

Disaster Preparation in Japanese and UK SMEs Survey Overview

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地震の履歴一覧			
56002件中1~100件を表示しています。		[次の100件]	
▼ 発生時刻	震源地	マグニチュード	最大震度
2026年5月23日 1時54分ごろ	岩手県沖	4.4	2
2026年5月22日 21時40分ごろ	栃木県南部	3.7	1
2026年5月22日 15時22分ごろ	留萌地方中北部	3.4	2
2026年5月22日 1時33分ごろ	伊勢湾	3.2	1
2026年5月22日 0時23分ごろ	豊後水道	3.5	2
2026年5月21日 17時07分ごろ	福島県会津	1.5	1
2026年5月21日 13時20分ごろ	宮城県沖	3.9	2
2026年5月21日 10時11分ごろ	トカラ列島近海	3.7	3
2026年5月21日 6時27分ごろ	茨城県沖	3.7	1
2026年5月21日 1時08分ごろ	京都府南部	2.4	1
2026年5月21日 0時23分ごろ	千葉県東方沖	3.5	1
2026年5月20日 15時12分ごろ	福島県沖	3.8	1
2026年5月20日 11時46分ごろ	沖縄本島近海	5.9	5強
2026年5月20日 7時08分ごろ	和歌山県南部	3.2	1
2026年5月20日 2時29分ごろ	奄美大島近海	3.8	1
2026年5月19日 19時35分ごろ	トカラ列島近海	2.8	2
2026年5月19日 19時23分ごろ	青森県東方沖	4.1	1
2026年5月19日 13時03分ごろ	トカラ列島近海	2.2	1
2026年5月19日 5時14分ごろ	福島県中通り	3.2	1
2026年5月19日 2時04分ごろ	三陸沖	4.6	1
2026年5月18日 15時19分ごろ	宮城県沖	4.0	2
2026年5月18日 8時36分ごろ	西表島付近	2.8	1
2026年5月18日 8時24分ごろ	西表島付近	4.4	2
2026年5月18日 8時21分ごろ	西表島付近	4.6	3
2026年5月18日 2時27分ごろ	茨城県沖	2.9	1
2026年5月17日 18時02分ごろ	岩手県沖	3.7	1
2026年5月17日 11時42分ごろ	宮城県沖	4.2	2
2026年5月17日 9時07分ごろ	三陸沖	4.9	2
2026年5月17日 5時55分ごろ	鹿児島県薩摩地方	2.8	2
2026年5月17日 5時22分ごろ	鹿児島県薩摩地方	2.6	1
2026年5月17日 4時25分ごろ	島根県東部	2.9	1
2026年5月17日 1時09分ごろ	西表島付近	3.0	1
2026年5月16日 12時29分ごろ	紀伊水道	2.8	2
2026年5月16日 7時27分ごろ	岐阜県飛騨地方	3.5	2
2026年5月16日 3時55分ごろ	大阪府北部	2.1	1
2026年5月15日 20時22分ごろ	宮城県沖	6.3	5弱
2026年5月15日 20時21分ごろ	父島近海	4.7	1
2026年5月15日 19時23分ごろ	島根県東部	2.8	1
2026年5月15日 12時09分ごろ	青森県津軽南部	3.4	3
2026年5月15日 8時23分ごろ	茨城県沖	3.3	1
2026年5月15日 0時34分ごろ	硫黄島近海	6.0	3

Earthquake Situation in Japan May 16th - May 23rd

From left: Time of occurrence, Epicenter, Magnitude, Maximum seismic intensity

Maximum seismic intensity=5 or higher

This level is difficult to walk without holding onto something. Many dishes and books fall from shelves. Televisions may fall off their stands. Concrete block walls may collapse.

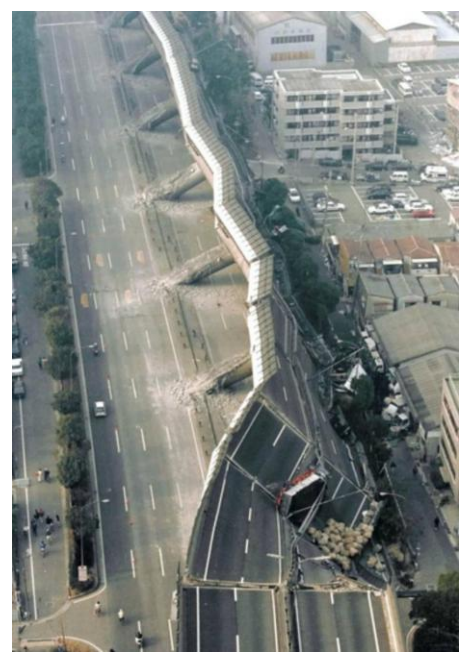
<https://typhoon.yahoo.co.jp/weather/jp/earthquake/list/>

Japan is a Disaster-prone Country

earthquakes

- Of all major earthquakes occurring worldwide, 20% occur in Japan.
- M6 or larger earthquakes have repeatedly occurred throughout history.
- Tsunamis and fires often occur simultaneously.

1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (M7.3) / 6,434 deaths, 43,792 injured
2011 Great East Japan Earthquake (M9.0)
and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster / 19,775 deaths, 2,550 missing
2014 Kumamoto Earthquake (M6.5) / 252 deaths, 2,720 injured
2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake (M7.6) / 723 deaths



Japan is a Disaster-prone Country

Typhoons and Floods

- Fundamentally a warm and humid climate
- 70% of the land area is mountainous with steep rivers
- Urban development and climate change are worsening the damage.

1959 Ise Bay Typhoon / 4,697 deaths, 401 missing
Approximately 10 typhoons make landfall each year.
Typhoons are getting stronger year by year.



Recent Major Flood Damage (Selected Cases)

In July **2020**, record-breaking rainfall caused river flooding and landslides in the **Kyushu region** (including **Kumamoto and Kagoshima**). Approximately 77 people were killed or reported missing, and damage to homes and other areas was widespread, making this a disaster with significant human and social impact.

From late June to early July **2018**, record-breaking heavy rains hit western Japan, causing large numbers of river floods and landslides in **Hiroshima, Okayama, Ehime**, and other areas. Over 200 people were killed or missing, and damage to homes and economic losses were extensive, making this one of Japan's largest natural disasters in recent history.

From late June to early July **2017**, localized heavy rains, mainly in **Fukuoka and Oita** prefectures, were caused by the rainy season front and typhoons. Landslides and flooding resulted in approximately 40 deaths, damage to homes, and large numbers of evacuees.

In September **2015**, a low-pressure system that evolved from a typhoon brought heavy rain to the **Kanto and Tohoku** regions, causing large-scale flooding damage, particularly when the Kinugawa River levee collapsed. Houses were completely destroyed and flooded, resulting in evacuation across the country.

Japan is a Disaster-prone Country

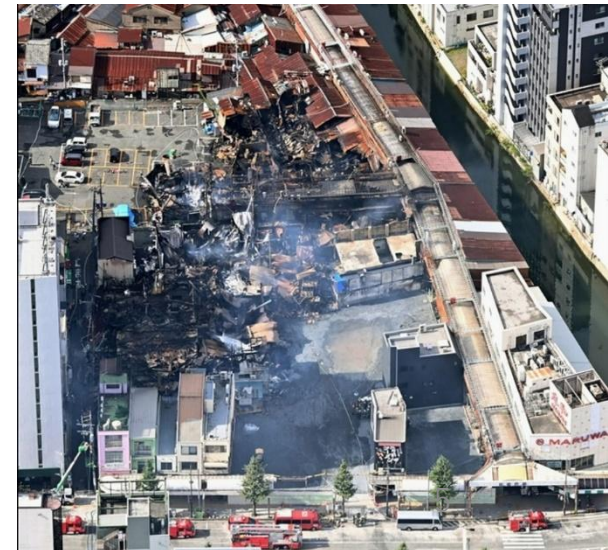
Fire

- Wooden structures are predominant.
- Densely built houses and shops facilitate fire spread.
- Large-scale forest fires also occur.



In November 2025, a large-scale fire broke out in Oita City, destroying 187 buildings.

2022 April and August Kitakyushu city
Tanga Market Fire 87 stores burned down



There are many proverbs related to disaster preparedness.

「Lightning is only feared after it strikes.」

You realize its danger only after it strikes—early evacuation is essential.

「A stitch in time saves nine.」

It is crucial to take precautions before major damage occurs.

Disaster-related laws

Basic Act on Disaster Management (1961)

- Law establishing the basic framework for disaster management.
- Companies are designated as entities responsible for disaster prevention activities.
- Encouraged companies to formulate Business Continuity Plans (BCP).

Act on Special Financial Assistance for Large-Scale Disasters (1962)

- A law defining financial support (credit insurance, loans, etc.) for small and medium-sized enterprises affected by disasters.
- The law now clearly states that small and medium-sized enterprises must maintain social and economic activity during disasters.

SME Resilience Enhancement Act (2019)

- Considering the impact on the supply chain
- Strengthening the development of BCPs (Business Continuity Plans) for SMEs
- 83,099 BCPs certified by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (June 2025)
- Several incentives available

Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Enhancement Plan Certification System

This system was newly established under the Small and Medium Enterprise Resilience Act. The government (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) certifies plans compiled by SMEs outlining disaster prevention and mitigation measures as "Business Continuity Enhancement Plans."

Target: SMEs and small businesses

Content: Plans outlining preventative measures for natural disasters and infectious diseases

Type: Standalone type (formulated by a single company), Collaborative type (formulated by multiple companies working together)

Key items to include in the plan

- Methods for identifying natural disaster risks using hazard maps, etc.
- Initial response procedures, such as safety confirmation and evacuation, in the event of a disaster
- Implementation of advance training for personnel, equipment protection, financing, and information protection
- Efforts to ensure effectiveness, such as reviewing the plan

Benefits of Certification

- Tax Benefits/Special Depreciation for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Capital Investments
- Financial Support: Low-interest loans and expanded guarantees from public financial institutions
- Additional Points for Subsidies
- Additional Points for Manufacturing Subsidies, Sustainability Subsidies, and IT Implementation Subsidies
- Use of the Certification Logo

Among regional Japanese SMEs Survey on Disaster Preparedness

[Survey Overview]

Method: Interviews (approximately 60 minutes)

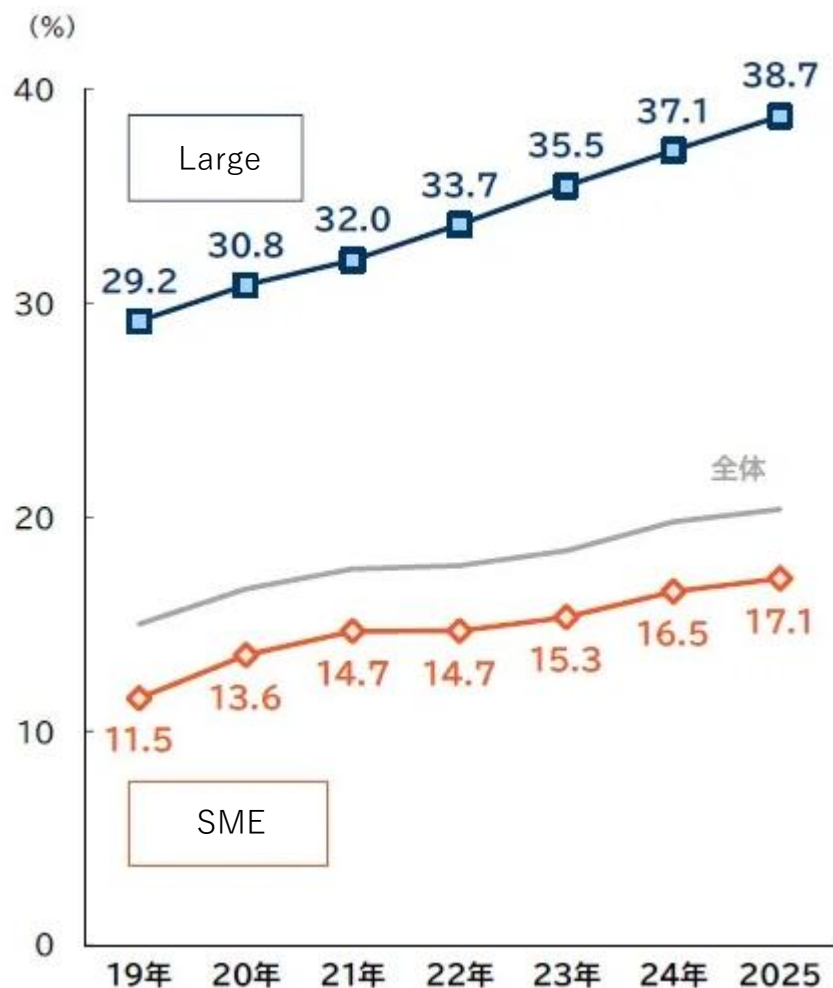
Target: 10 small and medium-sized enterprises in the Kitakyushu and Chikugo regions

Period: March–April 2026

[Interview Questions]

- Company overview, business details
- Have you implemented disaster prevention measures? (Yes/No)
- Reasons and background
- Have you developed a business continuity plan? (Yes/No)
- Reasons and background
- Whether or not you have implemented employee training on disaster prevention measures, and the details
- Other challenges in implementing disaster prevention measures

BCP implementation rate



- According to a survey by Teikoku Databank, the BCP implementation rate among SMEs is 17.1%, a significant difference compared to large companies.
- Due to increased risk awareness and rising damage, the trend is upward.

Definition of SMEs

- | | |
|--|--|
| ① Manufacturing, Construction, etc.
Capital: 300 million yen or less
or Number of Employees: 300 or less | ③ Retail
Capital: 50 million yen or less
or Number of Employees: 50 or less |
| ② Wholesale
Capital: 100 million yen or less
or Number of Employees: 100 or less | ④ Service Industry
Capital: 50 million yen or less
or Number of Employees: 100 or less |

Survey area



- This 10 SMEs located in a region spanning three inland areas
- Mountainous terrain
- The Chikugo River and Onga River, major rivers, flow through the area.
- High rainfall, with frequent occurrence of linear rainbands
- Relatively few earthquakes

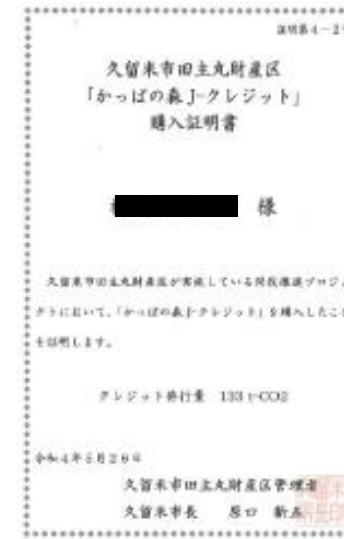


Companies surveyed

Com.	Region	Main Industry	Main Business	Year Founded	Number of Employees	Interviewee Position
A	Chikugo	Printing	Printing, product packaging and label production	1968	680	Department Head
B	Chikuho	Manufacturing	Automotive parts manufacturing	1991	547	Department Head
C	Kitakyushu	Housing Construction	Condominium development and sales; housing construction and sales	1968	537	Department Head
D	Chikugo	Manufacturing	Industrial machinery manufacturing with domestic and overseas sales (50:50)	1948	300	Executive
E	Chikugo	Retail	Stationery sales, mobile phone sales, bakery, and diversified renewable energy businesses	1948	300	Executive
F	Chikugo	Manufacturing	Production of semiconductor equipment, industrial machinery, and medical components (export-oriented)	1972	184	President
G	Chikugo	Welfare Services	Operation of nursing care facilities with community-based management	2003	150	President
H	Chikugo	Retail	Community-based supermarket	1967	50	President
I	Chikugo	Services	Municipal waste collection (city contract)	1966	44	President
J	Chikuho	Advertising	Publication of locally focused free papers and government-oriented advertising services	2007	18	President

Examples A

- Printing Industry
- Founded in 1968, 680 employees
- Having experienced flood damage several times, they clearly recognize natural disasters as a business risk
- BCP (Business Continuity Plan) developed at the request of and with support from a non-life insurance company
- Achieved net-zero emissions through credit purchases
- Promoting the use of renewable energy in our factory
- Strongly driven by top management commitment
- Sustainability management guarantees competitive advantage and social contribution



FSC certification obtained

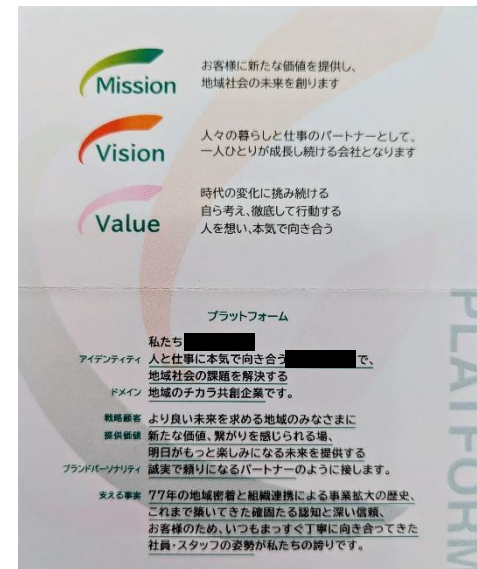
Carbon Credit Purchase Certificate

Examples E



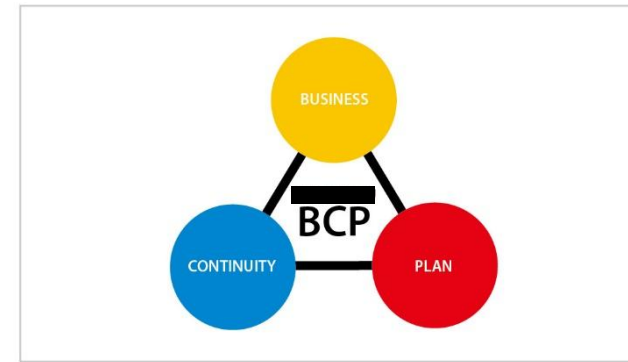
The new company building will be raised by 80 cm

MVV statement



- Diversified business centered on retail
- Founded in 1948, 300 employees
- "Management principles" have existed since the company's inception
- In recent years, the company has defined its mission, vision, and values, making them pillars of its management
- Its mission is to solve regional issues through business
- Experiences from several disasters have facilitated various responses
- New building is converted to a Zero Energy Building (ZEB) and elevated
- Engaged in solar power generation business

Examples F



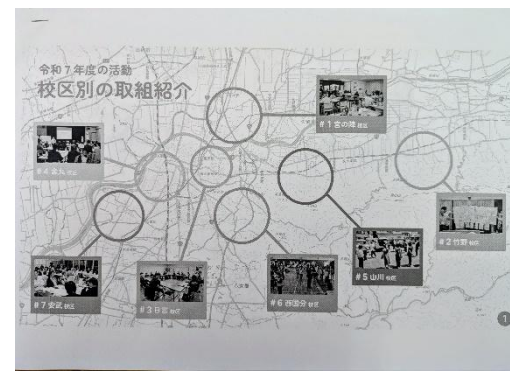
Positioning BCP at the heart of corporate management



Obtained SDGS certification

- Semiconductor equipment manufacturing
- Founded in 1972, 184 employees
- Strong demand from major semiconductor manufacturers, their main clients
- Recognized that promoting sustainability management is a competitive advantage
- Learned methodologies by participating in study sessions organized by local governments
- Integrated ISO 14001 management with sustainability management
- Top management strongly recognizes the necessity and importance of this and is actively promoting it.

Examples G



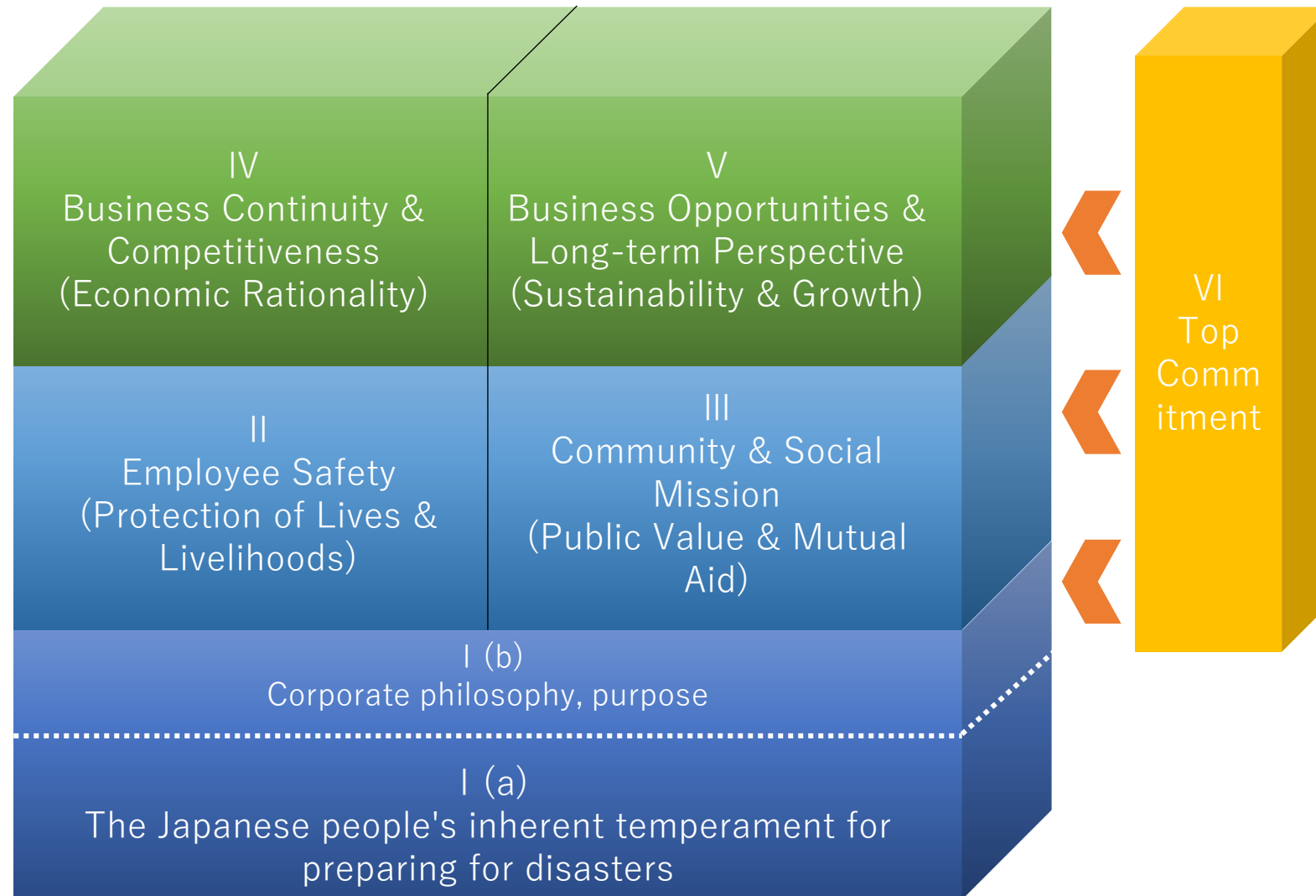
Supporting disaster prevention activities in each district



Disaster prevention drill (from RKB)

- Operation of care facilities for the elderly
- Founded in 2003, 150 employees
- The representative's personal experience related to the earthquake disaster provides a strong motivation for disaster prevention
- Protecting the lives of residents is the top priority
- A strong sense of mission as a community hub during disasters
- The representative has obtained the "Disaster Prevention Specialist" qualification and strongly promotes disaster prevention education in the local community
- Acknowledgment that mitigation measures are not sufficient

Reasons for SME Disaster Preparedness : Structure



Conclusion

Because Japan has experienced **frequent natural disasters** such as wind and flood damage and earthquakes since ancient times, the Japanese people have developed a **mindset** of being prepared for disasters.

Companies have a strong sense of being part of the **local community**, and they consider **contributing** to the community to be one of their business objectives.

Disaster response is carried out in response to strong requests from external stakeholders such as **business partners** and **supply chains**. It is recognized **as essential** or as a way to gain a **business advantage**.

Effective disaster response requires top **management commitment** and the incorporation of a clear **mission** definition into the organizational culture.