

3rd place



Nombulelo Kitsepile Ngulube

PhD candidate, Kyoto University,
Japan

Abstract

Citizen Engagement in Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction. Lessons from Kamaishi: Unosumai, 11 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake. A community perspective

Citizen engagement in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction initiatives has long been advocated for by numerous scholars and researchers, even though it still poses some unique opportunities and challenges in effectively implementing it on the ground. It's been 11 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake (GEJE), where the government called for a citizen-centered recovery and reconstruction process, and reconstruction in most areas in the Tohoku region has almost been concluded. Using preliminary data acquired through interviews with the residents, field observations during the World Bosai Walk (WBW), and archival research, this paper aims to give a discussion on the overall reconstruction of Kamaishi Unosumai in Iwate Prefecture, giving the residents' perspective on the opportunities and challenges they were posed with in recovery planning and reconstruction of Unosumai and how the community has been able to strengthen their participation in disaster reduction initiatives since the earthquake and tsunami. This discussion is crucial as it would offer lessons on how to effectively engage residents in post-disaster recovery planning and reconstruction after mega-disasters