Japan was better prepared for natural disasters than the Philippines because Japan was more aware of how to deal with earthquakes and Japan dedicated more effort, time, and capital to resist and fight against the earthquakes.

Japan was more aware of how to deal with earthquakes because earthquake drills in schools and other kinds of buildings are more typical. They evaluate risks and damages very carefully. Citizens of Japan are very well educated about what they should do during earthquakes. In the Philippines, people were uneducated about dealing with volcanic eruptions so people were trapped lahars.

Japan dedicated more resources to prevent and resist natural disasters. They dedicated resources in building buildings and transports that can resist earthquakes. There’s a contrast in the old buildings and the more recent buildings, old buildings were collapsing while modern buildings only started to be affected. In the Philippines, thousands of buildings collapsed under its mass because mud was scattered over the Philippines.

In conclusion, Japan has done an immensely greater job than the Philippines at preventing and fighting against natural disasters.