Effective Early Warning System in Public Weather Service

Junya FUKUDA Asia-Pacific Severe Weather Center Japan Meteorological Agency

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I. Introduction to PWS Filling Gaps between NMHSs and Users

Background of growing importance of PWS

Advanced technologies

Thanks to a drastic advancement of various technologies in the last 50 years, weather products have been significantly improved in terms of accuracy, precision and diversity. Consequently, the users came to demand the next level of weather service.



Changing Needs for NMHSs

Before

The main mission of NMHSs was to improve weather products.



Changing Needs for NMHSs

Now

Currently, NMHSs are required to provide user-oriented service that effectively supports users' decision making.





Probability to result in serious situation

Information for DRR may result in serious situation if it dose not lead to appropriate decision making.

• For example

- ✓ Around 8 p.m., the residents began evacuation to safer facilities based on flood warnings and evacuation instruction.
- ✓ However, totally 13 people died on the way to these facilities.



What should it have been?

As a Trigger to Appropriate Action

The information for DRR has to lead people to their appropriate decision according to the situation.

In addition, NMHSs need to provide information at an appropriate time so that people can make better decision.

What you should do is... fill the gap.

Wider Gap between Providers and Users

In spite of advancement of weather service, gaps between NMHSs and users are still wide, because it is not user-oriented enough in terms of not leading to users' correct understanding and use.

Toward user-oriented service, NMHSs should take the following four steps.

Toward User-oriented Services (1)

First Step: identify users to develop partnerships

You first need to identify your partners who use your information and build a cooperative relationship with them. Potential users could vary depending on responsibilities of your NMHS.

Toward User-oriented Services (2)

- Second Step: design, develop, and deliver your products/services This is a process, <u>involving users</u>, to design, develop, and deliver your products/service ensuring user's needs are met.
 - **Who is the users of your information?**
 - **What kind of information do they want?**
 - **When do they want it? (Timing)**
 - **Why do they want it? (Purpose of the use)**
 - **Bow do they get it? (Delivery channel)**

Toward User-oriented Services (3)

Third Step: monitor and evaluate the products/services

The products/services should be monitored and evaluated regularly to check whether they satisfy users' needs in terms of accuracy, timelines, effectiveness for users' decision making etc.

Toward User-oriented Services (4)

Fourth Step: manage user's expectation

As your services/products improve, users will expect even better services/products. Efforts to keep users' expectation at an appropriate level is important to make users satisfied and **value your services/products**, by having users understand that you provide best services/products in light of the current science and technology and resources available.

User Education & Outreach

Characteristics

Users need to understand characteristics of your services/products, such as lead time and accuracies, to take full advantage of them for their decision making.

Technical Limitation

In addition, you also need to teach users technical limitations of your services/products to avoid their over-expectation/under-evaluation, and inappropriate use for their decision making.

- It is necessary to fill gaps between NMHSs and users toward useroriented services that effectively supports users' decision making by taking the step-by-step approach involving users to implement the plan-do-check-adjust cycle:
 - developing partnership between providers and users
 - involving users to design, develop and deliver products/services
 - practicing PDCA-cycle to enhance products/services based on evaluation
 - managing users expectations by raising users understanding for the characteristics of products/services

II. Effective Early Warning System DRR-oriented service enhancement

DRR Legal Framework

As a precondition for an effective EWS

DRR Legal Framework

Precondition for an effective EWS

National and regional strategy for DRR is a precondition for an effective EWS and the strategy and plans for implementation need to be stipulated as a legal framework.

• Emphasized in "Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030"

- Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
 - Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk...
- At national and regional levels,
 - Adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales with targets, indicators and time frames, ...

NMHSs need to play a role in establishing and implementing an effective EWS, which is one component of an overall DRR strategy and plan at national and regional levels.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

TY Vera (5915) in September 1959

Dead and Missing: 5098 Injured persons: 38,921 Submerged houses: 157,858

Disaster Countermeasure Basic Act (1961)

JMA's responsibility under DRR framework

JMA plays a vital role in national disaster management as a provider of meteorological information necessary for disaster prevention and preparedness.

Multi-Hazard concept

Multi-hazard

(1) the selection of multiple major hazards that the country faces, and (2) the specific contexts where hazardous events may occur simultaneously, cascadingly or cumulatively over time, and taking into account the potential interrelated effects

Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS)

Multi-hazard early warning systems address several hazards and/or impacts of similar or different type in contexts where hazardous events may occur alone, simultaneously, cascadingly or cumulatively over time, and taking into account the potential interrelated effects.

Advantages

A multi-hazard early warning system with the ability to warn of one or more hazards **increases the efficiency and consistency of warnings** through coordinated and compatible mechanisms and capacities, involving multiple disciplines for updated and accurate hazards identification and monitoring for multiple hazards.

Joint Issuance for better actions

Collaboration with other organizations

In Japan, landslide information is issued by JMA and local governments. Also, flood information is issued by JMA in collaboration with MLIT. This ensures the consistency in information as well as the easiness for local governments to take actions.

For landslide information, JMA collaborates with local governments

Increased risk of sediment disaster	Evacuation information to be considered for issue to sediment disaster risk areas and hazard zones in accordance with the mesh contained on p31-37 of the Cabinet Office Guidelines					
Actually exceeding sediment disaster alert criteria $^{st 1}$	Evacuation Directive					
Exceeds criteria for sediment disaster alert	Evacuation Order					
Exceeds criteria for heavy rain warning	Evacuation Preparation Alert					
Exceeds criteria for heavy rain caution	—					
Below criteria for heavy rain caution	_					

※1 Sediment Disaster Alerts, Heavy Rain Warnings and Heavy Rain Cautions are issued based on the anticipation that criteria will be exceeded, but in this case the criteria have already been exceeded, and the situation is extremely dangerous, with the possibility of a sediment disaster at any moment. For flood information, JMA collaborates with Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Local governments

Improvement of Early Warning System

What's Effective Early Warning System?

Effective Early Warning System

Effective early warning system enables users to understand changing weather conditions and make timely decision to take necessary measures without hesitation.

Timeline of major met/hydro-disasters and accompanying improvement of warning services

Damages caused by heavy rain, flood and storms

Source: Shobo Hakusho 2013, 2017 (White Paper on Fire and Disaster Management)

2011: Heavy rain caused by STS Talas

Timeline of major met/hydro-disasters and accompanying improvement of warning services

Damages caused by heavy rain, flood and storms

Source: *Shobo Hakusho 2013, 2017* (White Paper on Fire and Disaster Management)

10 Typhoons struck Japan in 2004

(landed on Japan around 13:00JST, Oct 20)

"Guidelines for Producing a Decision and Dissemination Manual for Evacuation Advisories and Orders" (Cabinet Office, 2005)

During the disasters in 2004, mayors did not issue the evacuation advisory / order for appropriate hazardous areas in a timely manner.

Background:

Mayors can not make decision because they have not pre-determined <u>specific</u> criteria for evacuation advisory / order.

Municipalities should determine specific criteria.

- The Cabinet Office created a Guideline for municipalities to make a manual on evacuation order to help decision making on evacuation orders by DRR emergency managers.
- The guideline describes how various information, including JMA's warning messages and water levels monitored by river managers, is to be used for decision making on evacuation orders.
- It describes JMA's warnings as examples of decision criteria for evacuation orders.

Improvement of Warning

In order that JMA's warnings help mayors' decision...

 Warnings should be issued to city / town / village respectively.
 Warning criteria should be consistent with the criteria for evacuation advisory and order.

Warning for each municipality

Warnings were issued to zones that include several cities, towns and villages together in the same group (375 zones in Japan).

JMA divided warning zones into city, town and village basis in 2008 (more than 1,700 zones in Japan).

[Example] Warning Criteria for Storm Surge

Criteria recommended in the Guideline

Mayor's Decision	Criteria
Evacuation Order	 ✓ Sea level has reached "Storm Surge Danger Level." ✓ Tidal embankment is broken.
Evacuation Advisory	 Sea level is expected to reach "Storm Surge Danger Level" in certain hours*. *: Necessary time for people to evacuate, however, storm will be also expected as the typhoon approaching, mayors should <u>consider the advisory when it meets the</u> <u>criteria for preparation information</u>.
Evacuation Preparation Information	 Sea level is expected to reach "Storm Surge Danger Level" in certain hours*. *: Necessary time for people who require assistance to evacuate

JMA set the criteria for storm surge warning consistent with "**Storm Surge Danger Level**."

- 1. If the municipality already set the "**Storm Surge Danger Level**", JMA set the level as the warning criterion for the city, town or village.
- 2. If the municipality is NOT set the "Storm Surge Danger Level", JMA set the warning criterion based on the survey (e.g. design high tide level for embankment, lowest altitude of the wharf).

Timeline of major met/hydro-disasters and accompanying improvement of warning services

Damages caused by heavy rain, flood and storms

Source: *Shobo Hakusho 2013, 2017* (White Paper on Fire and Disaster Management)

Typhoon Talas Brought a Long-term Heavy Rainfall in 2011

Kamikawa Village, Yoshino-gun, Nara Pref.

Warnings during the Heavy Rain by Talas

Rainfall continued after JMA had issued warning, and the situation became worse and worse. However, <u>there was no effective way to inform the public of the</u> <u>catastrophic situation we have never experienced</u>!

Observed Rainfall Amount at Kazeya in Totsukawa village, Nara prefecture ³⁶

Establishment of "Emergency Warning"

Warnings / Advisories Lineup

Timeline of major met/hydro-disasters and accompanying improvement of warning services

Damages caused by heavy rain, flood and storms

Source: Shobo Hakusho 2013, 2017 (White Paper on Fire and Disaster Management)

Heavy rain disaster in Hiroshima in 2014

Note: Report time of landslide occurrence and evacuation advisory issuance is from the "Results of evaluation for evacuation measures against the heavy rain on 20 August 2014" created by Hiroshima-City (reported in January, 2015, at the WG of evaluation for evacuation measures against the heavy rain on 20 August).

Probability of Warnings

Probability of Warning-class Phenomenon

JMA started the operation of probability information on the risk of severe weather phenomena that may have significant impacts with a lead time of up to 5 days in May 2017.

[High]: A warning is currently in effect, or phenomena with levels of intensity exceeding the warning criteria are expected. [Mid]: Phenomena may have levels of intensity exceeding the warning criteria.

Time series of Expected Warnings

Time series of expected warnings in a table format

JMA started the operation of providing time series of expected warnings in a table format with color corresponding to risk to enable users to understand risk and urgency more visually and easily than previous text format

気象警報・注意報 平成〇年〇月 Text format 根室市 【発表】暴風,波浪警報 大雨,雷,濃霧注意報 【継続】高潮注意報	Updated at 21:19 JST, 7 October 2015 Expected Warnings, Advisorie Time series in table format Nemuro-shi: [Announcement] Gale, High waves Heavy rain, Thunderstorm, Dense fog [Continuation] Storm surge											
特記事項 浸水注意 8日昼前までに大雨警報(浸水害)に切り替える可能 8日昼前までに高潮警報に切り替える可能性がある 風 警戒期間 8日明け方から8日々方まで ▶	Comment V	Nemuro-shi	7 Fri		Pi (nenome ∎Warni	enon dev ngs <mark>A</mark> 8 3	velopme <u>dvisorie</u> Sat	ent es)			Remarks
注意期間 8日夜遅くにかけて以後も続く ピークは8日昼過ぎ	Current V	Varnings and Advisories	21-24	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24	
北の風 陸上 最大風速 25メートル 海上 最大風速 30メートル	Heavy	(Inundation) Maximum hourly precipitation (MM)	10	10	30	30	50	50	50	30		Inundation
波	Storm	Wind Land	15	18	20	22	22	25	18	15	15	Advisory still active
 		(arrows/m/s) Sea	20	22	25	28	28	30	22	20	20	Advisory still active
1時間最大附量 50ミリ 雷 注意期間 8日明け方から8日夜遅くまで 高潮 警戒期間 8日9時頃から8日24時頃にかけて以行	High waves	Wave height(m)	5	5	8	8	8	9	8	7	7	Warning still active
注意期間 8日24時頃にかりと以後も続く ピークは8日15時頃 最高潮位 標高 2.0メートルの高さ	Storm	Tide level(m)	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.2	Warning still active Peak: around 15 JST on 8th
濃霧 注意期間 8日明け方から 8日夜遅くまで 視程 200メートル以下 付加事項 突風 ひょう	Thunder storm Dense fog	Enable peak t	us imir	to u ng c	inde of wa	erst arni	and ing-	eas leve	sily p el pl	oeri nene	od a ome	and less than 200m

Real-time Risk Map

Technical development for landslide, inundation and flood warnings

To develop information formats easier to understand risks of hazardous phenomena and the urgency, JMA started the operation of Real-time Risk Map that provides spatially specific information on risk-level of landslide, inundation and flood in colors using a standardized color code.

Summary of Improvement of EWS

Lead to more appropriate emergency response

- Prompt judgements of issuing evacuation orders by Mayors
- Proactive evacuation of residents

Time-Series of Information Issuances and Other Supportive Actions

A series of Information for Timely Responses

Warnings/advisories **Evacuation route** Weekly forecast Daily forecasts, Bulletins, Real-time mesh info. etc. 5-day TC forecast etc. Press conference, etc. Leaflets etc. A few days ~ 12 hours ~ 1 week ~ a few As soon as 12 hours before 2 hour before days before possible **Check dangerous Prepare for** pay attention to **Evacuate**/ areas beforehand updated info. evacuation **Take action**

[Example] Briefing to Local Gov. before Typhoon

Example

JMA holds a briefing to local municipalities, expected to be affected by a tropical cyclone, 1 - 2 days in advance.

Briefing material used for TC1813 to Tokyo Metropolitan Government

[Example] Press Conference

Example

JMA holds press conferences with enough lead-time to call for caution/attention.

Photo of Press Conference

[Example] Time-series actions to be taken

Lead-time fo	pr				
TC landfall	M	LIT	Traffic Services	Municipalities	Residents
Possibility of TC landfall is	TC forecastPress conference	Early building of system/structure of	rly notice of the possibilit service suspension	Early notice of the of wide-area evac	e possibility cuation
Possibility of ^{1 day}	on TC	O Contact system is checked. O Cooperative structure with related organizations is checked.	O Traffic service suspension is announced in advance.	O Wide-area evacuation system is checked and announced. Early area	O Emergency supp- lies are prepared. start of wide- evacuation
disaster is identified 12 hours	 Press conference on TC (Possibility of Emergency Warning) Warning for heavy rain, flood, etc. Flood warning information Emergency Warning for heavy rain, storm, 	O Liaison officers are dispatched. O Administrative tifacilities are inspected.	O Procedures for service suspension is checked and officially announced.	O Wide-area evacuation advisory/order is issued. O Wide-area evacuees are guided and accepted.	O Wide-area evacuation starts. Completion of evacuation before TC landfall
No Lead Tin	storm surge, etc. information ne	O Emergent situation is notified to heads of municipalities.	O Service is suspended O Facility maintenance and shunting are completed.	d. O Evacuation advisory/order is issued. Service suspension for recovery and resump	O Indoor safety is secured. r earlier tion
Quoted and arranged a d	Flooding information Oracle Occument used in the 2nd	 TEC-FORCE activity. (e.g., Elimination of road obstacles) Damage situation is grasped. Emergency 	O Damage situation is grasped. O Facilities are inspect O Prospect of service resumption is officially announced.	O Support is requeste ed. Simplified a document for water-related disas	d. t at the Headquarters ster management.
meeting for the concept o mitigation corresponding http://www.mlit.go.jp/said	f alsoster prevention and to the new stage: gai/newstage.html	transportation roads are secured.			55

- Legal framework is a foundation for effective Early Warning System and it responds to various kinds of disasters based on a concept of "multi-hazards."
- A multi-hazard early-warning system can issue a warning against one or more hazards and contributes to higher efficiency and consistency.
- In Japan, as an example, the Disaster Countermeasure Basic Act* was enacted in response to damages caused by TY Vera. Thereafter, the warning system has also been improved in response to severe disasters in 2004, 2011 and 2014.
- Providing series of information at a proper time supports timely response to disasters risks. This concept is called "timeline."

^{*} The Act clearly defines responsibilities and roles that national, prefectural and municipal governments and requests each government to prepare disaster management plans and implement them

III. Other Factors for Successful EWS

Warning Evaluation and Public Survey

Review and evaluation of issued warnings

Review is an important step of the process to improve DRR actions based on the actual experience.

- Was the timing of warning issuance appropriate?
- Could local governments take proper actions based on our information?

Public survey

Public survey is sometimes conducted.

This is also a good method to grasp how much and well the information is used/understood. The results will lead to an appropriate improvement.

Various Communication Tools

Choose appropriate communication media

NMHSs need to understand advantages and disadvantages of various communication media, including SNS, and choose appropriate ones depending on content and timing of information they issue.

[Example] Hot Line in Emergency

"Hot Line"

In addition to forecasts/warnings, a dedicated telephone line is adopted between Local governments and Local Met. offices.

<Advantages>

- ✓ It is easier for staff at Local Gov. to ask Met. staff about weather condition.
- $\checkmark\,$ Met. staff can directly convey the current severity to Local Gov. staff

This is helpful for decision-making of Local Gov. (issuing evacuation instruction)

Enhancement of Top-Level Communication

Top-level communications Advice in disaster situation [Weather commentary from Construction of face-to-face relationship Director-General of Meteorological with Office] municipalities Sharing the risk of approaching Regular visits, communications on SNSs, disaster. ioint 実装実があった当市にとって 気象台との湯 issuing instructions for prompt training/drill activities evacu orde ltion resid Mayor of North Akita on Meeting with Mayor of Ikutsu Facebook Meeting with Governor of Akita Prefecture

Collaboration Activities with Local Governments

Normal Situation

- Coordination on warning criteria
- Dispatch of experts for local DRR to local government
- Advice on revision of Local Disaster Management Plan and "Decision and Dissemination Manual for Evacuation Advisories and Orders"
- Instruction and training about how to use JMA's information
- Collaborative emergency drilling and DRR awareness activities
- Development and maintenance of information dissemination system

Disaster situation

- Forecaster briefing
- Hotline consultation
- Participation in local government's disaster management headquarters

After Disaster

- Provision of customized meteorological information for supporting disaster relief activities
- Review and improve emergency response with local government's disaster management team

JETT (JMA Emergency Task Team) since 1 May 2018

JMA has established a team JETT on 1 May 2018, aiming at strengthening the support for local governments' disaster response in case disaster has occurred or is expected to occur.

- **1.** Clarification of current weather conditions and provision of updates in real time.
- 2. Prompt provision of information from disaster management HQ to local meteorological offices on the situation and scale of damage.

To build Effective EWS, it is necessary to ...

- Fill gaps between NMHSs and users toward user-oriented services that effectively supports users' decision making by taking the step-by-step approach to implement the plan–do–check–adjust cycle involving users.
- Understand how the EWS is located in country's overall disaster management framework, which responds to various kinds of disasters based on a concept of "multi-hazards."
- Provide series of information at a proper time to support timely response to disasters risks based on a concept of "timeline".
- Enhance the cooperation with related organization in from normal situation, disaster situation, to after disaster situation.

Thank you for your attention.