



23 Months Since the Tohoku Earthquake Civic Force Activity Report

Photo: Members of the fishing industry working with masks donated by a Hawaiian company (Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture)

Resuming Support to Fukushima Evacuees

One year and eleven months have passed since the Tohoku earthquake. The population in the affected areas saw a rapid decline in the wake of the disaster, and while people are gradually returning, the population of Fukushima Prefecture has continued to decrease. According to the Reconstruction Agency, the number of people who have fled the prefecture due to the incident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant has risen to 57,377 (as of January 2013). In Yamagata Prefecture, which has accepted the most evacuees, some have been forced to lead a tough dual life between both prefectures, with only the husband remaining in Fukushima and the wife and children fleeing to Yamagata, for instance. This serious situation is expected to stretch into the future, and requires flexible support not only from national and local governments but from the private sector. Given these circumstances, Civic Force has resumed its support of Seikatsu Club Yamagata, a project to accept people from Fukushima taking refuge in Yamagata run as an 'NPO cooperative partner project'.

Seikatsu Club Yamagata X Civic Force

Seikatsu Club Yamagata has continued to engage in support activities such as providing relief items to evacuation centers in Yamagata immediately following the earthquake and accepting volunteers.

Today, almost two years after the earthquake, problems are deepened, as families leading their lives separate from one another, and domestic issues being brought due



to increased economic burdens or anxiety over the future. Support is needed from a long-term perspective.

In this situation, Civic Force is providing support to those who evacuated from Fukushima voluntarily, as it is difficult to qualify as beneficiary of the national or local governments. Specifically, to mark the two-year milestone since the disaster, we plan to run tea parties which local residents have asked to be continued, hold "10-yen bazaar" events which aim to reduce the economic burden and promote social gathering with local residents and set up consultation services to listen to victims individual troubles. We are also developing a program to identify the current situation and issues faced to suggest to the government on the role of support.

Support for Flood Victims in Indonesia

Flooding has been occurring in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta due to heavy rain since January 16. Many people are still living as evacuees. As a member of the Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Relief founded in October 2012, Civic Force has started fundraising for Indonesian flood relief activities to support PLANAS-Indonesia National Platform, began emergency relief efforts immediately following the disaster.



■ Please support the local NGO supporting victims of the disaster.
 - Account Name: Civic Force (koueki shadan houjin shiibikku fo-su)
 - Mitsui Sumitomo Bank Aoyama Branch Savings Account No. 7027403
 - Make credit card donations here:
<https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php>
 Check our website for details:
 → <http://www.civic-force.org/news/news-1057.php>

■ Anticipating Medium-to-Long Term Reconstruction

With the aim of solving the issues observed in the course of support activities carried out over one-and-a-half year period since the emergency, Civic Force has continued its “Mid to Long Term Reconstruction Support Project” since the summer of 2012. Here we report on the progress of each program.

■ Revitalizing Tourism

To support the formulation of strategies for tourism, which Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture has positioned as a priority project in its reconstruction plan, Civic Force has continued to take part in and support the Subcommittee for Consideration of Basic Policy and Subcommittee for Communication as part of the Strategy Meeting for Tourism, which comprises local and outside companies and government bodies. We have also coordinated with a consulting firm to conduct a survey on the utilization of tourism resources in the Sanriku region. We are currently pursuing activities aimed at the launch of a Tourism Revitalizing Platform (tentative name) involving the participation of local financial institutions, municipality and private companies.

■ Renewable Energy

As a program aimed at building a sustainable society through the utilization of wood biomass, in February we launched a project on the “building of wood biomass supply-side systems to utilize unused timber from forest in conjunction with the Kesennuma Energy Development Corporation. Civic Force has pursued the project while cooperating with the Kesennuma Energy Development Corporation on aspects such as the cultivation of individual forestry operators, operation of wood dumps and the trial utilization of a local currency.



■ Improved Medical Access

Under a project that aims to introduce helicopters for emergency medical transport and improve access to advanced medical facilities in affected coastal areas,

where shrinking access to healthcare has continued since before the disaster, research into land that can be utilized as heliports and frameworks for medical personnel have been underway towards an April project launch.

■ Community Reconstruction

Civic Force is cooperating with NPOs established in the affected areas and local governments to support efforts already underway to develop new communities in areas designated for group relocation, and assist programs for dispatching experts and developing human resources in areas where community reconstruction will take place in the future.

■ Progress Report on NPO Cooperative Partner Projects

Civic Force’s NPO Cooperative Partner Projects, which were begun in April 2011, are an initiative to support local reconstruction-oriented projects run on a voluntary basis by victims of the disaster. Eight such projects are underway as of February 2013. A cooperative project with the Seikatsu Yamagata Club has been started as a new project (see the story on page 1). The projects involve the provision of funds following a detailed examination of each group’s financial standing and activities by outside experts, monthly reports on the sites along with outside experts to conduct monitoring. Check the website for details. <http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/npo/>

■ Projects Currently Underway (as of February 11, 2013)

**- Phase 4 and Phase 5 Projects -
(Community support and development projects for regional reconstruction with a mid-to-long term perspective)**

■ Iwate Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists × Civic Force

The Iwate Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists, whose membership comprises 135 clinical psychologists, has been active as one of the few “occupational groups” in affected prefectures and is working to expand mental care projects through initiatives such telephone counseling, psychology

training for hospital workers, health seminars for those in temporary housing and tea parties, to prevent the formation of an emotional support vacuum for victims. The project plans to improve its training projects and support structure on an ongoing basis.

■ Shinrin X Civic Force

The NPO Shinrin, which seeks to create a sustainable regional society by promoting the utilization of forest resources such as wood pellet fuel and domestic timber, held tree-felling courses on January 26 and 27 and on February 9 and 10, and has also held courses on things such as the use of chainsaws. The group has also worked with local business establishments such as the Minamisanriku Sun Sun Shopping Village to begin operation of “mori-ken,” an original local currency.



■ Karakuwa Designers League X Civic Force

Based in the town of Karakuwa in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, the Karakuwa Designers League has continued to hold events such as “city-walking” activities aimed at post-reconstruction community development where residents work with the government. In the winter, most activities are conducted indoors, including “cooking lady” events where young people from Karakuwa and elsewhere cook local dishes together with local residents, as well as workshops.

■ Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team X Civic Force

The Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team, which supports group relocation and community reconstruction plans for the Osawa district of Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, has held “Osawa Mirai Shukai” (meetings on the future of Osawa), where topics such as the development of rules for the townscape are discussed.



■ Kesennuma/Oshima Community Development Support X Civic Force

Kesennuma/Oshima Community Development Support aims to engage in new community development on Oshima, an inhabited island off Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture. The project continues to receive volunteers from Miyagi Prefecture and all over Japan who work with locals to help farming households and fishing operations, tidy damaged homes and hold various events.



■ Slow Food Kesennuma X Civic Force

In December last year, Slow Food Kesennuma completed a reprinted edition of the Marukajiri Kesennuma Guidebook, which summarizes the history, culture and nature of Kesennuma in a single volume. Field studies and other efforts aimed at PR activities and the publication of a supplementary volume are currently underway.



■ Mori wa Umi no Koibito X Civic Force

“Mori wa Umi no Koibito” is engaged in activities across three fields, environmental education, reforestation and environmental conservation based in the town of Karakuwa in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture. Working in cooperation with universities, companies and other organizations, the group continues to engage in projects that afford opportunities to consider the results of studies on the sea around Kesennuma and community development in conjunction with the sea.



We Want Your Feedback!

Around 23 months have passed since Civic Force began Tohoku earthquake support activities. During this time, we have rolled out projects while receiving a large amount of feedback from corporations and individuals. Among the feedback, some indicated that they wanted to hear the opinions of people in the Tohoku region. We have also fielded requests from people in the affected areas wishing to convey their gratitude for all the support received from around the country, and others asking people not to forget about the Tohoku region.

Given this, we are asking for feedback from everyone who has been involved with Civic Force, so that we can share everyone's voice in a reciprocal manner.

Please send your messages to info@civic-force.org about any of the following:

- (1) Any action in the affected area towards reconstruction
- (2) A message to people in the Tohoku region
- (3) Other message

Philippines Typhoon – Thank you for your Support

On December 4, 2012, Typhoon Bopha inflicted enormous damage on the Philippines when it struck the Philippines' southern island of Mindanao. Civic Force worked with the Philippines-based NGO Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC), which began activities in the affected areas immediately following the typhoon, to provide support of the Philippines.

Specifically, Civic Force conducted fund-raising activities from December 7 2012 to January 21, 2013, raising 109,000

yen, primarily through online donations. Through the CDRC, the donations received were used to help the victims in Philippines who are still living in shelters.

As a member of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Relief, which was launched together with colleagues from five nations in the Asian Pacific Region in October, Civic Force will maintain contact with its member, CDRC and continue to collect informaton.

Also note that those who made donations during the campaign period (from December 21 to January 20) will receive postcards which include messages from the Philippines (*Limited to those who provided their address when donating).



Thank you to the many who provided support.

Please Request your Receipts Early

This year's tax-return season is fast approaching. A donations made to Civic Force is eligible for a tax breaks as a donation to a specified public-service promotion corporation. Those who made individual donations can select either a tax credit or income tax deduction to receive a contribution deduction. As you will need to file a tax return and affix a receipt issued by Civic Force to receive your deduction, those requiring receipts should request them using the form available on our website.

■ Receipt Request Form

<https://www.civic-force.org/contact/receipt/>

■ Details on Contribution Deductions

<https://www.civic-force.org/contribution/support/#tax>

Note that those who gave donations via Just Giving Japan (JG) can request receipts from the "My Page" section on the JG website.

Learn about Civic Force's Entire Year at a Glance

We would like to again express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone supporting Civic Force. The Civic Force Annual Report 2012 (covering the period from September 2011 to August 31, 2012) has been released on our website.



<http://www.civic-force.org/news/news-1034.php>

The companies who have provided support for the Tohoku earthquake are introduced on the following page.

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

Working Together with Companies to Prepare for the Next Disaster

Civic Force is currently striving to build collaborative relationships with a more diverse range of companies and groups under normal circumstances

to prepare for the next possible large-scale disaster. Many of these activities are supported by our corporate associate members. We look forward to the ongoing participation from many companies. Check our website for details at <http://www.civic-force.org/about/membership/>. You can also find our current partner companies at <http://www.civic-force.org/about/partner/>.

What you can do starting from 33 yen a day

While Civic Force has begun preparations for the next major disaster, we require all of your support so that we can undertake these preparations under normal circumstances. Please consider taking part in the activities needed to prepare for a major disaster by donating a set amount each month (in 1,000-yen increments) as a monthly supporter.

We accept support contributions for our regular activities through the following accounts:

■Bank: Mitsui Sumitomo Bank, Aoyama Branch, Savings Account No. 6953964

■Post Office: 00140-6-361805

(Both of the above accounts are under the name (koueki shadan houjin shiibikku fo-su)

■Credit card: Click “Online Donation” on the website. https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php?bokin_type=donation

Just One Click a Day

Unlike regular fund-raising activities, “click donations” do not require the people making donations to provide any money; it’s a way to raise funds with a single click. We appreciate your support.

<http://www.clickbokin.ekokoro.jp/139.html>

<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/index.html>

Email Newsletter: *The Disaster Areas Today*

Civic Force publishes a weekly email newsletter to provide information about projects underway in Japan and overseas. The newsletter includes scenes from disaster-affected areas, messages from those engaging in reconstruction and details the state of Civic Force activities. Please register your email address at the following URL to subscribe.

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

* The Monthly Report is published and can be viewed around the 11th of every month at <http://civic-force.org/news/monthly/>.

We are also active on these social media networks



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



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



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