Preface

Land use has been regarded as a key factor in environmental management including disaster management. Land use planning is expected to play an important role in sustainable development. Managing land use is a broader concept to combine and utilize various measures to achieve purposes through control, supervision, or handling. It is not limited to a compulsory approach but is an autonomous approach to guide behaviors on decisions of people or companies. Thus, land use management is a flexible method to fit the existing social and economic system.

Land use management can be a useful tool not only for urban and regional development but also for disaster risk reduction. However, it is not utilized so much because of the complexity in implementation. It needs to be approached from an environmental, social, economic, or psychological perspective. Land use management also implies administrative and legal systems that are connected to social and economic activities. Land use management should be considered at the national and local government level to develop legal systems, policies, and concrete countermeasures for its implementation. At the same time, governments need to make efforts to raise risk awareness of citizens through risk communication. Hazard information about what can cause disaster risks plays a role in affecting risk perception. The task of governments is to prepare a comprehensive framework to actualize land use management together with risk communication with citizens.

This book includes a collection of 21 case studies and practices from the perspective of land use and land use management in the context of disaster risk reduction in various countries and regions. These are from academic institutes, local governments, higher education institutes, NGOs, and the private sector, which practice land use management, or are from land use contexts in the disaster management field.

This book is written for students, researchers, and practitioners in the fields of disaster risk reduction. We hope they will find it useful and relevant to their work.

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Land Use Management in Disaster Risk Reduction
Practice and Cases from a Global Perspective
Banba, M.; Shaw, R. (Eds.)
2017, XVI, 476 p. 153 illus., 124 illus. in color.,
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-4-431-56440-9