

Seventeen months since the Tohoku Earthquake CIVIC FORCE Activity Report



Relief for those hit by the Northern Kyushu storms, cooperation with a local NPO

One month has passed since the heavy downpour disaster hit Northern Kyushu. Serious damage such as landslides, house destruction, inundations above and below floor level occurred and 32 people are missing or have lost their lives. The rainfall has now stopped and volunteers from local areas and throughout the country are working in intense heats of over 30°C to clean damaged houses and support the people affected.

Under these circumstances, we have been providing support since July 17 through the local organization Rescue Support Kyushu, which is based in Nakatsu, Oita Prefecture and is active in Oita and Kumamoto Prefecture in cooperation with the “NGO Collaboration Center” (Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture) which promptly sent volunteers to the disaster-hit areas.



Supplies from the mudef and Otsuka Pharmaceutical

We have appealed to organizations for donations of supplies to support the victims and the volunteers in their cleaning activities. As a result, 360 towels and 190 T-shirts from the general incorporated foundation

mudef (Music Design



Foundation) and 8,688 bottles of Ionic support drinks from Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. were donated. We have also delivered masks, high pressure washers, Rescue Kitchens (outdoor cooking appliances) and emergency tents for temporary shelter as well as storehouses to the disaster-hit areas through Rescue Support Kyushu.

Handmade floor-cloths from the temporary dwellings in Tohoku

In response to an address by our Tohoku Earthquake support project partner organization, the Kesenuma Reconstruct Association (KRA), people from 10 temporary dwellings in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture made about 70 floor-cloths and pouches embroidered with “We are trying our best and we hope that you are too.” and “You have supported us, now it’s our turn.” KRA is a local organization that provides support to prevent isolation and to build new communities for the 90 temporary dwelling areas throughout Kesenuma. These supplies arrived on August 10 and have been distributed to the victims and the volunteers who are cleaning in the intense heat in Northern Kyushu.



HP Column

“Looking back the Great East Japan Earthquake”

Up to today, what has been happened at the disaster areas and how have people in the affected areas and Japanese society cooperated since the Great East Japan Earthquake? The column of our website “Looking back the Great East Japan Earthquake,” thinks back on our support activities with key persons from our partner companies, administrations, NGOs and this month, the interviews of the Mayor of Fukuroi, Shizuoka Pref. and its Disaster Prevention Division’s staff are uploaded.



http://www.civic-force.org/preparedness/learn_from_311/



Mid to Long-Term Reconstruction Support Project - Emergency Medical Evacuation Helicopter

Ever since the Tohoku Earthquake took place, we have been visiting the affected areas from right after the disaster and have provided support to meet demands by supplying and delivering emergency goods in cooperation with NPO partners. The “Mid to long-term reconstruction support project” is the first attempt to support the affected areas from a longer term viewpoint, based on the experiences from the previous support projects and aiming to leverage the intellectual resources and the network built inside and outside of those areas.



The first of the core projects is emergency medical evacuation using helicopters. In Kesennuma and Minamisanriku at the northeast part of Miyagi Prefecture, there are about 2,000 emergency cases each year. 70% of the cases are transported to Kesennuma City Hospital but when more advanced medical care is required, transportation to university hospitals in major cities such as Sendai is necessary. However, it takes more than two hours to go to Sendai or Morioka by ambulance. This has been such a critical issue since the disaster that the medical situation in the local area needs to be reconsidered.

Therefore, we are to cooperate with the All Round Helicopter (ARH, applying for NPO status, Representative: Mr. Masayuki Takahashi) to support transporting emergency patients mainly from the Kesennuma Hospital to larger hospitals in Sendai etc. The helicopters are owned by the ARH and we are to be responsible for the annual operation costs such as mechanic’s personnel expenses and fuel expenses for the time being. We are hoping to not only transport patients from hospital to hospital but also to transport emergency patients from outer islands and carry medical apparatus and doctors.

Right after the Tohoku earthquake, Mr. Takahashi from the ARH has flown with our staff many times to conduct surveys and transport relief supplies. The

helicopters being introduced will primarily be utilized in the affected areas for relief in large scale disasters. Hereafter, operations are planned to start later this year by first securing the heliport and helicopter hangar, and holding discussions with recipients such as hospitals and fire stations. Simultaneously, we will carry out surveys in view of a borderless cooperation with hospitals in southern Iwate prefecture that are facing the same problems of emergency medical structure.

“NPO Partner Projects” Progress Report

The aim of the “NPO Partner Projects” is to assist in the prompt reconstruction of the affected areas by cooperating with core reconstruction NPOs. The new project “Kesennuma/Oshima Community Development Support” was launched from July 2012 in the third and fourth phases of “NPO Partner Projects,” which support projects led by local people toward the recovery and reconstruction of the community.

Also, five other projects are in operation as of August 2012, and we are continuously seeking out unmet needs in the affected areas. In these projects, we also visit the areas to carry out monitoring and evaluations, as well as provide funding under the careful inspection of the organization’s management structures and project detail advisers.

■ New Project

■ Kesennuma/Oshima Community Development Support × Civic Force

People from the island of Oshima, which is separated from Kesennuma by a 20 minutes ferry trip, proactively set up their emergency headquarters to restore infrastructures and to clear the rubble by regulating support from local and outside volunteers. Meanwhile, Oshima has declining and aging population problems that need to be addressed, not only to restore the industries and the social structures, but also to develop a new community



with long-term prospects.

Thus the “Kesenuma/Oshima Community Development Support (applying for NPO status)” was established by concerned supporters and local volunteers in July 2012 to create an organization prepared to receive support and ideas from the islanders and across the nation. Our NPO Partner Projects will support this potential platform organization in reconstructing the island through the participation of the residents.

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

— Phase III and IV Projects —

(Community and its development support projects toward local reconstruction with mid to long-term prospects)

■ **Moriwa Umi no Koibito:** Three summer schools had been held among elementary and junior high school students in July and August for the experience of activities in a natural environment at Kesenuma.

■ **Japan Forest Biomass Network:** The opening ceremony of “Tenohira ni Taiyo no Ie” houses for recovery and coexistence to accommodate children from Fukushima was held in Tome, Miyagi prefecture on July 21.

■ **P@CT:** After school care program “Michikusa room” and agriculture experience program “Eco-farm” are enforced for the children of Rikuzentakata, Iwate prefecture.

■ **Chiiki Saisei Project:** Car sharing project is carrying out to support people living in the island of Oshima, Kesenuma.

■ Current situation of the trailers and container houses (Part 2)

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 a year has 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 in April and have been announcing the uses to which they are put on our website (<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/helter/>). We are also still responding to information from victims whenever necessary. For example, at the Odanohama beach in Oshima, Kesenuma, which has the only swimming beach that restarted operation this summer, we offered two trailers to be used as locker rooms for bathers. The trailers are also used for networking activities by the universities in Kesenuma and as a secretariat office for the local NPOs. Details will be reported on the website when the occasion arises.

■ First recipient of the “Network of Sanriku Rias Reconstruction Capital” announced

To boost reconstruction after the disaster, “Tohoku Relation Capital,” which was established in December 2011 with funds donated to us, is advocating the “Network of Sanriku Rias Reconstruction Capital.” This is a new financial platform concept for essential investment and lending, and has established credit lines of 50 million yen. The first investment has been set at 13 million yen to the Kamaishi Hikari Foods Corporation.

Toni town of Kamaishi, Iwate prefecture, has a large challenge in maintaining and creating local employment to promptly restart the seafood processing industry,



otherwise the industry will rapidly decline. In such a situation, Kamaishi Hikari Foods in cooperation with local industry workers supported by the local fishermen's union and Kamaishi city, has established a new enterprise that takes on local employees. The enterprise started its operation from this summer.

Tohoku Relation Capital will contribute funds for financing when setting up new plant facilities necessary to start operations. This is to cover costs in excess of the government's subsidies when launching a new enterprise. Also, Tohoku Relation Capital dispatches advisors to support further business developments such as introducing innovative refrigeration technologies to offer customers local sea-urchins and abalones in a new style.

Furthermore, Tohoku Relation Capital has supported "Ogatsu Suzuri Association," "Sato Dockyard" and "Oikawa Electronics" with funding. It also contributed to the launching of the fish curing project "Mori no Isaribi Kobo (NPO, Peace Nature Lab.)," which uses local timber thinning to smoke the marine products of Kesenuma and Minamisanriku. More details are shown on the website. (<http://kyoueki.jp/>).

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/>

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.

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.

Disasters, particularly earthquakes, can occur anywhere at any time. Please help us prepare for the next earthquake 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.



Information on change in use of “designated donation” to support Tohoku

From March 2012, we changed the use of fund donated to Civic Force. All the “designated fund” to support our activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake donated until the end of February were spend on operational costs of the designated activities. However, we use 15% of the donations for operating expenses since March 1. Operating expenses mean expenses for key activities of Civic Force including operation of Civic Force Tokyo office and ordinary activities to prepare future disaster.

“Advisor’s system” to be launched

Since the possibility of earthquakes in eastern, south-eastern, southern seas and in the Metropolitan areas is increasing, we have to prioritize the provision of a structure for immediate response in preparation for the next disaster. At this time, we are to newly launch the Advisor’s system, to actualize the mission “To save as many as soon as possible.” This system is to be supported by as many emergency relief activities as possible when a large-scale disaster occurs. Further information on the Advisor’s system will be announced on our website.

*You can view our monthly reports, released around the 11th of each month, at
<http://civic-force.org/news/monthly/>



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