How was disaster Information Distributed through Broadcasting in the Great East Japan Earthquake?

Taikichi SAKAI NHK News Department Head of NHK Disaster and Safety Information Center

# NHK broadcasting for saving lives and properties

4 television	3 radio
channels	channels
General (GTV) Educational (ETV) Satellite 1 (BS1) Satellite Premium(BSP)	AM1(R1) AM2(R2) FM

All NHK channels will be switched to emergency programs in the case of a huge disaster.
 NHK continue emergency programs all day, suspending normal programs.

# The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011.3.11)

NHK Reported the disaster
24 hours for 1 week since March 11.
GTV channel continued
572 hours for 1 month.
(1995 Great Kobe Earthquake : 273 hours)













## Earthquake Early Warning System

#### **TV 4 channels** (GTV,ETV,BS1,BSP) ◆RADIO 3 channels (R1, R2, FM) **All over Japan Chime & Scripts**

The state of the second second



## Earthquake Early Warning System

## Started in Oct. 2007 Before 3/11 17 times After 3/11 108 times No panic occurred with warnings



## NHK original sound for Earthquake Early Warning

• NHK developed original sound for Earthquake Early Warning with specialists.



 Call attention to strong tremors and encourage evacuation.
 Unique sound never exist

3) Easy to hear for everyone



**Call for evacuation** 

## **Emergency Warning System**

#### NHK will transmit emergency warning signal in 3 emergency cases.

 Declaration of the Great TOKAI earthquake prediction
 Warning of large-scale tsunamis
 Request by governors or mayors

**OTV & radio will be automatically activated by the signal.** 

Ocarried out 21 times since 1985. All of them for tsunamis.







## Improvement of Tsunami Warning Maps

 Tsunami Warning Map wasn't easily identified by people with color-vision defects.
 NHK changed colors of map with specialists of the Color Universal Design Organization.
 All commercial broadcasters use same colors.

#### **Before**



After

## NHK broadcasting in 3-11

March 11, 2011

All 7 channels (TV, Radio) has been broadcasted same emergency program for 40 minutes since the quake occurred.

March 11-13

All 7 channels (TV, Radio) broadcasted each special programs about the disaster.

Earthquakes & tsunamis
 Damages
 Situation of Fukushima nuclear plants
 Traffics
 Utilities
 Information of missing persons
 etc.



## Information of missing persons



From 6:45 pm on March 11 to 18



## From March 14 to 18

Broadcasting lists of evacuees on TV

Person finder systems on data broadcasting & website

## Information for disaster victims

## ETV, BS1,BS2

 Various information for disaster victims through nationwide and local broadcasting

Location of evacuation center
 Emergency supplies (water, foods etc.)
 Medical service
 Traffic (railways, highways etc.)

### **Voices of disaster victims**

## Broadcasting voices of people from disaster-hit area.



What kind of things we need now. What kind of difficulties we have now.

## **Broadcasting for the handicapped**

Superimpose subtitles on screen in emergency news & disaster-related programs.
 Broadcast sign language news program fourth a day (usually twice).
 Live-broadcast of the Prime Minister press conference with sign language.



## **Broadcasting for foreign people**

Multi-language Broadcast (TV second sound channel, R2)

## O Tsunami warning

**Emergency broadcast in 4 language** (English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese)

News simultaneous interpretation
 (English)



## **Broadcasting for foreign people**

www.ninkers.le/inhkworld/



English broadcast in TV second sound channel **OSupply disaster-related contents** to local cable television stations. O Provide information on website in 17 languages



#### Lessons from 3-11

Near 20,000 people dead or missing

Death-rate per population 1.03%
 Handicapped 2.06%
 (Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima prefecture)

We have been asked to ourselves "Why we couldn't save more people?"

## Lesson from 3.11

# NHK reviewed 3-11 disaster broadcasting and improve our performance and systems.

#### Reinforce broadcasting systems

against for next major quakes.

- <u>Back-up & Redundancy</u> to continue broadcasting
- Improve announce comments to early evacuation
- Provide various information with all channels.

## **Broadcast for hazard mitigation**

## Improvement for media accessibility

Superimpose subtitles in live and local programs by automatic speech recognition technologies.

• Audio description in second sound broadcasting.

Increase sign language programs in disasters.

## Improvement for media accessibility

## "NHK NEWS WEB EASY" Started in April 2012.

Easy Japanese language news site for children & foreign people living in Japan.



# Information can save lives.

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