

## Experimenting a Communicative Approach to Enhance Awareness and Collaboration for Citizen Involved Disaster Risk Reduction by Combining Yonmenkaigi System and DIT Method

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### 1. Objective

Extreme hazards and events are not synonymous with extreme risks. When a similar number of people are affected by hazards of similar severity, wealthier and poorer countries generally experience largely different losses and impacts (UNISDR, 2009). The efficacy of the disaster risk reduction activities at community level in developing countries has been limited for lack of participation and overall interest in disaster prevention activities. Taking up this challenge, the present study is based on the premises of the Radical Research approach towards a more inclusive and personalized communication between researchers and subjects of research. This research is interested in developing a new methodology to address the communities in need of disaster education in developing countries by considering the existent scenarios of low literacy, little or no disaster related knowledge and high vulnerability which is very common in developing countries.

### 2. Methodology

The uniqueness of this research lies not only in the development of a new methodology named Module 101 with a view to reaching common citizens. It is unique in the combination of existing workshop methods such as Yonmenkaigi System (YMS) and Disaster Image Training (DIT) each of which play a specific role in the learning process. More specifically, the workshop is designed to undertake the participatory scheme by: (1) Allowing facilitator and participants to exchange roles, (2) establishing a co-learning process, (3) and successfully bringing to light new knowledge (*Okada et al.*).

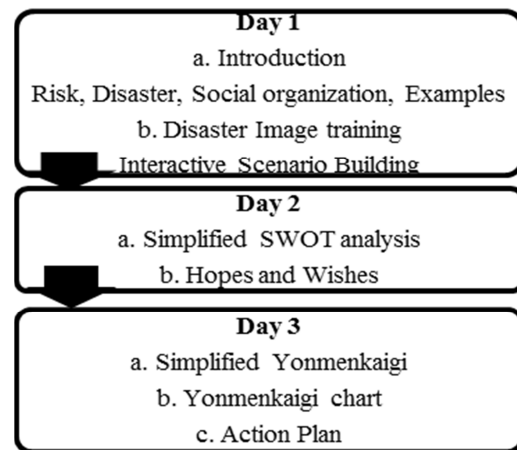


Fig.1 Module 101 for Disaster Risk Reduction

*The main objective of the Module 101 is to help enhance the community disaster resilience in terms of knowledge and development of collaborative activities.*

### 3. Study Area

Nicaragua in Central America was chosen as a study area for implementing the Module 101 for community level Disaster Risk Reduction. This study also intends to account for the country's social and geological characteristics. In the UN-DARA Risk Reduction Index, Nicaragua is the country ranked at the bottom in Central America; for this reason it was chosen as a study area to implement the prototype version of the Module 101 for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The major hazards to be focused may vary case by case and area by area. In this study it focuses on earthquake and tsunami hazards. The workshop flow is designed to start with basic concepts and finish with cooperative action planning which usually requires a higher level of comprehension