

Table 1. Number of collected materials based on the category of producers of the materials

Category of material producers	Number
government agencies	351
academic societies	141
universities	167
other groups/organizations	543
scientific committees	67
construction companies	104
other private companies	346
individuals	260
total	1,979

Table 2. Classification of the collected materials in terms of the form of materials

Form of materials	Number
reports	825
collection of papers	66
brief reports	32
technical journals	269
magazines	83
books (technical)	238
books (general)	250
maps	11
aerial photograph sets	4
synthesized volumes	18
catalogues	11
matters printed	1,807
videotapes	136
CD-ROMs	41
slide sets	3
total	1,987

Table 3. Classification of the collected materials in terms of the subject

Subject	Number
earthquake/strong ground motion	438
geographic information system (GIS)	45
geology and geotechnical	282
buildings	534
civil infrastructures	391
lifelines	319
fires	172
fire fightings	137
administrations	275
volunteer activities	283
sheltering	266
restoration support	211
communications	115
transportation	180
economy	94
disaster management	450
risk management	141
information/broadcast	184
urban planning/urban design	227
medical issues/health care	187
education	93
law/legal system	54
reconstruction planning	266
total	5,344

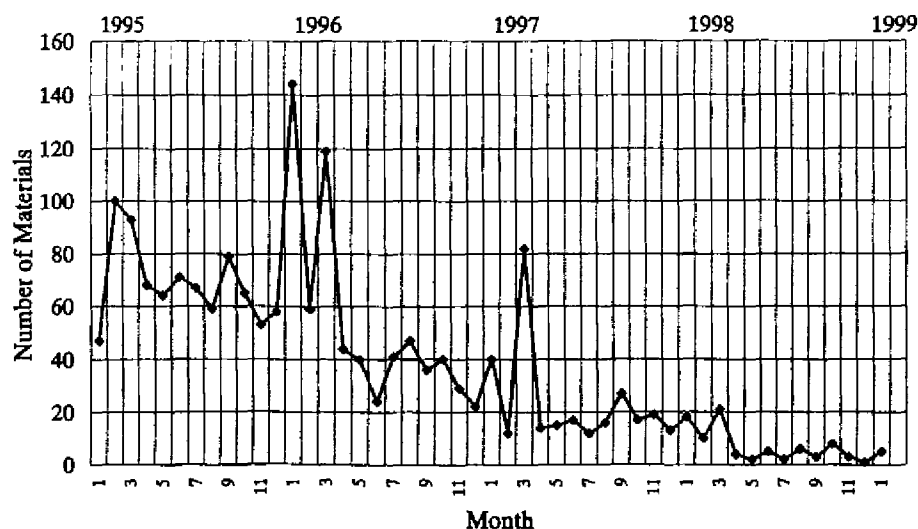


Figure 1 Number of collected materials related to the Kobe Earthquake based on the month of publication



Photo 6 KOBEnet Library

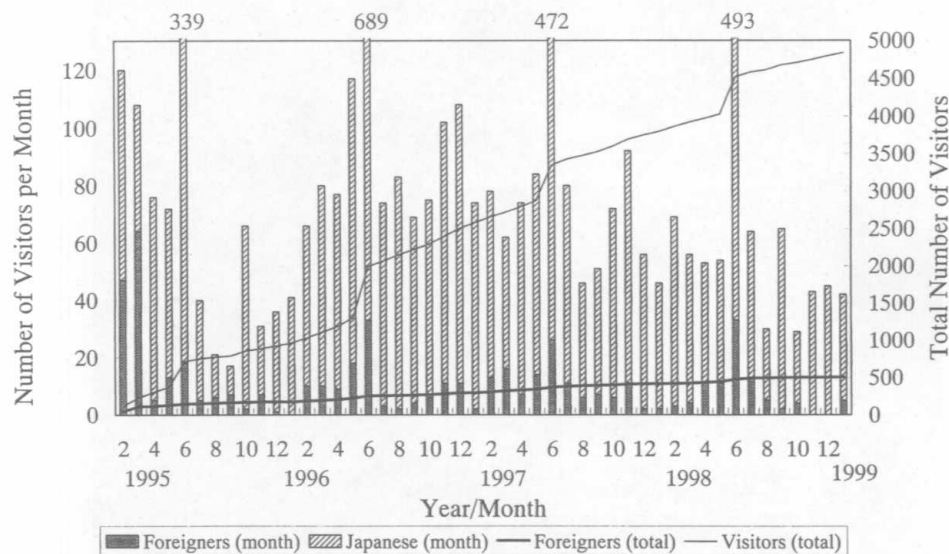


Figure 2. Number of visitors to the KOBEnet Library for each month

of visitors during the annual open house of IIS in the beginning of June. The number of foreigners is also plotted in the figure. About 10 % of the visitors are foreign guests to Japan or foreign students studying in Japan. It is regrettable, however, that most materials we have are written in Japanese. The number of English reports or books is less than one hundred.

We published a report in Japanese summarizing KOBEnet activities on August 1998 (KOBEnet, 1998). Together with chapters describing the activities of KOBEnet, papers and newspaper articles on KOBEnet, list of collected materials, and KOBEnet newsletters were included in this 342-page report.

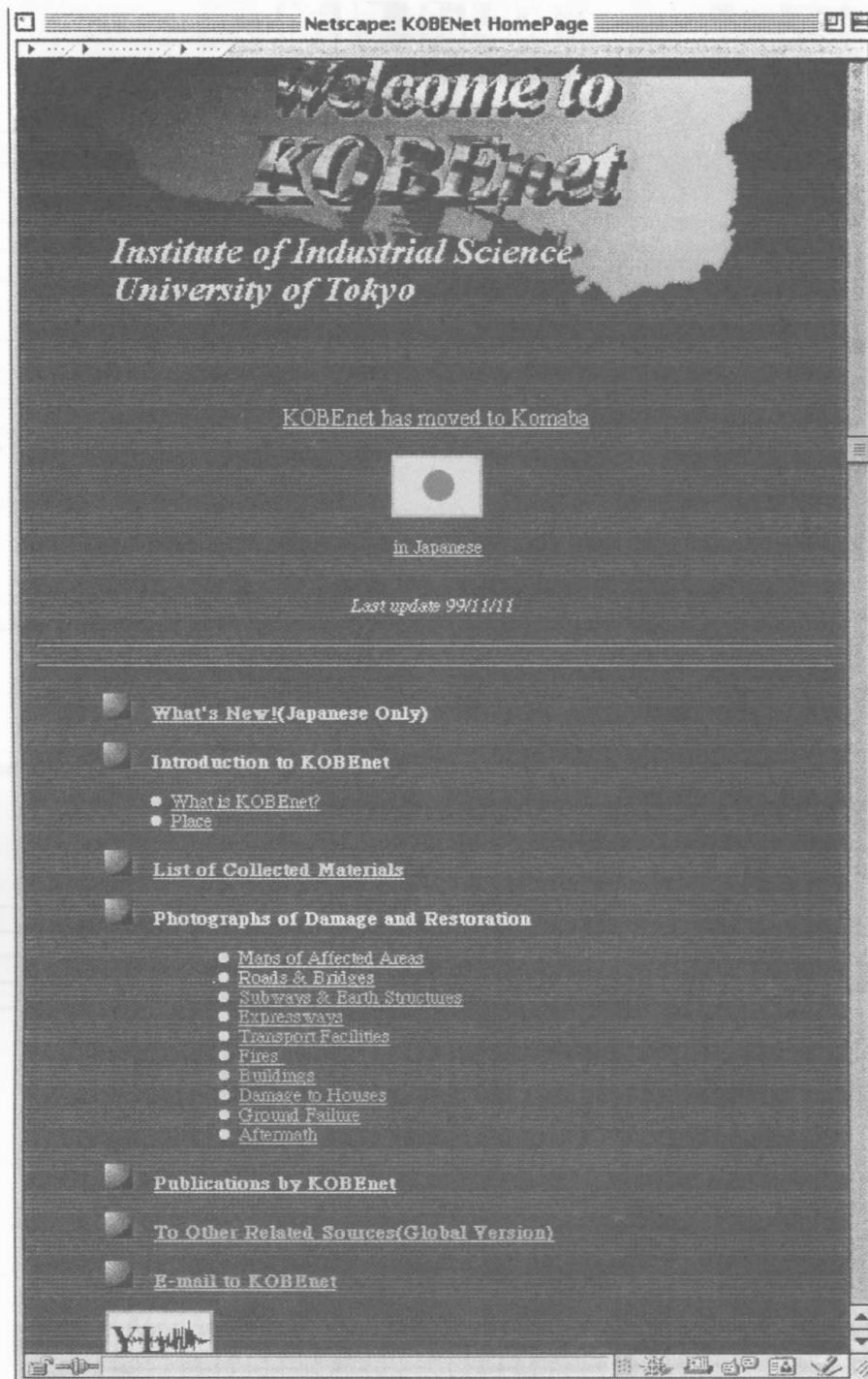


Figure 3. Homepage of KOBEnet on WWW
(<http://incede.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/kobenet/>)

4. WWW WEB SITE

As a method of information exchange in Japan, KOBEnet released a total of 24 Japanese newsletters in the initial three years. The newsletters were sent by Fax in the beginning and later, send by e-mail to the people who wanted the information on the earthquake. These newsletters are still found on the web site of KOBEnet (<http://incede.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/kobenet/>).

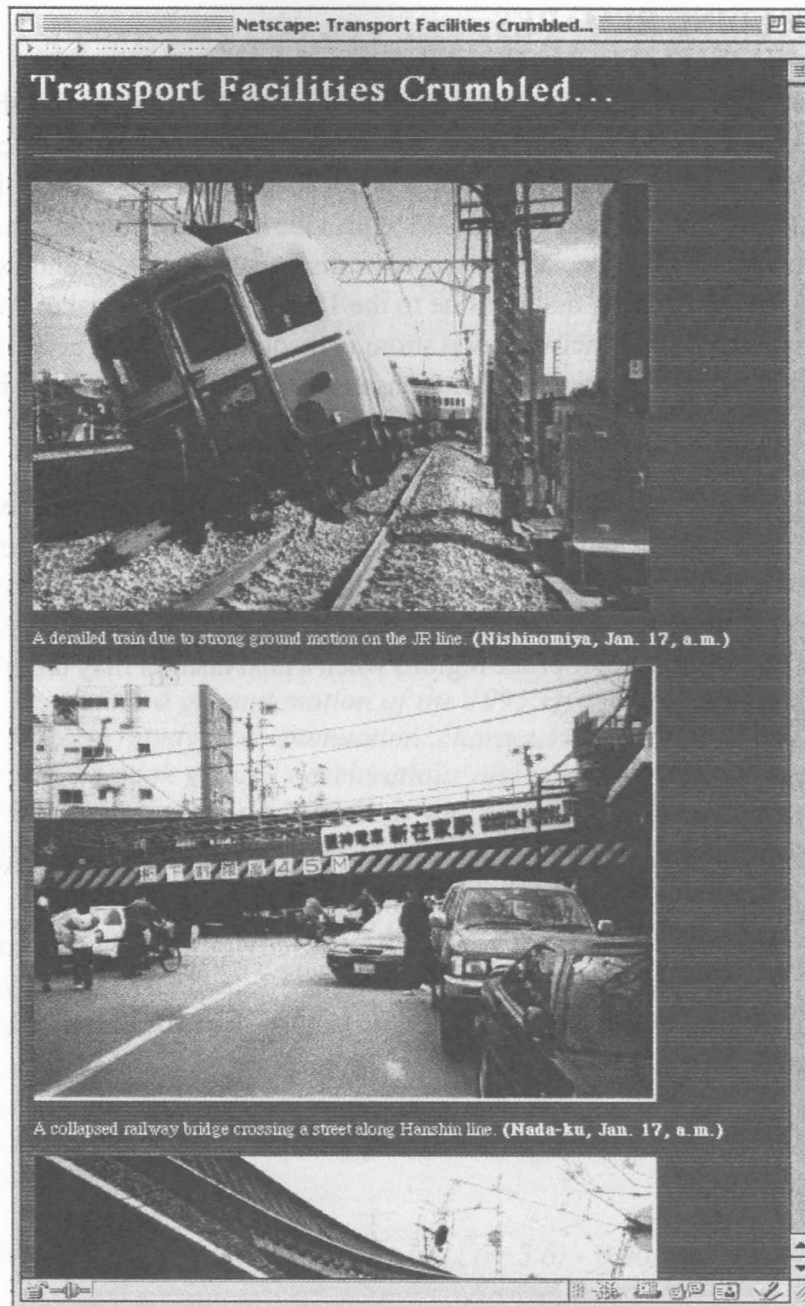


Figure 4. Example of photographs of damage available in KOBEnet Homepage

We made the first homepage of KOBEnet on February 1995, one month after the earthquake. The homepage was developed and revised little by little. **Figure 3** shows the current entrance page of the KOBEnet homepage. We have both Japanese and English pages although Japanese page contains much more information. Japanese page consists of 1) What's New?, 2) Introduction to KOBEnet, 3) Newsletters, 4) Related Activities, 5) List of Collected Materials, 6) Photographs and Maps of Damage and Restoration, 7) Papers and Reports, 8) Link List, and 9) Comments to KOBEnet. **Figure 4** shows some of the photographs of damage caused by the Kobe Earthquake available in the KOBEnet homepage. We try to maintain the homepage regularly. However, it is not so easy to do so as a voluntary activity basis.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Once a large-scale disaster attacks a certain region, local researchers there may be too busy to respond to various and flooding requests. It is also difficult for a single researcher or researchers involved in a single specialized association to respond quickly even if they are required to provide accurate information on other fields. This situation is especially so when the disaster scale is large and extensive. Following the devastating disaster due to the 1995 Kobe Earthquake, the importance of human resources network was strongly recognized. Such a network which can link different professional associations needs to be established and be available at the time of a disaster.

KOBEnet is the first attempt in Japan and may be a pilot case in researchers' community to establish and utilize a human network for transferring and exchanging disaster information. The authors hope that researchers may understand the importance of such network and that networks like KOBEnet can be promptly established in the most appropriate regions when a next disaster may unfortunately occur in the future.

REFERENCE

- INCEDE (1995). KOBEnet Activities at IIS -Disaster Information Network for Researchers-, *INCEDE Newsletter*, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 1-2.
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