



# CIVIC FORCE

## NEWS LETTER Vol.15

(July, 2018)



Mabi Memorial Hospital in Mabi Town, Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture, flooded by torrential rains. Informed that some patients were stranded in the hospital, we sent a rescue team of doctors, nurses, rescue dogs, and pilots. (Photo taken on July 8)

### 【Western Japan Floods】 Rescued All Patients Stranded in a Hospital

The views televised from high above the disaster areas – buildings and cars inundated with muddy water, mountainsides brutally scraped off and drifting timber scattered all around – told us that another huge disaster struck Japan.

Record-breaking heavy rains, which were described as “once in decades,” caused enormous damages especially in the western areas of Japan. The rains were triggered by a rain front that had been stationary since July 6, 2018. Death toll exceeded 100 in 13 prefectures as of July 9, and many people are still missing. As more people are still fleeing to evacuation shelters every day, we cannot yet assess the full extent of the damage.

Civic Force started collecting information just after the disaster broke out. We formed a disaster relief team with our partners, Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). On July 7, as aerial survey became possible, we surveyed the flooded areas around Hiroshima and Okayama prefectures from a helicopter. On July 8, we sent a rescue team including doctors, nurses, rescue dogs and pilots to a hospital in Mabi Town in Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture. Our team successfully rescued all the patients stranded in the hospital by helicopters and boats. In addition, we have started patrolling and delivering relief supplies to the shelters.

In this newsletter, we will provide an early report on our emergency support for the serious disaster in western Japan. We will also report on our support activities for the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain and Kumamoto Earthquake, and share the messages from the scholarship students and graduates of Dream Support Project.

#### Donate Now !!

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Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation  
Branch name: Aoyama  
Account number: (savings account) 6977180

■Bank name: Japan Post Bank  
Account number: 00140-6-361805  
Account name: Civic Force  
\*Please state “Donation for the people affected by the Western Japan Floods” in the space for correspondence.  
\*We would appreciate your understanding that 15% of your donation will be spent on the operating expenses for our support activities.

■ Access the URL below for the donation via credit cards or electronic money:  
[https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/pag e1.php?bokin\\_type=donation](https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/pag e1.php?bokin_type=donation)

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# Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

The following articles describe the emergency responses, the aid activities, and the reconstruction efforts that Civic Force has provided in various disaster-affected areas in Japan.

## Western Japan Floods

### “Patients’ Lives were in Danger if Rescue was Delayed”

“Please evacuate the patients as soon as possible!”

On July 8, two days after the torrential rain disaster occurred in western Japan, our disaster relief team (Civic Force/A-PAD Japan/PWJ), which had been on standby since the outbreak, received information that patients were stranded in Mabi Memorial Hospital in Mabi Town, Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture. The team immediately rushed to the hospital in an amphibious vehicle and rescued all 50 or so patients with inflatable boats, two helicopters and a Self-Defense Forces’ boat.

Eight critically ill patients who needed urgent medical care were airlifted from the rooftop by rescue helicopters, accompanied by nurses, to Okayama University Hospital and other hospitals. These rescue operations were carried out in collaboration with medical staff from HuMA (Humanitarian Medical Assistance) and DMAT (Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team), and the Self-Defense Force personnel. Dr. Mototaka Inaba, who has extensive experience in disaster relief, joined the team and took part in transporting the patients and handing over their care to the medical facilities.

Dr. Inaba said, “Half of the patients were bedridden, and some of them might have died if rescue was delayed. I am relieved that we managed to rescue all the patients with two helicopters rushing back and forth” . Staff of the receiving hospitals as well as the patients themselves also expressed their relief that the rescue was carried out just in time to save the patients’ lives.

### Visiting Medical Care Service Started : Providing Food, Underwear and Relief Supplies to Prevent Heat Stroke

In Mabi Town, we have started providing a visiting medical care service at the evacuation centers. Also, we have been asking the evacuees if there are any goods they need. On July 9, we delivered relief supplies such as underwear and socks to Okada Elementary School and three other evacuation sites. In addition, we are working together with enterprises so that we can procure and deliver the needed supplies as soon as possible, including the goods to prevent heat stroke.

Moreover, we are preparing for the reconstruction support activities, which are projected to be a long-term effort, in cooperation with our partners which have started investigating the status of the affected areas such as Hiroshima and the Kansai region.



View of Okayama Prefecture from the sky, and a rescue operation at a heliport

## Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain

### One year from disaster – “We will help others from now

One year has passed since the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain of July 2017. Due to the unprecedented amounts of soil and wood flown into houses and fields, the restoration of the damaged areas is still half way down the road to recovery. As part of the “NPO Partner Projects” of Civic Force to support those who suffered from the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain, Civic Force encourages the regional rehabilitation and restoration by helping the Hichiku Volunteer Center, which engages in support activities in Hita City, Oita Prefecture.

#### Restoration Walking Event was organized

In Otsuru District of Hita City, the “Restoration Walking Event and Spring Festival” was organized at the end of March. About 270 local residents and tourists from all over Japan participated in the event. In Hita City, nearly 1,300 houses suffered from flood inundation and were destroyed totally or partially. The local executive committee organized the event “in order to convey their appreciation for the people who rushed to the site from all over Japan, as well as to re-unify the scattered willingness of the local people to restore the area.”

The Hichiku Volunteer Center, the supporter of the event, had been receiving and allocating volunteers for clearing mud from houses and to support the reconstruction of livelihood of the local people. However, it closed its reception desk for



volunteers at the end of June. Mr. Izumi Kouda, a Hita City resident who is the representative of the volunteer center said, “We have received an important amount of support up to now. As Japan is vulnerable to natural disasters, there will be many people who will need immediate support after a disaster. We would like to make use of our experiences for other areas.”

## Kumamoto Earthquake

### Account for donation will be closed at the end of July

The donation account for the Kumamoto Earthquake of April 2016 will be closed at the end of July 2018. The account had received 117 million and 170 thousand yen (incl. 15% operating cost) as of the end of June 2018. We have utilized the donation promptly and carefully for the urgent supports and the restoration projects to meet the needs of the affected areas. We appreciate from the bottom of our hearts the kindness extended by all donors. The NPO Partner Projects conducted the final monitoring on the Nishihara Village Reborn Network on June 20, which would be the last one of the support projects for the Kumamoto Earthquake. The summary report with reviews of our activities to date will be available soon on the website.

### [Kumamoto Earthquake] “But Life Goes On” -- Korean students published a book

Civic Force organized the “Tour for Tourism Reconstruction Supporting Volunteers” for students of the Tohoku region and South Korea, which was a one-week training program to visit the disaster-affected areas of Kumamoto. The interaction between these Japanese and Korean students still continues one year after the tour and this May, seven Korean students published a book titled “But Life goes On.” This is a photo essay featuring photos of the areas that suffered from the Kumamoto Earthquake or the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain where they visited through the program, as well as essays that describe the wishes for restoration of the people they met and what they felt on site. The book is available at book shops in Daejeon-Gwangyeoksi, Korea or can be purchased on the internet.



“But Life Goes On”  
KRW13, 800 (JPY1,367)

Published by Mormant Association

#### ◆Online purchase sites

- Monthly Tomato [http://tomatoin.com/app/product/view?md\\_id=product&code=72&page=1](http://tomatoin.com/app/product/view?md_id=product&code=72&page=1)
- Young Poong Books

<http://www.kyobobook.co.kr/product/detailViewKor.laf?mallGb=KOR&ejkGb=KOR&linkClass=&barcode=9788997494538>

\*Collaborated project between “Dream Support Project” for those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and “NPO Partner Projects” for those who suffered from the Kumamoto Earthquake.  
Conducted in cooperation with A-PAD KOREA, which works for the development of disaster prevention network in Korea

## “Thanks to the Fund which Expanded Our Future Possibilities” ~ Messages from the graduates of the scholarship program, the Dream Support Project

The Dream Support Project has provided assistance to the students in three prefectures, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, which had been devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The project has been offering a monthly scholarship of 30,000 JPY per student since September 2011. Here are some of the messages we received from the graduates who completed their universities curriculum in March 2018 with the help of the scholarship. Many of them, having got through the difficult times, took a new step – started working or became a graduate student. (Part of the messages is either omitted or edited due to editorial reasons. The ages described below are as of April 2018.)

### “Participated in Internship Overseas”

—Miyagi Prefecture / Age 22

While having experienced many bitter feelings due to the disaster, I was able to participate in an internship overseas and learn about business startup and etiquette as a member of the society. For your assistance, my only feeling right now is gratitude.

I started working for a robot production company this April. As my dream is to create toys, I will keep trying my best to realize the dream.



### “No Need to Bemoan My Life in Single-Mother family”

—Fukushima Prefecture / Age 21

Thanks to the five-year-long assistance through the project, I could spend my life with lots of good memories for the period. Although living as a single-mother family member sometimes got me difficulties, I had a fulfilling student life without bemoaning my situation because of the fund. I started working as an office clerk this April. I hope that more students will make their dreams come true through the assistance as I did.

### “Wishing to Contribute to Local Medical Care as a Nurse”

—Fukushima Prefecture / Age 22

I started working for an office providing services to people with disabilities this April after graduating from a university in March. In the university, I obtained a qualification of kindergarten teacher and nursery teacher. Now I am waiting for an announcement of the qualification test result of social worker. By working with these certificates and making donations little by little to the Dream Support Project to return the favor, I want to become an adult who can support the dream of younger generations.

### “Project Gave Me Energy to Live!”



—Fukushima Prefecture / Age 23

The project economically and mentally supported me for long time, which began shortly after the disaster. It turned out to be a driving force to create my life. From this spring, I will work as a sales person at a medical company. Now, it is my turn to repay the favor. I want to help people pursue their dreams.

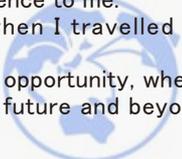
### “Thanks for Opportunity of Long-Lasting International Exchange”

—Iwate Prefecture / Age 23

In the summer of 2017, I participated in an education program of the Dream Support Project, where I enjoyed interacting with Korean students in Kumamoto. It was a great experience to me.

I could meet them again when I travelled to Korea.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity, where the relationship will last in the future and beyond the national boundary.



### “Title of Fundraising Application Directed Me to Future”

—Miyagi Prefecture / Age 22

“Send a letter to your future self in 20 years.” It struck me as impressive when I saw this title on the fundraising application of the Dream Support Project. At that time, I only had negative feeling about the future because the disaster took many things from my life. But the encounter with the words motivated me to think about my future and imagine that I was smiling after overcoming the disaster. I had received the scholarship for seven years. Thanks to the assistance, I was able to believe in the future and put in effort on it. As a result, I could start working as a flight attendant this April.

## What Scholarship Students Want to Convey Right Now Part 1

This year again, as part of the “Dream Support Project,” we asked scholarship students to write an essay on such themes as “What I learned this year,” “What I want to challenge,” “Looking back over the past seven years,” and “What I want to convey right now.” We will introduce some of the essays here. (Please note that the essays are edited due to space constraints. The students’ grades are as of May 2018.)

“Our city is progressing in a good direction”

College senior/ native of Iwate  
Prefecture, residing in Akita Prefecture

Seven years have passed since the earthquake occurred. In the recovery process, my hometown, Rikuzentakata City, has been progressing in a good direction. As the public housings for disaster victims were constructed and the temporary housings were removed from school playgrounds, the number of places where children can play and do some activities are increasing. Some people rebuilt their houses on a hill by group relocation

“I want to convey my appreciation”



College senior/ native of Miyagi  
Prefecture, residing in Tokyo

My family had had a hard time since the earthquake occurred. My mother, who ran her own business, suffered income drop to one-third of her previous one, which forced her to close it. This turned our life into financial difficulties as my mother was a single parent. I thought I would have to give up studying at college, but the Dream Support Project offered a helping hand to me. It conveyed a hope to restore my broken heart and life. I cannot thank you too much.

“Reconstruction in Fukushima is only  
halfway through”

College senior/ native of Fukushima  
Prefecture, residing in Niigata Prefecture

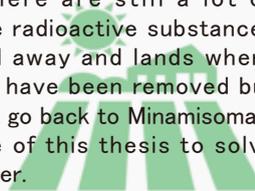
The reconstruction in Fukushima Prefecture is only halfway through. Although the number of places where the evacuation order was lifted increased, not so many people actually returned to their hometown, nor plan to do so. In reality, they cannot return because few shops, hospitals and schools have resumed there. “You’re lucky enough to receive the compensation.” I have been sometimes told like this. However, I want to stress that the compensation cannot get back the peaceful daily life to people who lost their friends, communities, jobs and livelihood as well as their houses.

“Senior thesis is about future of  
Minamisoma”



College senior/ native of  
Fukushima Prefecture, residing in Hokkaido

I have majored in dairy farming at Rakuno Gakuen University to take over my family business in the future. To gain knowledge necessary for my future job, I am studying to get qualification for agricultural bookkeeping, hazardous material engineers, and domestic animal inseminator. I belong to rural planning study laboratory and plan to write a senior thesis on reconstruction of Minamisoma City. There are still a lot of agricultural lands where radioactive substances haven’t been cleared away and lands where radioactive substances have been removed but desolate. One day when I go back to Minamisoma, I would like to make use of this thesis to solve these problems as a farmer.



“Challenging everyday in the U.S.”

College senior/ native of Miyagi  
Prefecture, residing in the U.S.A.

I have studied in San Francisco since August 2017, as part of the exchange student program in my university. At first, it took a lot of time to understand lectures. I needed to listen to recorded lectures many times and take notes of them at my dormitory. In a debate class, I was overwhelmed by American students’ vibrant attitude at the beginning. However, I gradually became able to participate as they tried to figure out what I was trying to say and asked me about Japan. Although I am here surrounded by many first experiences, I want to challenge them and grow as a person.



“Existence of victims left behind the  
reconstruction process”

College senior/ native of Fukushima  
Prefecture, residing in Niigata Prefecture

I went to the local Council of Social Welfare to participate in a job training to be a social worker. What I realized there was the existence of people who have been left behind the reconstruction process. Some senior citizens were forced to move to different temporary housings although they hoped to build their new houses in the New Town, because the New Town has not been completely built yet. Also, I found problems regarding the public housings for disaster recovery. Like the workers in the council who make their effort to solve such issues, I want to contribute to the reconstruction of the city as a social worker in the future.

“I won’ t forget even though I move far  
away from home.”

College senior / native of Fukushima  
Prefecture, residing in Miyagi Prefecture

Due to the radiation effects, it is difficult to live  
in my home in Fukushima, so I am now staying in  
Miyagi Prefecture and planning to find a job there. I  
visited my house recently, finding that it was like  
ruins with many dead mice and their dungs on. But  
somehow I had a sense of nostalgia as I lived there  
for long period.

I have not often gone back to my home town  
since entering university and my tie with the town  
started waned. So I will take as much time as  
possible to go back and meet the locals, so that I  
can keep the memory on my home town.

“I am sure nothing is harder than my time  
seven years ago”

College senior/  
native of Iwate Prefecture, residing in Tokyo

I was at the evacuation center around this time  
seven years ago – only one rice ball for each  
person and a bottle of drink for each family  
supplied per day. We couldn’ t take a bath and lay  
down in the crowded gymnasium at night. I feel a  
pang when thinking about that time. However, the  
bitter memory also cheers me up when I am  
discouraged, because I believe that there won’ t  
be any harder time than the experience. It won’ t  
be long before I start finding a job. I cannot wait  
for starting to work to repay for many people’ s  
kindness.

“Having met a child who doesn’ t know  
about the earthquake”

College senior /  
native and resident of Miyagi Prefecture

I was a second grade junior high school student  
when the disaster occurred. And I am now a  
college senior, studying the relation between the  
object of the SDGs (Sustainable Development  
Goals) of the United Nations and the disaster  
prevention at the college fieldwork. As a part of  
the study, I held an event at a local community  
center and was surprised to meet a six-year-old  
child who didn’ t know about the earthquake. In  
the wake of this experience, I got the license of  
“Bosaishi” – a disaster prevention expert license  
so that I could learn the proper knowledge of  
preventing disasters and pass it on to the future  
generation.

In the future, I want to become a civil servant  
such as a city office staff who helped me at the  
evacuation center, so I am studying for the dream.

“The experience in the earthquake disaster  
made me strongly think of my hometown”

College senior/  
native of Iwate Prefecture, residing in  
Yamanashi Prefecture

What is the earthquake disaster? Although  
seven years have passed, I still cannot understand  
it. However, I can say that my experience in the  
earthquake disaster made me strongly think of my  
hometown. My hometown lies in a countryside with  
nothing. I envy the elegance of my friends who  
grew up in the urban area. Even so, I now miss the  
hometown’ s old dialect, cuisine and blue sea. I  
feel unsatisfied if there is no chance to see  
oysters and farming rafts of scallops at the sea  
when travelling.

I think that without the earthquake disaster I  
might have not liked my hometown, but now I am  
planning to do something for the local area.

Dream  
Support  
Project !

## Summer short stay program “Let’ s meet children in Oita Prefecture!”

(Volunteer program for Kyushu Northern Torrential Rain affected areas)

Dream Support Project will conduct a  
volunteer program for scholarship students  
in Tohoku region this summer again. The  
program will be held in Kyushu, the same as  
last year. Participants will interact with  
children in Hita City, Oita Prefecture, which  
was affected by the heavy rain last year. We  
are seeking participants (mainly scholarship  
students)!

(For more details including application, see  
our website)

Location: Around Ono District in Hita City,  
Oita Prefecture

Date: August 1 (Wednesday) to August 6  
(Monday) – six days and five nights



# Creating an Emergency Prepared ness

We are undertaking various efforts to develop our emergency preparedness mechanism in the face of disasters. This page introduces media coverage of our activity and information associated with our partner organizations.

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### Speech at OZvision Inc.

Kaori Neki, Secretary General of Civic Force, gave a speech at OZvision on April 26. She talked about our support activity for the Great East Japan Earthquake, Kumamoto Earthquake, etc. and about the significance of enterprises, NPOs and government agencies working together for disaster relief.



### Panel Discussion at Meiji University

A symposium on information systems during disasters, entitled “Kizuna Symposium,” was held at Meiji University on June 17. Miho Shinkai of Civic Force’s Public Relations Department participated in the symposium as a panelist.

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### Easy-to-Join Social Contributions by Donations “Charity Fundraising with Used Book Sale”

◆Selling used books and DVDs  
“Donation by Used Book Sale”, run by “Hondana-Otasuke-Tai”  
<https://hondana.biz/second-hand-books-selling-for-charity/charity.html>

◆Donating the shopping points  
“Smile Project”, run by EC Navi  
[https://ecnavi.jp/smile\\_project/](https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/)

◆Just one click a day  
PSC, “Click Donation (Support Tohoku area)”  
<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/index.html>

◆Donation, Depending on How Many Used Books You Sold – Ten Yen per Sold Book to be Donated, “Books for Japan”, run by Value Books  
<http://www.booksforjapan.jp/action/>

## Osaka Earthquake

### Rescue Team on Standby

In response to the Osaka Earthquake on June 18, Civic Force had a rescue team standing by, including rescue dogs, while collecting information about the disaster situation and discussing with relevant parties. Although we have not carried out direct support activities this time, we thank those of you who asked us about the situation of the rescue team.

## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be prepared for future disasters, we need your support. Become a monthly supporter and you can donate a fixed amount each month (in 1,000 yen units) and help prepare for future large-scale disasters. Payments can be made through bank transfers to Civic Force:

•Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation:  
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964

•Japan Postal Bank:  
Account No. 00140-6-361805  
Account holder’s name of the above banks is “Civic Force”

•Credit card:  
Please check the “Donate Now!” section of the Civic Force website below  
<https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.ph>





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