## **Chapter 1**

# The Status of Information and Communications related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

### Section 1 Summary of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

The earthquake that occurred in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture at 4:10 p.m. on January 1, 2024, with a magnitude of 7.6 and a depth of 16 km, caused widespread damage. The cities of Wajima City and Shika Town experienced seismic intensity of 7, while Nanao City, Suzu City, Anamizu Town, and Noto Town experienced seismic intensity of 6 strong. Additionally, a tsunami of 80 cm was observed in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, and tsunamis were observed along the coast of the Sea of Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu. In the seismic activity area of this earthquake, 1,558 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 1 or higher were observed from 4:00 p.m. on January 1 to January 31.<sup>1</sup>

The earthquake resulted in 260 deaths, 3 missing persons, 1,314 people injured and significant damages to

evacuation shelters

123,808 homes (excluding undefined classification, etc.). There were extensive disruptions to utilities, including power outages for approximately 44,160 households and water supply interruptions for approximately 136,440 households (as of May 28).<sup>2</sup>

The Noto region, which suffered significant damage, is characterized by low mountains and hilly terrain, leading to significant disruptions in transportation networks, hindering relief and recovery efforts. There were 440 occurrences of landslides, and many major roads leading to the northern part of the Noto Peninsula became impassable, resulting in the isolation of 33 areas (with a maximum of 3,345 people) as of January 5 (all resolved by February 13).<sup>3</sup>

	ages			OLifeline damages			
	Death	Missing	Severely or slightly injured		Max. households	Status of recovery	
The number 260 3 1,314   OStatus of evacuation shelters				Electricity	Approximately 44,160	Hokuriku Electric Power Transmission & Distribution Company implements safety measures : Approximately	
Prefectur	е	The number of	The number of people in			270 households	

Water

supply

Approximately

136,440

#### Figure 1-1-1-1 Summary of the status of damages

### Ishikawa

Prefecture	House damage							
	Completely destroyed	Half destroyed	Flooding above floor	Flooding below floor	Partly damaged	Total		
Ishikawa	8,108	16,504	6	5	56,295	80,918		
Niigata	106	3,089		14	20,272	23,481		
Toyama	245	756			17,799	18,800		
Others		12			597	609		
Total	8,459	20,361	6	19	94,963	123,808		

252

evacuation shelters

3.319

\* The number of housing damage (number of disaster victim certificates issued) in Niigata City, as stated in the public documents of Niigata Prefecture, is not reflected in this table.

\* Information labeled as "unclassified" in the public information of Toyama Prefecture regarding housing damage is not reflected in this table.

\* The number of deaths in Ishikawa Prefecture is based on the public documents of Ishikawa Prefecture.

(Source) Prepared based on materials by the Cabinet Office etc.

Water outrage in

households

approximately 2,030

<sup>1</sup> According to the January 2024 Earthquake and Volcano Monthly Report (Disaster Prevention Edition) by the Japan Meteorological Agency, there was 1 earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7, 2 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 6 lower, 8 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 5 upper, 7 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 5 lower, 45 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 4, 159 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 3, 395 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 2, and 941 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 1. The number of earthquakes with a seismic intensity of 1 or higher may be revised based on subsequent investigations.

<sup>2</sup> Materials by the Cabinet Office etc.

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<sup>3</sup> Cabinet Office, Recovery and Reconstruction Support Headquarters (3rd meeting) (March 1, 2024) Handout <a href="https://www.bousai.go.jp/up-dates/r60101notojishin/pdf/r60101notojishin\_hukkyuhonbu03.pdf">https://www.bousai.go.jp/up-dates/r60101notojishin\_pdf/r60101notojishin\_hukkyuhonbu03.pdf</a>

In response to the disaster, the Japanese government established a "Special Disaster Response Headquarters" at 5:30 p.m. on January 1 immediately after the earthquake,<sup>4</sup> and based on the implementation policy regarding disaster emergency measures etc., various ministries collaborated to swiftly gather information, assess the extent of the damage, rescue people, prevent further damage, establish sanitary conditions in evacuation centers, secure essential supplies for evacuees, restore utilities and transportation, and provide accurate information to affected residents.<sup>5</sup>

The MIC also established a disaster response headquarters (Chaired by Director-General of Minister's Secretariat in the MIC) at 4:10 p.m. on the same day, and later upgraded it to an emergency disaster response headquarters (Chaired by Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications) at 10:40 p.m., taking measures to assess the damage, provide emergency response, and implement recovery measures.

The earthquake had a significant impact on the infor-

mation and communication infrastructure, causing disruptions in communication networks and power outages, affecting the use of smartphones and other communication devices, and leading to the suspension of television broadcasts in the Hokuriku region.

Efforts were made by telecommunication companies, local governments, and government agencies to restore the information and communication infrastructure through the use of mobile power sources, and in addition to the television and radio, social media platforms were utilized for confirming the safety of individuals and providing support to disaster victims. However, challenges arose, including the circulation and dissemination of so-called dis-/misinformation mainly on social media.

Although the situation continues to evolve, this report aims to document the role of information and communication in the response to the earthquake based on the situation up to May 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Elevated to emergency disaster response headquarters at 10:40 p.m. on January 1.

<sup>5</sup> https://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/r60101notojishin/pdf/r60101notojishin\_kaigi01.pdf