Earthquakes frequently occur in Japan and there are many experiences of building damage assessment for various purposes, including emergency building safety assessment, after large-scale earthquakes. It has been always an issue how building damage can be assessed more accurately and more quickly. This presentation will first address the damage assessment after the Kumamoto earthquake in April 2016 and issues that were faced. It will also introduce some examples of new technology development related to building damage assessment. A symposium titled “Post-earthquake building damage assessment – issues and new technologies –” will take place in January 2018. It will be co-hosted by National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and Building Research Institute (BRI). This presentation will introduce some of the issues and discussions from the symposium and will address the ideas behind innovative approaches to building damage assessment that is being considered in Japan.