**Supplementary Material 1. Situation in Fukui City during the heavy snowfall in 2018**

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| **Day** | **Situation in Fukui City** |
| Mon-5-Feb | Heavy snow began to fall from evening  Hokuriku Expressway closed to traffic due to the heavy snow (23:40h 5th Feb) |
| Tue-6-Feb | Continuing heavy snowfall  Snow removal could not cope due to amount of snow (50 cm ) |
|  | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains cancelled all day |
|  | 1,500 automobiles stuck on National Road No. 8 |
|  | National Road No. 8 closed to traffic (11:00h) |
|  | Fukui Prefecture asked Self-Defence Forces for disaster relief aid (12:17h) |
|  | Fukui Prefecture established Disaster Countermeasure Headquarters (12:45h) |
| Wed-7-Feb | Accumulated snowfall = 147cm  Disaster Relief Act activated |
|  | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains cancelled all day |
|  | Traffic restriction on Hokuriku Expressway lifted (23:00h) |
|  | Local supermarket food supplies limited due to distribution problems |
| Thu-8-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains cancelled all day (except for line between Fukui Station and Tsuruga at 07:15h) |
|  | Snowfall stopped, snow began to melt resulting in bad road conditions and chronic congestion in numerous places in the city |
| Fri-9-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains resumed limited service between Fukui Station and Tsuruga |
|  | Traffic restriction at Japan National Route 8 was lifted (05:00h) |
| Sat-10-Feb | Man engaged in snow removal work found dead |
| Sun-11-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains operate limited service between Fukui Station and Tsuruga |
| Mon-12-Feb | Second heavy snowfall [20cm]  Snow removal could not cope (>100cm accumulated) |
|  | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains cancelled all day |
| Tue-13-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains cancelled all day |
| Wed-14-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains resumed limited service between Fukui Station and Tsuruga |
| Thu-15-Feb | Fukui Prefecture requested Disaster Relief Aid to set up disposal sites for snow within the prefecture |
|  | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains operate limited services between Fukui Station and Tsuruga |
| Fri-16-Feb | JR Hokuriku Main Line trains resume normal operation |
| Sat-17-Feb | No special events [still >70cm snow accumulation] |
| Sun-18-Feb | No special events [still >70cm snow accumulation] |