



Research Center for Urban Safety and Security, Kobe University

Address: 1-1 Rokkodai, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501 Japan

<http://www.rcuss.kobe-u.ac.jp>

Outline: The Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS) was established on May 11, 1996, about one year following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The mission of RCUSS is to make contributions in building safe and secure urban society by following strategy, i) developing the visions towards safe and secure urban society, ii) conducting cutting edge researches for establishing such society, and iii) educating students and stake holders about suitable methodologies and frameworks in realizing such society.

The urban society has been composed of huge and complex societal and infrastructure systems, accompanied by several typical problems. Therefore, urban society is highly vulnerable to the disasters. The disasters include well known natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, environmental destruction, pollution due to human and industrial activities and bio disasters like infection diseases.



Citizens after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (photo by OURA from : Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake Disaster Materials Collection)

Research Areas:

Risk Assessment Research Division: Earthquake Hazard Assessment Research Group, Geoenvironmental Risk Assessment Research Group

Risk Management Research Division: Urban Infrastructure Management Research Group, Urban Safety Management Research Group, Industrial & Business Risk Management Research Group, Health Risk Management Research Group, Disaster Medical Assistance Team & Disaster Support Research Group

Risk Communication Research Division: Disaster Information Systems Research Group, Safety Communication Systems Research Group

Features of Research Activities:

- (1) Safety evaluation relating geoenvironmental issues in urban areas.
- (2) Fundamental study and risk assessments of earthquake generation and failures of urban structures.
- (3) Preparedness & capacity buildings for urban disaster risk reduction (UDRR) through global case histories studies,
- (4) Research Projects on area management for safe community,
- (5) Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as pandemic influenza,
- (6) Disaster medical assistance team and disaster emergency response.
- (7) Universal disaster information collecting and providing systems for persons with no disability and with disability,
- (8) A basic study on reducing the flush flood of urban small river and securing the water resources of post disaster by using small storage of rain water