

◇巻頭言◇

持続可能な社会と防災

GX 推進部

部長 石 田 泰 之



国連の「環境と開発に関する世界委員会」が1987年に公表した報告書「Our Common Future」の中で「持続可能な開発」という概念が取り上げられたことで、「持続可能な社会」が知られ始めることになった言われています。その後、2015年の国連サミットで「SDGs：持続可能な開発目標」が採択されて以降は、実現に向けての取り組みが、多くの企業で盛んに進められております。「持続可能な社会」のための課題としては、カーボンニュートラル、サーキュラーエコノミー、ネイチャーポジティブなどが挙げられ、それぞれ取り組みが進められていますが、自然災害の多い日本においては、安全、安心に関わる「防災」が特に「持続可能な社会」に重要な課題と考えます。

2024年元旦に発生した、能登半島地震はまだ記憶に新しいですが、今後30年以内に、南海トラフ地震は約80%、首都直下地震は約70%発生することが予想されており、巨大地震は起こるかどうかではなく、いつ起こるかの問題であると言えます。また近年は大規模な地震だけでなく、気候変動の影響を受けて台風や線状降水帯による豪雨災害が多発しており、2018年西日本豪雨、2019年東日本台風(台風19号)、2020年7月豪雨などが相次いで発生しております。このような中で、政府は2026年度中の防災庁の設置を見据えて、2024年11月に防災庁設置準備室を立ち上げており、大規模災害に備えて災害対応体制の強化を進めております。

セメント産業は、社会インフラの基盤を支える重要な役割を果たしており、セメントはコンクリートの主要な成分として道路、橋梁、トンネル、ダム、建物など、様々なインフラに欠かせない材料です。大規模災害時には迅速な復旧、早期の復興のために、これらのインフラの再構築に伴う資材が再び必要となります。加えて2011年の東日本大震災以降は、セメント産業は長年のセメント製造における廃棄物活用の経験を活かして、大規模災害時に発生した災害廃棄物を大量に処理・活用することで、早期の災害復興にも貢献して参りました。

政府の防災への取り組みでは、大規模災害の前に災害の影響を抑える目的から、「事前防災」が重要と考えられ、防災・減災対策、国土強靱化が推進されております。当社グループでも、予防、減災、復旧、復興に貢献するソリューションを揃えており、このような社会の動向に対応して参ります。

当社は2025年4月よりGX推進部を新たに設置しました。GX推進部のミッションは、国内GX推進法改正に伴う、排出量取引制度(GX-ETS)の法制化および2026年度からの本格運用に備えるとともに、当社独自のセメント製造プロセスにおけるCO₂回収技術であるC2SPキルン®の革新的な基盤技術開発に加えて、気候変動への適応に向けた激甚災害対策に係わるミッションも行います。当社は「防災」、カーボンニュートラル、サーキュラーエコノミーなど、「持続可能な社会」を実現に向けた様々な活動を行っており、今後も活動を推進する所存です。

Sustainable Society and Disaster Prevention

The idea of a "sustainable society" is said to have become widely known through the context of "sustainable development" which was referred to in the United Nations' report "Our Common Future" published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. Since then, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted at the United Nations Summit in 2015, and many companies have been actively working towards achieving them. Issues associated with building sustainable societies are wide-ranging, including carbon neutrality, circular economy and nature positiveness, and efforts are being made in each of these areas. Among them, disaster prevention, which is related to safety and security, is specifically important in Japan where natural disasters are frequent.

On New Year's Day 2024, a large earthquake struck the Noto Peninsula. The event is still fresh in our memory, but it is estimated that there is an approximately 80% chance of a megathrust earthquake occurring along the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years, and also an approximately 70% chance of another large-scale earthquake occurring directly beneath the Tokyo Metropolitan area during the same period. It is no longer a question of if a major earthquake will occur, but when. In addition to earthquakes, we have heavy rain disasters very frequently in recent years, including such events as the 2018 West Japan Heavy Rains, the 2019 East Japan Typhoon (Typhoon No. 19), and the July 2020 Heavy Rains. These are caused by typhoons and linear precipitation bands which are becoming significant as the results of climate change effects. In light of these experiences, the Japanese government decided to establish a Disaster Prevention Agency by fiscal year 2026 and organized a preparatory office for that purpose in November 2024, as a part of its efforts to strengthen disaster response systems of the country in preparation for large-scale disasters.

The cement industry plays an important role to support the foundation of social infrastructure, as a supplier of cement which is the main component of concrete essential for a variety of infrastructure including roads, bridges, tunnels, dams and buildings. In the event of a large-scale disaster, materials to rebuild them are required in large quantities to ensure rapid recovery and early restoration. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, we have been making contribution also in that aspect by recycling and reusing large amounts of waste generated during large-scale disasters, based on our many years of experience in utilizing waste materials in cement manufacturing.

In recent disaster prevention efforts, the government places importance on "pre-disaster prevention" for mitigation of impacts from large-scale disasters and promotes measures for disaster prevention and mitigation and national resilience. To respond to these societal trends, Taiheiyo Cement Group offers solutions that contribute to disaster prevention, mitigation, recovery, and reconstruction.

In our company a new department for green transformation (GX) was placed in April 2025. The mission of the GX Department is to prepare for the enactment of the Green Transformation Emission Trading Scheme (GX-ETS) and its full-scale operation from fiscal year 2026, in line with the amendment of the GX Promotion Act in Japan, as well as to develop innovative fundamental technologies for C2SP kiln®, our proprietary CO₂ capture technology for the cement manufacturing process, and to carry out initiatives for climate change adaptation and related severe disaster countermeasures. Taiheiyo Cement is, and will continue to be, fully committed to disaster prevention, carbon neutrality, circular economy and all other activities necessary for bringing a sustainable society to life.



ISHIDA, Yasuyuki

General Manager
GX Department
TAIHEIYO CEMENT CORPORATION