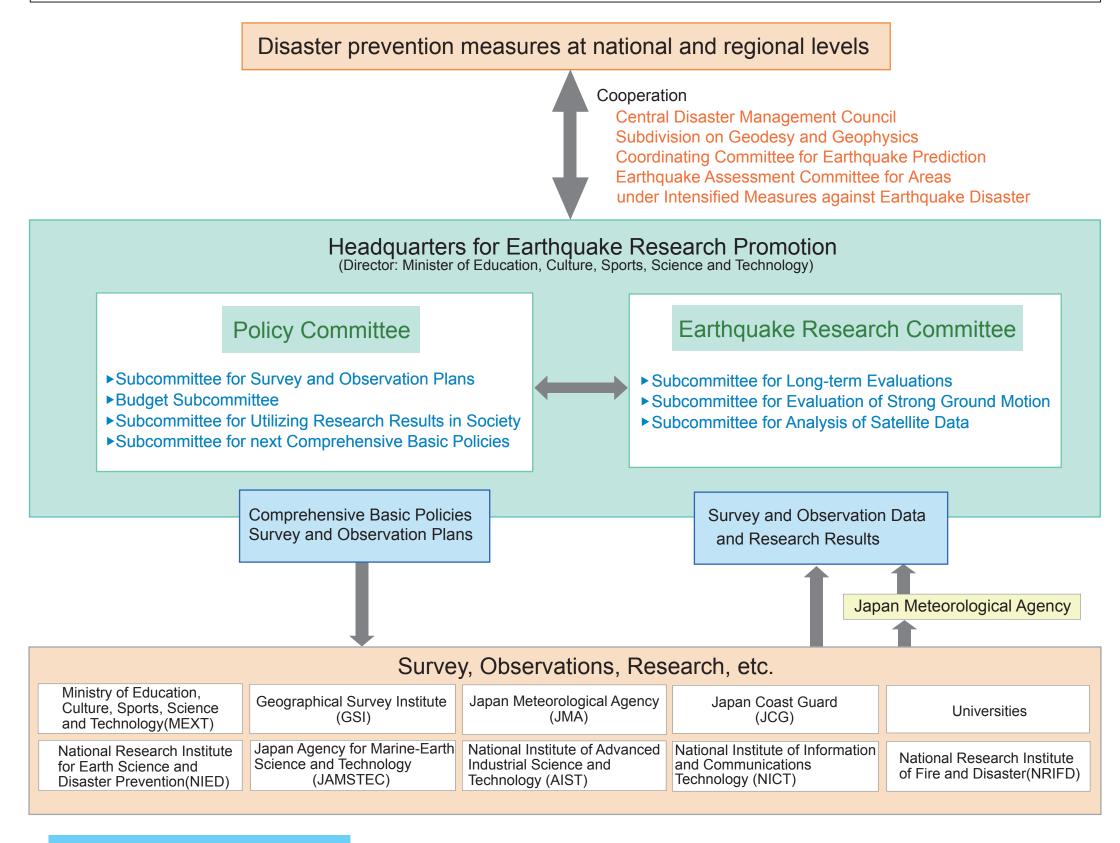
The mission of the HERP

The mission of the HERP is to promote research into earthquakes with the goal of strengthening disaster prevention measures, particularly for the reduction of damage and casualties from earthquakes.



What is the HERP?

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster (Jan. 17, 1995) killed nearly 6,400 people and destroyed over 100,000 buildings, and brought to light a number of problems in our national earthquake disaster prevention measures.

Following on the knowledge learned from this disaster, the Special Measure Law on Earthquake Disaster Prevention sponsored by legislators was enacted in July 1995 to promote a comprehensive national policy on earthquake disaster prevention.

The failure to sufficiently communicate and apply earthquake research results to the general public and disaster prevention organizations highlighted the need for a direct system of accountability in government policy regarding earthquakes, and the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, a special governmental organization attached to the Prime Minister's office (now belongs to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), was established in accordance with this law.