

Thirteen years since the Great East Japan Earthquake

3.11 Senryu Contest (Japanese short poem)



General Category

Results

 Elementary School,
Middle School, High School,
and University Student Category

Grand Prize

Everyday greetings
with neighbors,
our lifeline

Kenchan

Grand Prize

We must share
memories of that day
as the last generation

Miyagawa

Excellence Awards

My grandma,
disaster prevention map,
her everyday walking route

Ibuking

Never forget the disaster,
never let people forget,
so pass down the story

Anonymous

There are lives we can save
by becoming a storyteller,
light up the candle of life

Mofumofu

Excellence Awards

Once again
I want to laugh
looking at that ocean

Kaho Okumura

Relishing the happiness
that I can say, "I'm home"

Hina Suzuki

To the next generation
we must share about this day, 3.11

 Koushi Ohmura
(Johoku Junior High School, Saga City, Saga Prefecture)

**Civic Force
Special Awards**

The lights shining in Tohoku light up the way for Noto

Touri

We Want to Deliver Their Thoughts

Thirteen years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011. Many areas affected by the disaster have been rebuilt and people are settling in the new normal. But reconstruction is still underway in difficult-to-return zones damaged from the nuclear power plant accident. In addition, a major earthquake hit the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day this year, forcing many people to live as evacuees.

We at Civic Force would like to deliver the various thoughts of those affected by the disaster, those who provided support, and those who are thinking about the disaster. Civic Force held a "Senryu (Japanese short poem) Contest" with the theme of disaster and disaster prevention /

mitigation from February 21 to March 24.

In just one month, 1,361 people sent us a total of 3,155 Senryu poems. We are pleased to announce that we have selected a total of 32 works, including one Grand Prize and three Excellence Awards each in two categories, one Civic Force Special Award, and 23 Honorable Mentions.

[Click here to see other award-winning works.](#)



Thirteen Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake For Passing Down the Lessons of That Day to the Future

Thirteen years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011. While large disasters continue to occur all over Japan, Civic Force's "NPO Partner Projects" has been passing down the experiences and the lessons learned of the affected areas in the Tohoku region to the people in other areas and to future generations.

NEW //

Miyagi Iwate Bosai Kizuna Gakuen (Disaster Prevention Team: Kizuna) High School & University Students Sending out Messages from Kamaishi City (Miyagi) and Kamakura City (Kanagawa)



Introduces a disaster management card game, Bosai Bozumekuri.



A high school student of Kamaishi City talks about the Great East Japan Earthquake.

"Bosai Kizuna Gakuen" is a team mainly founded by a voluntary group, "Yumedan," of Kamaishi High School in Iwate Prefecture that was affected by the earthquake in 2011, and a disaster prevention team, "Genkai," of Kamakura City in Kanagawa Prefecture. Although the young members did not live through the disaster and live in different locations, the team has been working on various initiatives to raise disaster prevention awareness. At the "Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum 2024," an annual disaster prevention event held on March 9 in Miyagi Prefecture, the team introduced an original card game which is being co-developed and emphasizes the importance of disaster reduction. The next day, the team held a story-telling event at Unosumai Stadium where a rugby match was held to support recovery. Many people listened attentively to the high school student who debuted as a storyteller who was determined to "pass down my family's memories of the disaster even though these memories are not my own."

Fuku shima Tomioka 3.11 Discussion Group (Second Phase) Nurturing Storytellers Across Regions and Generations



Ms. Toshiko Aoki, representative of the NPO, says, "Youth engagement is the key to the reconstruction of Fukushima."

Tomioka 3.11 Discussion Group (NPO) aims to regenerate new communities by restoring the connections of people lost in multiple disasters, namely the earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear power plant accident. Civic Force has been working together as a partner since 2022, and the second phase projects started in December 2023. In May 2024, we are planning to extend our network across generations and regions by conducting storyteller training courses at three locations: Hamadori, Aizu, and Nakadori in Fukushima Prefecture focusing on current situations and issues. A festival to pass down memories called Denshosai was implemented in Tomioka Town last year and we plan to hold this festival at three more locations this year. We will make efforts to nurture high school students as storytellers in cooperation with the Fukushima Board of Education.

Iwate Riku Café (Second Phase) Boxed Lunches Prepared with Recipes Developed by High School Students



Nourishing boxed lunch with protein-rich meat and seasonal vegetables.

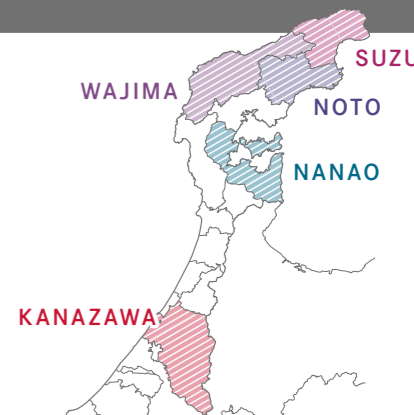
Riku Café of Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture is also an NPO working to regenerate communities that were broken up and lost by the disaster. As part of the activities supporting healthy lives, this group has been putting much effort to fostering the "power to live" to young generations bearing the future. The NPO hosted a recipe competition at Takata High School in February 2024 and held three sessions selling boxed lunches with the prize-winning recipes. These lunches were well-received as being filling but healthy. One of the students who created the recipe hopes to have a job related to food.



Civic Force's unique recovery and reconstruction support program, collaborating with more than 100 organizations in Japan up to now.

Noto Peninsula Earthquake 2024 Operating NPO Partner Projects in Five Cities and Towns

More than three months have passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake occurred. Civic Force has been providing relief supplies to the affected areas such as the Oku-Noto area in Ishikawa Prefecture, collaborating with corporations and other NPOs. NPO Partner Projects with the following three organizations are also now in progress.



- Kanazawa
- Suzu
- Wajima
- Noto

Hokuriku Gakuin University Disaster Area Support Center Student Volunteers Alleviating Labor Shortage



As labor shortages in the affected areas have become a major issue, Hokuriku Gakuin University Disaster Area Support Center in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, has been dispatching student volunteers to the affected areas since March. They have been conducting a variety of activities including cleaning evacuation centers and houses of victims and providing salons at temporary housing as well as for secondary evacuees living in Kanazawa. The center also functions as a hub for dispatching university students from all over Japan. The Partner Project supports the maintenance costs of activity bases, transportation costs for student dispatch, and costs for materials and equipment needed for volunteer activities.

Kanazawa Small Cove Project Creating a Place for Evacuees



The owner of Café Cove and others affected by the disaster in Suzu City and evacuated to Kanazawa City started to create a place for evacuees. This project facilitates evacuees communicating not only with other evacuees but also with people living in Kanazawa, enjoying delicious meals, and sharing the anxieties and worries of life in evacuation. At a pre-meeting in February, people expressed comments such as, "I was able to see people smiling for the first time long after the earthquake" and "I was able to get my daily life back." The owner plans to open Outreach Small Coves at events as well as permanent Coves to connect with isolated evacuees.

Nanao The NGO Collaboration Center Footbath for Feeling Positive, even a Little Bit



The NGO Collaboration Center has been supporting affected areas with the experiences from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Based at a community center in the Nakajima District of Nanao City where more than 50 people evacuated at some point, the Center has been conducting activities such as administrative support for evacuation centers, providing relief supplies, and cleaning houses. In February, a Footbath Team was formed in collaboration with the Hyogo Prefecture Disaster Prevention Association. Team members have one-on-one conversations with victims while activating their metabolism by soaking their feet in warm water and massaging their hands.

Scan for Details

Suzu Ishinomaki Online Exchange Session "Meeting to Connect Suzu and Ishinomaki" Held

An online exchange session Meeting to Connect Suzu and Ishinomaki Vol.1 was held on February 17, a month and a half after the Noto Peninsula earthquake occurred. About 20 people participated, including evacuees living in and around Suzu City, Ishikawa Prefecture, and residents of Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture who experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake. Civic Force staff living in Ishinomaki told their experiences of supporting the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Common Benefit Investment Fund Japan's 2023 Annual Report Published

Common Benefit Investment Fund Japan (former Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund), a general incorporated association founded in 2011 with funds donated to Civic Force, published its annual report. The Fund developed the concept of "common benefit investment" in order to support the economic recovery of disaster-affected areas and, so far, has offered support for 14 projects in the Tohoku region and 3 in Kumamoto Prefecture. Now, the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture is being assessed.

Scan for Annual Report 2023



Relief Supplies on Display at Good Links

Available relief supplies are on display online at Good Links, a matching platform operated by Civic Force. In March, we provided water bags, children's boots, boxed tissues, and other items to two organizations working in affected areas of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. This platform is utilized by organizations that support people with disabilities, children who do not attend school, pets, and community development.

* Good Links is available for nonprofit organizations continually working on disaster relief. Request (wish item) Registration, a form for registering needy items in affected areas, is also available. For more information please contact the secretariat.

We provided three air purifiers and toothbrushes to Amidayu, a public bathhouse in Suzu City that resumed operation and is open to local residents for free. Civic Force supports organizations that are helping local people like Amidayu.



Players Fund Thank You Message and Report



The Players Fund, co-organized by Civic Force and Japan Professional Baseball Players Association, conducted a crowdfunding campaign from December 7, 2023 to January 31, 2024 and raised 2,474,000 JPY. In addition, more than 6 million JPY was raised through four charity auctions held from December to January. Your support will be allocated for disaster relief activities.

Goods Distribution in Saga Prefecture

On March 21, a distribution event for member organizations of Good Links was held at the Central Warehouse of Saga Women's Junior College in Saga Prefecture. Six organizations that support children's shelters and single-parent households participated in the event and distributed items such as underwear, socks, and portable gas stoves.



Reporting Noto Assistance Activities at a Junior High School

Ureshino Municipal Yoshida Junior High School in Saga Prefecture donated funds collected for the Noto Peninsula earthquake relief efforts and on March 15, Civic Force spoke to the junior high school students about the assistance activities in the disaster area.



Serial : "Preparing for Disaster"

The theme of the latest article of the "Preparing for Disaster" series on our website is "Mental Health Care in the Post-Disaster Workplace." Civic Force staff who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 would like to share the importance of mental health care to those who are working in the aftermath of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

Scan here



Media Coverage

24.01.29 **Newspaper** Sankei Newspaper

Number of home evacuees exceeds 2,600 people Local government unable to assess conditions due to lack of manpower

24.02.05 **Newspaper** Asahi Newspaper

Noto Peninsula Earthquake: Fundraising Spreads to Aid Victims

Support Our Activities Easily


General Donations

NEW



Yahoo! "Buy and Support Delivery Pack" Launched!

Civic Force's page was posted on the "Buy and Support Delivery Pack" section of Yahoo! Shopping where shoppers can donate goods purchased on Yahoo! Shopping to support organizations in need.

- | Value Books: "Charibon"
- | Empower "Donation with Goods at Kaitori Daikichi"
- | Regina Clinic "SDGs Plan"
- | Brilliance+ "secret stone"
- | Hometown tax payment program 
- | SUNNAP (sales limited in ASKUL)
"Phase-free Certified Paper Cup with Measurement"
- | Hondana-Otasuke-Tai "Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"
- | EC Navi "Smile Project"
- | Season LLC "Charity Brand BeMee"

Great East Japan Earthquake

Yahoo! Net Donation

You can easily support us in various ways including donating products or services.



Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better 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.

- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation :**
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964
- **Japan Post Bank :** 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 →



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