

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

## CBRM Database

<b>Date:</b>	<b>02/16/2010</b>	<b>Entry Number:</b>	<b>1052</b>
<b>Case Study Name:</b>	The role of community-based organization in the promotion of disaster preparedness at the community level; A case study of a coastal town in the kochi prefecture of the Shikoku region, Japan		
<b>Authors:</b>	Mimaki, J., Y. Takeuchi, and R. Shaw		
<b>Document Type:</b>	paper in scientific journal		
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<b>Region:</b>	Central and Eastern Asia		
<b>Country:</b>	Japan		
<b>Ecosystem Type:</b>	coastal marine		
<b>Social Characteristics:</b>	disaster-prone community		
<b>Scale of Study:</b>	district/municipality		
<b>Resource Type:</b>			
<b>Type of Initiative:</b>	Research-driven project		
<b>Community-Based Work:</b>	monitoring, human health		
<b>Keywords:</b>	Rural coastal area, social capital, disaster preparedness at community level, voluntary disaster, preparedness		

	organization, Japan
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The Japanese rural coastal areas are inherently vulnerable to typhoons and tsunamis. Their vulnerability has been further increasing recently, in part due to social factors such as the aging of society and depopulation. Following the Kobe earthquake of 1995, the Japanese government has promoted the Voluntary Disaster Preparedness Organization (VDPO) to build communities that are more sustainable and resilient to natural disasters. However, studies indicate that some VDPO activity has stagnated. The present study focuses on a rural coastal area in Japan and examines whether VDPO impacts residents' awareness of disaster preparedness and also examines ties among the community. The study relies on a questionnaire survey. It reveals that VDPO contributes to improving both awareness of disaster preparedness and ties in the community.</p>