



The tsunami that followed the earthquake, centered in the ocean east of the Tohoku region, damaged the coast of the prefectures Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

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## Dreaming of the Future: Rising from Crisis

The Japanese National-Scale Land Development Plan during the 20th century seemed to work quite effectively, following slogans like “Uniformity in Nationwide Areas,” “Centralize Tokyo,” “Mega-Gigantic,” and “Much Higher Speed and Faster.” Yet this also involved misunderstandings of the true meaning of social goodness, as well as cultural progress.

The Japanese overconfidence in human power and technology ignored site-specific qualities, special natural landform conditions, and local lifestyle requirements for several hundred years. These failures became apparent on March 11, 2011.

In a way, the success story of 20th-century Japan after World War II in the three E’s (Economy, Energy and Ecology) has already become a story of the past. Now, as landscape architects, we have slim chance of turning crisis into opportunity. What we have to think and act upon are not simply wise-sounding slogans like “Dodge an attack of brutal nature!”, but also we must find the most suitable and sustainable way to live with Nature.

As Japan is a member of the Pacific Rim countries, part of the so-called “Ring of Fire,” we are about to take off for dreams of the future again, though we all know that it will be a long and challenging way to go.

# TSUNAMI LANDSCAPE

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami of 11 March 2011 destroyed the Japanese coast north of Tokyo. Forced to think about how to live in nature, this could be an opportunity for the country's landscapes architects.