



19 month have passed since the Tohoku earthquake CIVIC FORCE Activity Report

■ “So many things we have to bear”

A year and seven months have passed since the Tohoku earthquake occurred on Mar 11, 2011. The earthquake registered a magnitude of 9.0 and the height of the ensuing tsunami was 40.1 meters. This disaster caused huge damage to North East Pacific coast of Japan. More than 18,000 people lost their lives or are still missing. It has been reported by the Reconstruction Agency that 330,000 people have evacuated to either temporary houses, public housings, hospitals or the houses of relatives and friends inside and outside of the affected areas as of September.

In seven prefectures including Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, the local governments are planning to construct 23,000 public housings for rent to the victims; however, there are difficulties in insuring the building plots due to the landscape and flooded areas. Also, difficulties associated with the aging population are another problem. Opportunities to be physically active with work and hobbies have decreased and both physical and mental disorders have caused walking difficulties among 20% of over 65 year olds. Solitary deaths and suicides at temporary houses never cease.

The Fukushima nuclear plant accident has increasingly caused severe disturbances for the population of the prefecture. An elementary school student who was participating in a recuperation program at Tome city, Miyagi prefecture this summer said in an essay that “There is nowhere in Fukushima that one can live an ordinary life. We cannot open the window on a hot day. We cannot eat vegetables harvested in the neighboring farms. The swimming tournament which I was looking forward to was canceled again this summer. There are so many things we have to bear in Fukushima.



■ “As a tourism industry”

“It is overwhelming to think about the future.” As the victims say, it is very difficult to solve so many issues at once. What can we do? As an emergency relief organization, we are earnestly taking those voices onboard and accordingly, from this summer we have started the “Mid to Long Term Reconstruction Support Project” with the four core areas “Revitalizing tourism,” “Medical access,” “Renewable energy” and “Community reconstruction.”

As for the Tourism area, we have been participating in the Strategy Meeting for Tourism organized by Kesennuma city and supporting activities to revitalize tourism. Kesennuma city is now focusing on the revitalization of future tourism by making the most of the city’s attractive resources and laying out the utilization of fisheries, reconstruction and disaster prevention education and branding food products as focus programs. They are planning to undertake tourism as an important industry for the local area. Details will be uploaded on our website as to how we support these programs as an outside organization. More details on our website.

Tohoku Earthquake Relief Support Website Renewal

“Mid to Long Reconstruction Support Program” is now uploaded

“What should a disaster relief supporting organization do now in the affected areas of Tohoku?” To solve this issue, Civic Force has launched a new page on the website. The “Mid to Long Reconstruction Support Program” that started this summer will correspond to the voices of people for the subjects which have been realized through the year and half of
Take a look at our website.
Your opinion and advice would be highly appreciated.



<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/>

■“NPO Partner Projects” Progress Report

Our “NPO Partner Projects” started from April 2011 to respond sensitively to the changing demands in disaster hit areas. There are currently six projects in progress as of October 2012 to support the local people’s proactive reconstruction activities in the current phase. In the new project we have started cooperating with the Peace Nature Lab. Moreover, we fund our NPO cooperative partner projects upon careful examination of the management and business description for the organizations, and also require monthly reports and promotion of on-site inspections with outside advisors. More details: <http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/npo/>

■New project

■Peace Nature Lab x Civic Force

The Peace Nature Lab (<http://pnl.jp/>) was established in April 2012 in the Mone district of Karakuwa town in Kesennuma city, Miyagi prefecture with the aim of becoming a reconstruction model by making good use of its unique local food, culture and nature. For local development and to expand employment, it is planned to stop the decline of fisheries and solve depopulation by changing the model from shipping primary products to direct-selling the processed products. The “Mori no Isaribi kobo” has been established to process and sell the local smoked oysters and scallops, and it has been collaborating with outside enterprises to develop cooperative products and cultivate markets.

In our cooperative project, we have been supporting the development of local food products such as Okowa (glutinous steamed rice) mixed with Kesennuma’s smoked marine products, Mone’s local cuisine made from scallops and sake to vitalize business activities. This local development project has only just started, however, when it gets going, it could help create jobs and contribute to the undeveloped forest project by using the wasted woodchips for producing smoked food products.



Display at the “Tohoku Exhibition” in Nihombashi Takashimaya. Sep/2012

■Projects in progress (As of October 11, 2012)

—Phase III and IV—

(Community support projects to reconstruct the local areas with a mid to long term viewpoint)

■Moriwa Umi no Koibito x Civic Force

Moriwa Umi no Koibito, which acts in environment education, forest construction and nature conservation areas at Karakuwa town in Kesennuma city, Miyagi



prefecture, held an “Autumn Seaside School” for children from 6th to 8th October. Nature experience opportunities such as marine life observation, raft making and tree climbing were given for elementary and junior high school children. Also, a symposium was held in Kyoto on October 11th and 12th to give an investigation report on Kesennuma’s sea and to consider how the sea and the town should coexist. Details: <http://www.mori-umi.org/>

■Japan Forest Biomass Network x Civic Force

Japan Forest Biomass Network is aiming at the materialization of a sustainable society through the promotion of wood pellet fuel and domestic lumber.



In September, 11 families (34 parents and children) came to the reconstruction symbiosis housing “Tenohirani Taiyo no Ie” that started hosting children of Fukushima prefecture from this July. They are providing an educational environment such as participation in the local Tome’s festival, vegetable harvesting with the local people and experiencing nature. A fifth grade of elementary school girl who entered in August said “I was anxious at the beginning but everyone was kind and there are many enjoyable events. Things that are restricted in Fukushima such as cooking and eating outside can be done here. Details: <http://taiyounoie.org/>

■Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team x Civic Force

Karakuwa, Kesennuma, where 60% of the area was

affected by the Tohoku earthquake. Here, the Kesenuma Future Plan Osawa Team promotes group relocation projects and community reconstruction with the Osawa district Disaster Prevention Group Relocation Promotion Association. They held a "Memories of the Town Workshop" on September 22 - 30 at three locations in Kesenuma city, showing a 1/500 scale model of how the city was washed away by the tsunami. Also, the 12th "Osawa Future Meeting" was held at Koharagi Junior high school in Osawa to examine the usage of flooded areas and the rules of the townscape. In the meeting, the administration reported on the progress of seawalls and banks project.

■ Kesenuma/Oshima Community Development Support x Civic Force

Oshima Community Reconstruction Support was established this July to reconstruct a new community on Oshima, an inhabited island in Kesenuma city, Miyagi prefecture. In September, 50 volunteers from 5 organizations visited the island mainly over the weekend to assist with scallop farming with the island's accommodation and tourist board. Also, a discussion took place on how to use and operate Fuji Xerox's portable voice guiding equipment "Kikitabi."



■ Slow Food Kesenuma x Civic Force

Slow Food Kesenuma has reissued the Marukajiri Kesenuma Guidebook introducing the history, culture and nature of Kesenuma. In September, this association investigated and researched local resources in cooperation with the local people, and started the "Kesenuma Ebisu (the god of wealth) Project." T-shirts on which Ebisu is printed are sold, making use of the belief in Ebisu that has taken root in the local area. Hereafter, member restaurants, confectioneries and retailers will be recruited, with the aim of revitalizing the local area by offering food and souvenirs related to Ebisu.



■ Chiiki Saisei Project x Civic Force

The Car Sharing Project that was undertaken with the Chiiki Saisei Project from May 2011 was terminated at the end of September. Many of the Oshima residents who lost their vehicles in the disaster used the cars for shopping and going to hospital etc.

■ Current situation of the trailers and container houses (Part 3)

In June 2011, after the Tohoku Earthquake, we started the "operational multipurpose base provision project." We provided trailers and container houses to be used as resting spaces for those who got fatigued in the affected areas after the disaster, such as municipal employees, and as alternative temporary houses, community centers and a sport facility locker room. More than year and half have passed since we started the project, and as the conditions of the affected areas change, the uses are also changing to meet various demands.

We reviewed the uses of trailers and container houses and have been announcing the uses to which they are put on our website (<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/shelter/>). We are also still responding to information from victims whenever necessary. For example, the community promotion department of the Kesenuma city is using a trailer for an NPO that supporting the city as their secretariat office. Another trailer is remodeling as a movable shower booth to prepare for the next potential disaster. Details will be reported on the website when the occasion arises.

■ "Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management" newly established – Officially announced at the Asia Disaster Reduction Center meeting

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management was established on October 21, 2012, by five Asian countries, local enterprises, NGOs and administrative members to realize the mission of "To save as many people as quickly as possible" in preparation for

potential disasters within the Asia Pacific area.

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management is an organization that aims for smooth and effective support through joint ownership and the practical application of the information, manpower, funds and resources that these stakeholders have. In Japan, we have been preparing since 2009 and in September 2011, we held the Asia Pacific Disaster Support Summit in Tokyo. Thereafter, several meetings to prepare for establishment were held and finally the establishment was officially announced at the Asia Disaster Reduction Center meeting during October 21 - 25, 2012.

An establishment symposium was also held on November 5 at the Nippon Foundation in Tokyo. Details will be uploaded on our website.

■ For those who support Civic Force

Thank you for your continuous support. Donated funds concerning the Great East Japan Earthquake are used according to the approval of the board. We disclose project operation, use of funds, the account settlement and the business report of fiscal 2011 on our website. We look forward to your continuous support.

<http://www.civic-force.org/about/>

In addition, the organizations that support our activities are shown on the following page.

<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/supporter/>

■ Amendment and request for corporate supporting membership

We are currently building cooperative relationships with various organizations to prepare for large-scale rapid support activities when a big disaster occurs. For this purpose, we have amended a part of the membership and laid out the two models of “Leading Partner” and “Partner.”

The “Leading Partner” is for organizations that could take a lead role to provide comprehensive support for relief activities. These organizations participate in

emergency drills and cooperate in emergency relief activities and will be mutually publicized through websites and PR media. Annual membership fee is 500 thousand yen per contribution.

The “Partner” is for organizations that support us in disaster prevention and emergency relief activities. Annual membership fee is 100 thousand yen per contribution.

We look forward to as many corporate supporting members participating through these memberships as possible.

Details: <http://www.civic-force.org/about/membership/>

In addition, the current partner organizations are shown on the following page.

<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/supporter/>

■ Request for monthly supporters

Regular preparation has a huge influence on the speed and quality of support when a disaster strikes. We experienced this during the Tohoku Earthquake and is now preparing for the next large scale disaster. Your help has been necessary for the activities we have been able to conduct so far and will also be needed for our preparations for the next disaster. We ask that you participate in our activities to prepare for the next large scale disaster, as a monthly supporter, contributing 1,000 yen per month.

Your support would be very much appreciated to us prepare for the next disaster that could happen anywhere in Japan so that we can provide more effective and efficient support.

We accept financial support for our activities at the accounts listed below.

■ Bank: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Aoyama Branch, savings account no. 6953964

■ JP Bank: 00140-6-361805

(The account holder for both of the above is “Civic Force”)

■ Credit card: Please check the “Donate Now!” section on the



Civic Force website.

■ **Email magazine: “To know the current situation of affected areas.”**

A weekly email magazine “To know the current situation of the affected areas” that includes our activities, situation of affected areas and voices of those commencing the reconstruction inside and outside of Japan.

For registration: <http://www.civic-force.org/mailmag/>

*You can view our monthly reports, released around the 11th of each month, at

<http://civic-force.org/news/monthly/>

Also, delivered through social media:

<http://twitter.com/#!/civicforce>

<http://www.facebook.com/civicforce>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicforceorg>