

## 2 GEOGRAPHY

The earthquake was located in the Chuetsu region of Niigata Prefecture of Japan as shown in Figure 2.1. The area is less populated compared with other regions of Japan. The overall population of the earthquake-affected region is about 300,000. The main cities in the region are Nagaoka and Ojiya (Figure 2.2). The other large towns affected by the earthquake are Kawaguchi, Tokamachi, Koide, Mitsuke, and Muikamachi. The heavy damage was observed in Yamakoshi village with a population of 2000 due to the many slope failures induced by the earthquake. Ojiya city, which is just located nearby the epicenter, has a population of 43000. The most severely damaged town is Kawaguchi with a population of 5500.

The main river is Shinano River, which has several large streams such as Uono-kawa, Wanazu-kawa. The Shinano River flows from south to north and joins to Japan Sea in Niigata city.

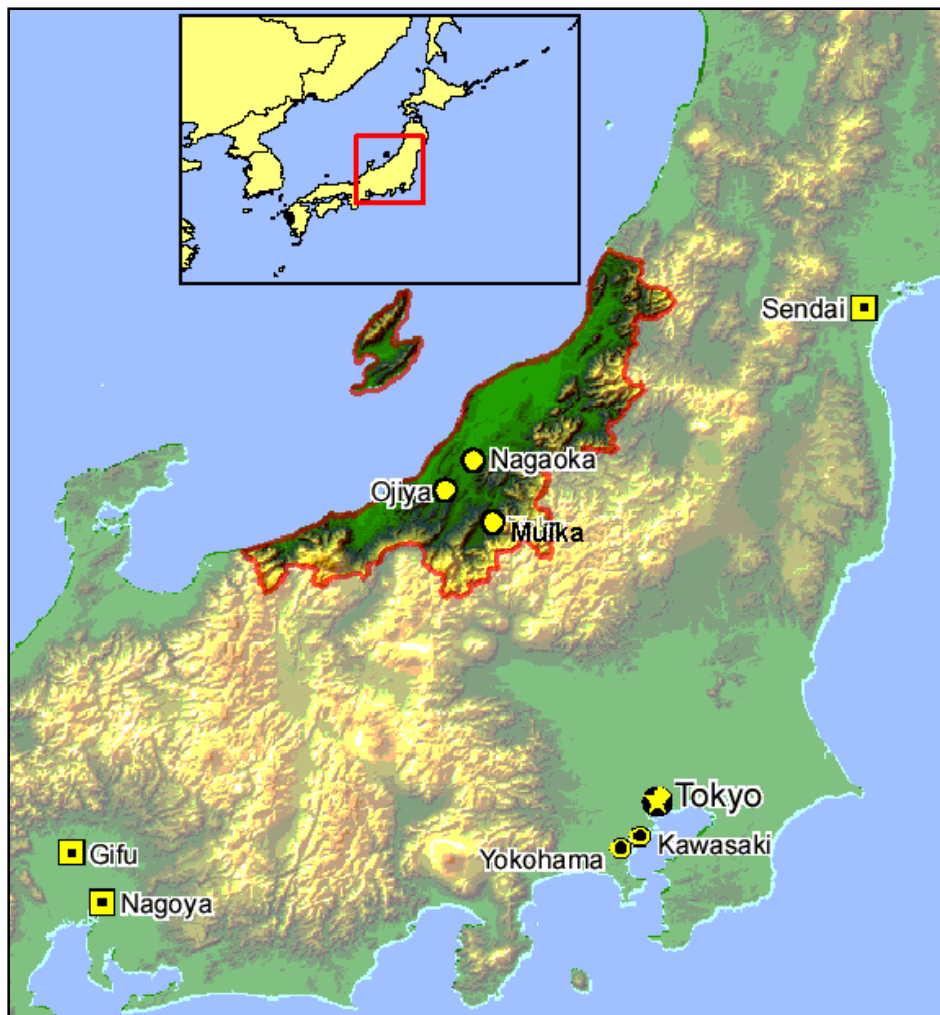


Figure 2.1 Location of the earthquake (re-arranged from ReliefWeb map of UN)



Figure 2.2 Location of cities and villages in the epicentral area (maps from JNTO)