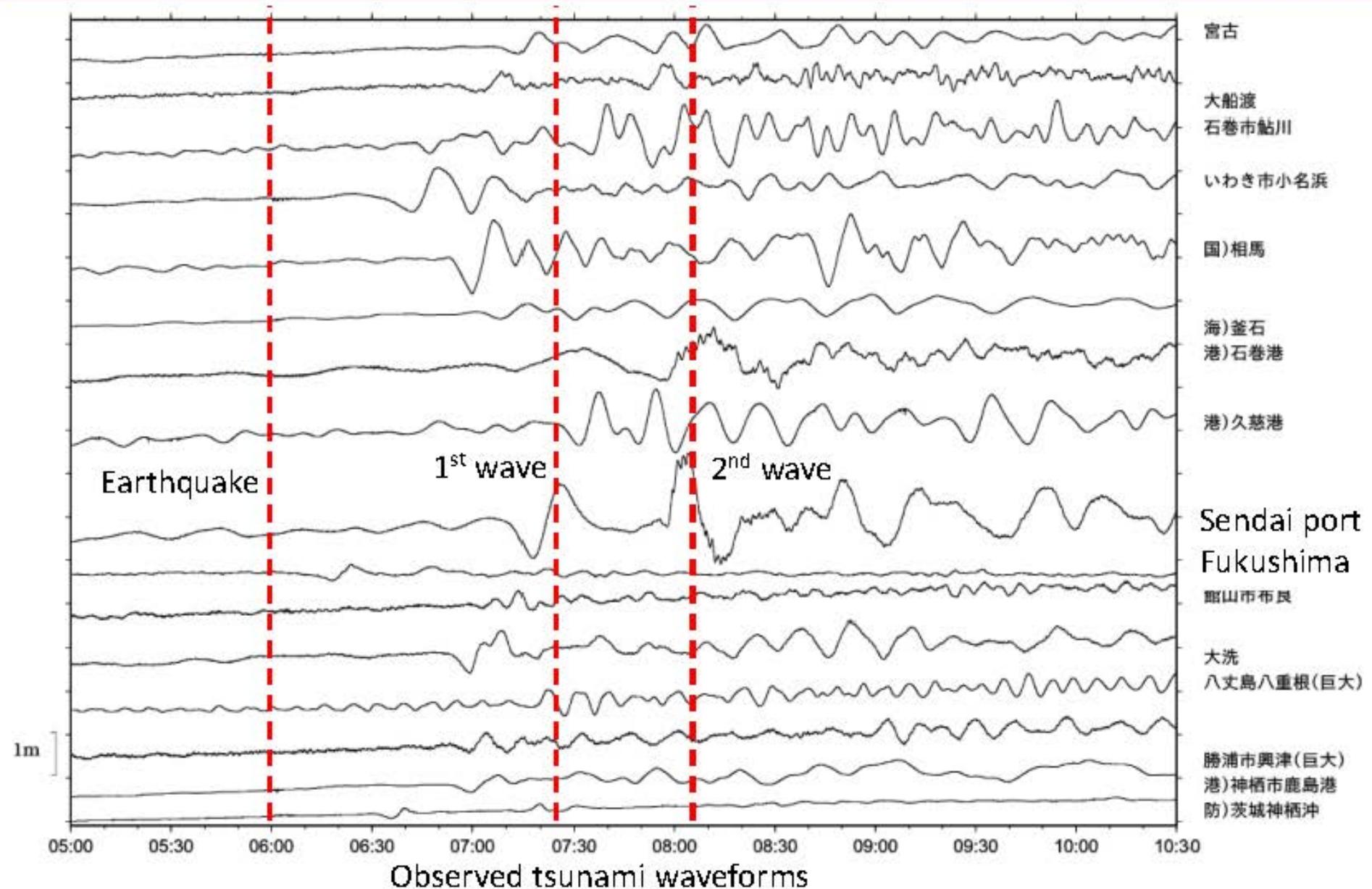


Locations of study area, tide gauges and surveyed areas

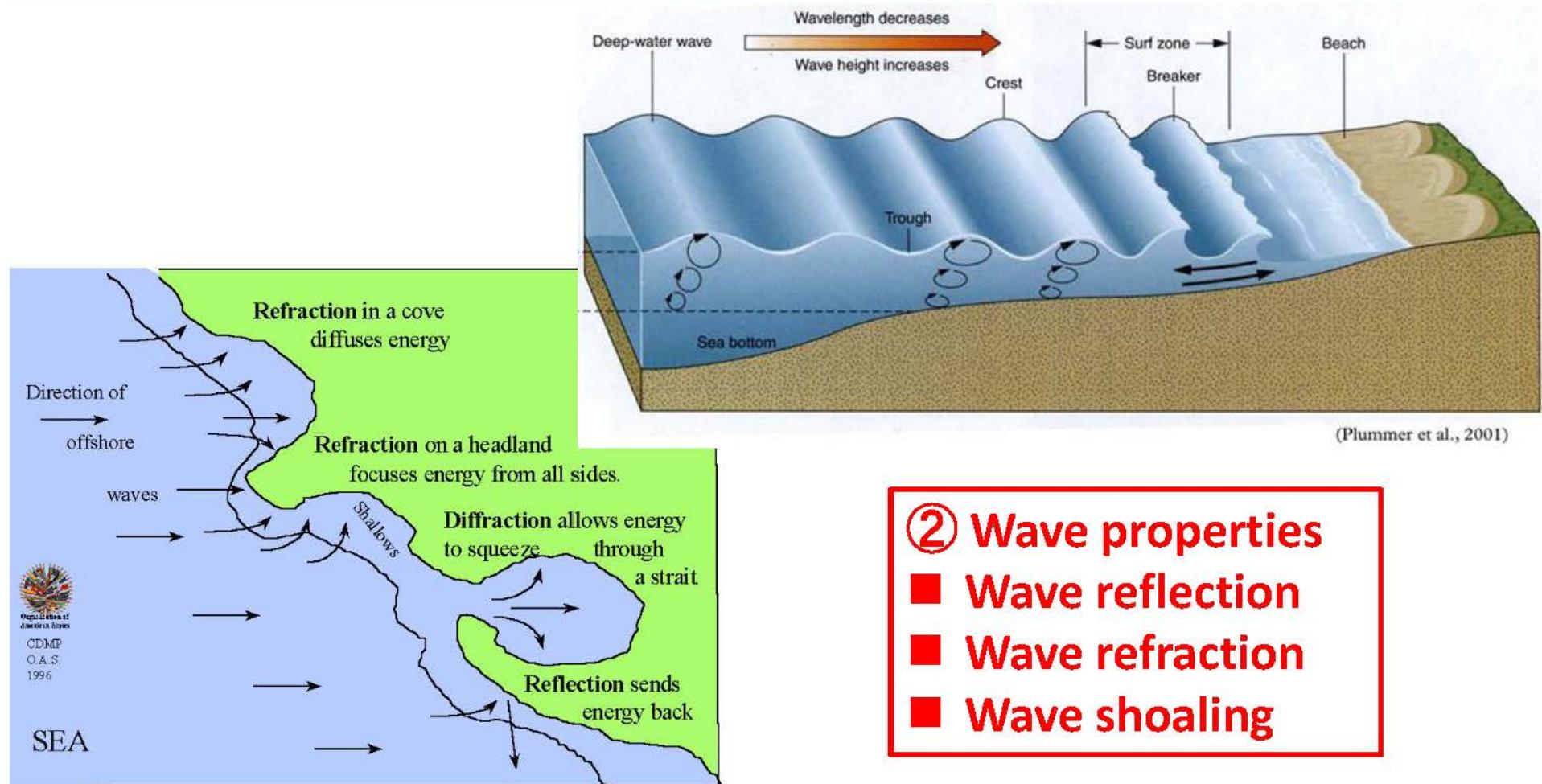
# ① The highest observed tsunami was in Sendai



## ② The second wave was the largest



## ② The second wave was the largest

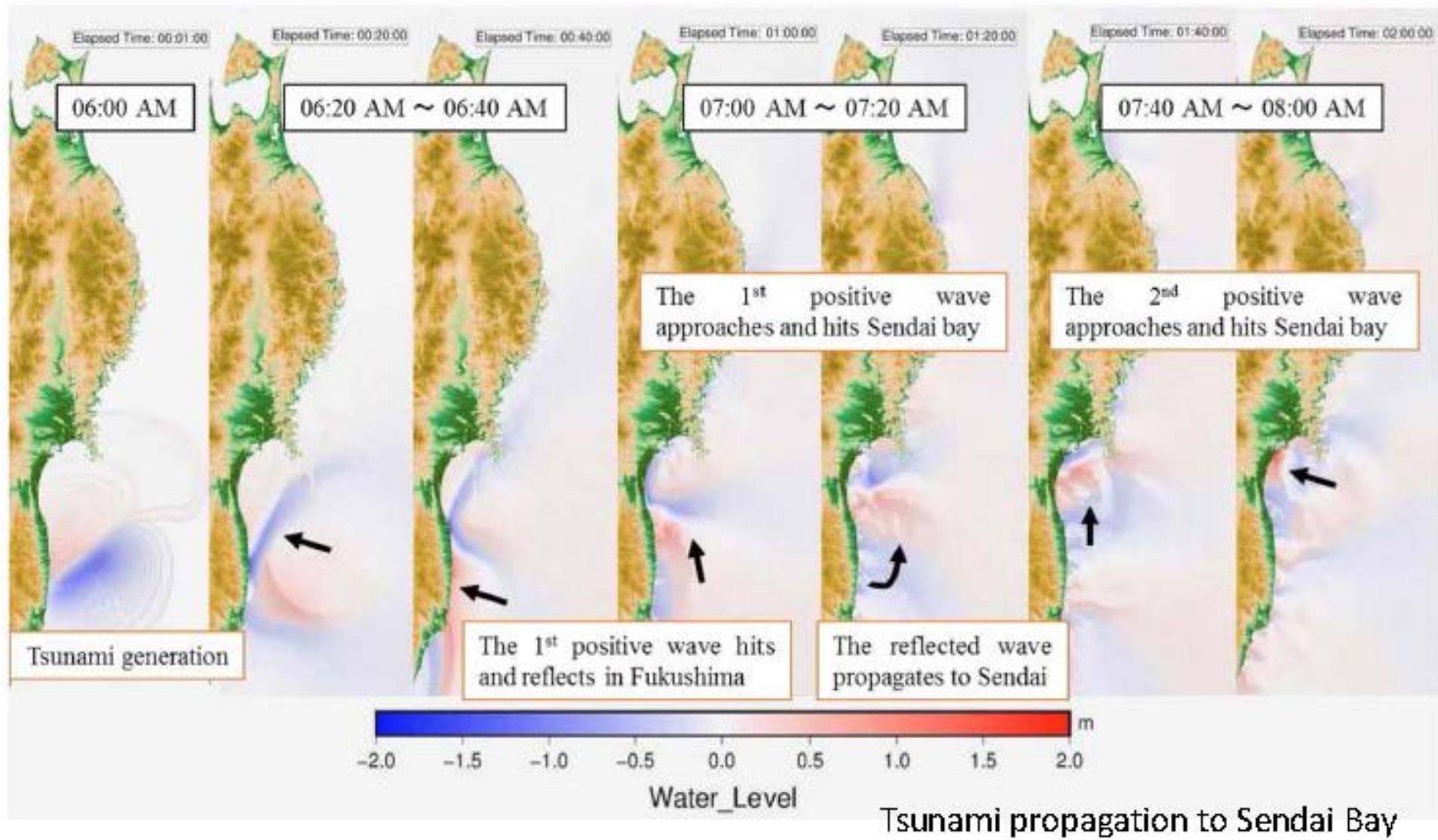


### ② Wave properties

- Wave reflection
- Wave refraction
- Wave shoaling

In addition to the fault orientation, which focused the tsunami into Sendai Bay, wave reflection and refraction were other contributors. Sendai Bay is a very shallow (average water depth is less than 50 m) and wide bay. Due to this coastal topography, the waves are amplified due to wave shoaling and refraction inside the bay. Also, superposition of the incoming and reflected waves from the Fukushima coast played a role.

## ② The second wave was the largest



③ Tsunami threat level was elevated from “advisory” to “warning”

津波予報区	発表時刻			
	22日06時02分	22日07時26分	22日08時09分	22日09時46分
青森県太平洋沿岸	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報	若干の海面変動
岩手県	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報
Miyagi Prefecture	津波注意報	津波注意報	Tsunami	津波注意報
Fukushima Prefecture	Tsunami warning		warning	津波注意報
Ibaraki Prefecture	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報
千葉県九十九里・外房	津波注意報	津波注意報	津波注意報	若干の海面変動
千葉県内房	若干の海面変動	津波注意報	津波注意報	若干の海面変動
伊豆諸島	若干の海面変動	津波注意報	津波注意報	若干の海面変動

Status of the tsunami warnings and advisories

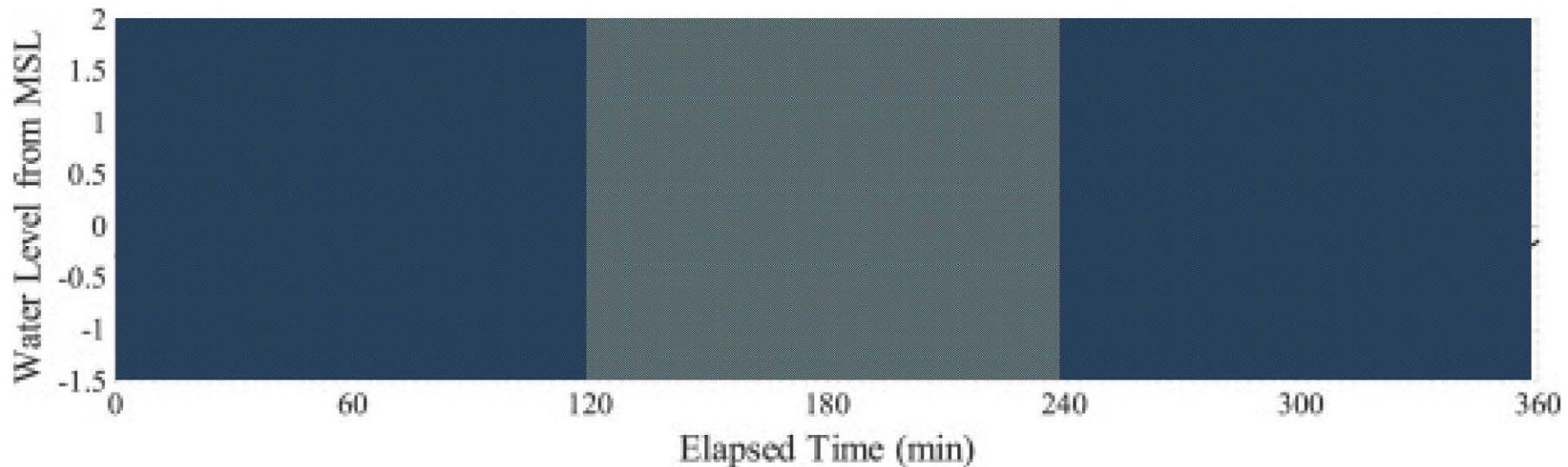
- ③ Tsunami threat level was elevated from “advisory” to “warning”

## Change in Tsunami Warning System classification with the establishment of Emergency Warnings

Before Meteorological Service Act amendment		After Meteorological Service Act amendment	
Major Tsunami Warning	Warning	Emergency Warning	Major Tsunami Warning
Tsunami Warning	Warning	Warning	Tsunami Warning
Tsunami Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Tsunami Advisory
Tsunami Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Tsunami Forecast

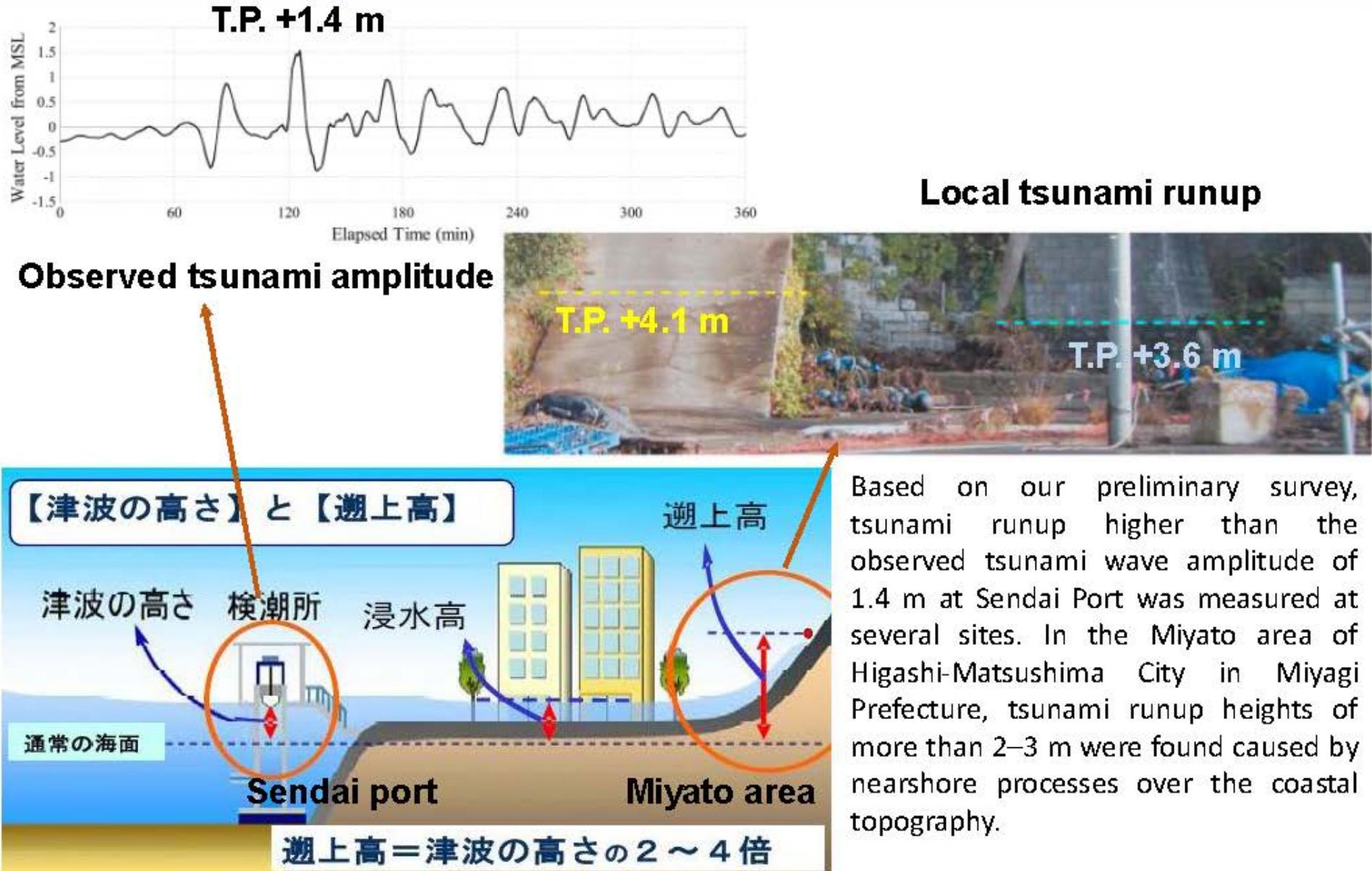
The diagram illustrates the change in Tsunami Warning System classification after the Meteorological Service Act amendment. A large green arrow points from left to right, indicating the transition between the two systems. The 'Before' system (left) has four levels: Major Tsunami Warning (purple), Tsunami Warning (pink), Tsunami Advisory (yellow), and Tsunami Forecast (light blue). The 'After' system (right) has three levels: Emergency Warning (red), Tsunami Warning (pink), and Tsunami Forecast (light blue). The 'Warning' and 'Advisory' levels have been merged into a single 'Warning' level in the 'After' system. The 'Forecast' level remains the same. Vertical dashed lines separate the 'Before' and 'After' sections. In the 'Before' section, horizontal dashed lines indicate threshold levels: 'Over 3 m' separates Major Tsunami Warning from Tsunami Warning; 'Over 1 m' separates Tsunami Warning from Tsunami Advisory; and '20 cm' separates Tsunami Advisory from Tsunami Forecast. In the 'After' section, these thresholds are reduced to '3 m', '1 m', and 'No tsunami' respectively.

### ③ Tsunami threat level was elevated from “advisory” to “warning”



1. When a tsunami with the height ranging from 20 cm to 1 m is expected, a tsunami advisory is issued (indicated by a yellow color; advisory).
2. When a tsunami is expected to be between 1 m and 3 m, a tsunami warning is issued (indicated by a red color; warning).
3. If a tsunami is expected to be greater than 3 m, a major tsunami warning is issued (indicated by a purple color; emergency warning).

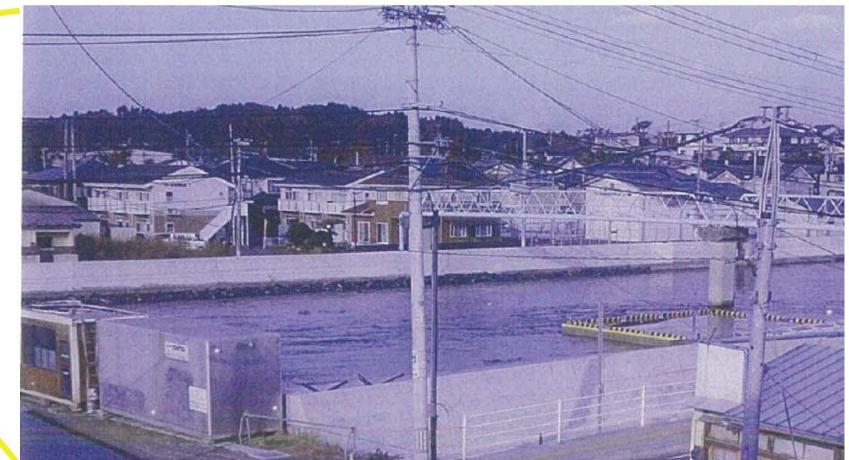
## ④ Local runup was higher than the observed amplitude



## ⑤ Tsunami intrusion into rivers



This phenomenon was clearly observed at Sunaoshi River in Tagajo City, where the tsunami propagated over 3 km into the river. The tsunami speed is estimated to be about 14 km/s and the maximum rising of the river level reached 0.9 m (0.6–0.7 m above the normal level).



## ⑥ Tsunami warning and broadcasting



In contrast to the calm voice used during the 2011 tsunami, terms such as “Evacuate immediately！”, “Tsunami! Evacuate！”, etc. were used to warn people to evacuate from locations expected to be hit by the tsunami. Also, some phases such as “Please remember the Great East Japan Earthquake and move to higher ground”, were used to remind the audience of the 2011 devastation. The warnings were also released in Chinese and Korean languages.

# World Tsunami Awareness Day

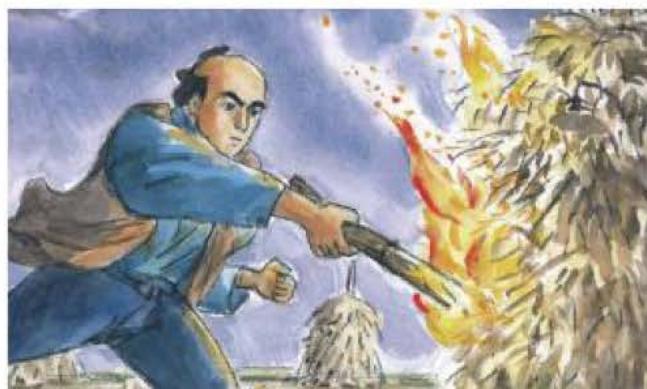
**WORLD  
TSUNAMI  
AWARENESS  
5 NOVEMBER DAY  
2016**



In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.

World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

The date for the annual celebration was chosen in honor of the Japanese story of “Inamura-no-hi”, meaning the “burning of the rice sheaves”. During an 1854 earthquake a farmer saw the tide receding, a sign of a looming tsunami. He set fire to his entire harvest to warn villagers, who fled to high ground. Afterwards, he built an embankment and planted trees as a buffer against future waves.



Goryo setting fire to his rice shaves

