

The Preparation Stage

THE
LESSON 1

Preparation by Local Women Ensures Quick Response

Prompted by local officials in Sendai, women of all ages living in the city's Iwakiri neighborhood began to meet in 2010, sharing opinions and developing plans for disaster response from a women's perspective.

Discussions among the group's 20 members led to the "Iwakiri Women's Disaster Preparedness Proclamation," which urged women to plan their response in advance in order to react quickly to a disaster.

Issued only months before the 3/11 quake that struck Sendai and the surrounding Tohoku region, the proclamation is credited with heightening local awareness at a critical time, thereby helping to ensure quick and orderly evacuation.

Group members played important roles in ensuring that the special needs of women, children and seniors were met by local evacuation shelters.

Local women became deeply involved in heightening awareness of disaster planning.

