

## 11 months since the Tohoku Earthquake

# CIVIC FORCE Activity Report

### 11 months since the earthquake, industrial recovery is the key

11 months have passed since the Tohoku Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011. In coastal regions devastated by the resulting tsunami, the first stage of rubble removal and building cleanup has been completed. At first glance, it looks as if calm has returned to these areas. The problems that each person here is bearing such as shock and worry about the future will require many long months and years to recover from.

Many people are living each day burdened by their individual worries. These included people remembering family, friends, and loved ones lost right before their eyes in the tsunami, people worried about their employment for whom the prospects of their industry recovering look poor, people as yet unable to return to their homes out of fear, and people living in fear of radiation.

On the other hand, there are people striving to overcome these anxieties and somehow recover. In addition to conducting activities to prevent isolation and to provide mental care for disaster victims, Civic Force continues to provide support in various areas to support the revival of towns even more vital than they were before the earthquake by supporting urban development and industrial restoration, sources of vitality for people.

In our 11<sup>th</sup> monthly report, we report on the start of the second session of the employee volunteer dispatch program and the resolution and start of the second project for the General Incorporated Foundation Tohoku Kyoeki Toshi Kikin. In addition, we will also explain the meaning of monitoring NPO partner projects.

### Start of the second session of the employee volunteer dispatch program

The second session of the employee volunteer dispatch program, which Civic Force has been running since July of 2011, began on February 8, 2012.

The employee volunteer dispatch program started in July on the island of Oshima, part of the city of Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, where Civic Force has been operating a car ferry service since April 2011. The program first began with volunteer activities such as rubble removal, carried out in cooperation with Fuji Xerox mainly by newly hired employees. Later in September, we coordinated with the East Japan Earthquake Recovery Collective Action by the Global Compact Japan Network (GC-JN), in which Fuji Xerox also took part in the planning. In response to GC-JN's call to member businesses, 284 people from nine companies carried out volunteer actions such as rubble removal and photograph cleaning over a three month period from September to November.

In December of 2011, a workshop was held at the Fuji Xerox head office to look back at activities conducted so far and to discuss what would be useful for support activities in the future, where opinions were vigorously exchanged. The opinions and ideas generated in discussions like this are reflected in the second session and activities are being changed to better suit needs in areas struck by the disaster. Until now rubble removal and photography cleaning have been the focus of activities. In the second session, however, activities such as building rafts for oyster and scallop aquaculture, fishing gear sorting, and sandbag making will be conducted with an eye on restoring industry and fishing.



In the second session, groups of up to 30 people per dispatch will be sent on 4 night, 5 days stays from Wednesday to



Sunday, with groups scheduled to be dispatched from February 8-12 and 15-19 and March 7-11 and 14-18.

Civic Force specializes in activities to provide aid during large scale disaster with cooperation from businesses, the government, and NGOs. Through the employee dispatch program, employees from numerous businesses have been organized and a program continuously send them to disaster areas has been established. The goal of the second session continues to be the search for the best possible support that can be provided to disaster areas in cooperation with businesses which isn't only the donation of money and support the meets the needs of disaster victims.

## **Start of the second project for the Tohoku Kyoeiki Toshi Kikin**

### **Supporting a small dockyard with an eye on restoring aquaculture and coastal fishing**

With capital from donations to Civic Force, the General Incorporated Foundation Tohoku Kyoeiki Toshi Kikin was established in December 2011. The Sato Dockyard in the Watanoha neighborhood of Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture was chosen as the second project for this new type of industrial recovery fund and support began at the end of January 2012.

Established in 1926, the dockyard focused on the remodeling, maintenance, and repair of small and medium sized boats. The yard played an important role in the maintenance of the boats used in the local aquaculture and coastal fishing industries.

The area was heavily damaged in the earthquake, with five out of six rails in boat lifts used to lift boats onto land



completely destroyed and a good amount of equipment and materials washed away. Amidst this situation, the outer walls of a factory, left a skeletal frame by the disaster, were restored immediately after the earthquake and washed out materials were gathered to reopen the factory so that small boats, essential to aquaculture farmers and coastal fishermen, could be re-launched as soon as possible. And at the one remaining dock (a facility for repairing and building boats), a 10-ton class ship was repaired and launched.

However, residents face a large problem in funding the recovery of facilities and equipment and in the promotion of business operations. The Tohoku Kyoeiki Toshi Kikin has been conducting discussions since summer of last year and it was decided to invest 20 million yen in the dockyard with the establishment of a company to which management of the dock will be handed to from the current owner, Shohachiro Sato, and which will be run by his son and brother, Fumihiko and Komei Sato.

Moving forward, we will be providing aid as a shareholder to the administrative team which supports the two, the management of the docks, and the operation of new projects. As restoring the infrastructure of the Watanoha district in Ishinomaki sunk in the earthquake will require much work in order to restore ship and water-based industries, we will be investigating providing additional funds as needed for development in the future to adapt to the situation.

### **The will to take over as shipwright craftsmen**

“11 months after the earthquake, I feel it is our mission to pick ourselves up as many times as needed. In a normal year, the dock would be full in March with boats getting ready to fish in the Spring, so it's urgent that we get the boat lifts repaired quickly. Including equipment working now, we are working hard to get at least three working by 2013 and to return to normal base operation by 2014,” says Fumihiko Sato.

The dockyard's customers number over 100, more than 90% of whom are fisherman, and they are hoping for the dock to be restored. Investment from the fund will become part of the core restoration capital, and it is hoped that this will help people involved in ship building to recover, including the dockyard. In addition, in regards to public works to restore the area around the dockyard, we will be asking that sufficient

consideration be given to the restoration of small and medium shipyards like the Sato dockyard.

The forte of the Sato Dockyard is its technological strength. Shohachiro inherited the skills for making wooden boats (Japanese-style) from his grandfather, Bunsaku, and now Fumihiko is striving to acquire the skills of a traditional wooden boat craftsman. These skills can also be used on modern glass fiber fishing boats, and they are a precious management resource that meets the diverse needs of boat owners.

With these two as its core, the company is harnessing the will of shipwrights to realize a lifecycle for boats that can be used safely for many years. In addition, the company also plans to focus on expanding local employed through initiatives such as pioneering new markets throughout Japan including the manufacture and sale of canoes and kayaks, which had been started before the earthquake.

Due to the experience the two gained and applied on the ocean, they also plan to implement an education program at Mangokuura, a lagoon in Ishinomaki, to teach the next generation about the importance of life and living in harmony with nature.

As a fellow business partner that supports aquaculture and coastal fishing, the fund aims for the restoration of functions which will connect the fishing industry to the supply chain of the marine processing industry. We will also be shining a spotlight on local, established business and support mutually beneficial projects that will lead the local economy. Visit the fund's homepage (<http://kyoueki.jp/>) to learn about the progress of fund projects.

## What is NPO partner project monitoring?

Since April of 2011, Civic Force has been conducting NPO partner projects to quickly and accurately meet the ever-changing needs in areas struck by the disaster. Within the 10 months from the start of the projects to February 2012, we had worked with 21 organizations to conduct 23 projects including psychological care for disaster victims, volunteer dispatching, and supporting women and foreigners (see "Monthly Report vol. 9"). Characteristic of these projects was that they weren't simply the provisioning of aid funds but were cooperative projects with Civic

Force, implemented while the organizations carrying them out remained in close contact with the staff at Civic Force's Tohoku office.



In particular, mid-term monitoring carried out once to twice during the implementation period of the project and the final evaluation monitoring carried out at the end of a project are important to evaluating the validity and effectiveness of the projects. Mid-term monitoring is conducted while Civic Force staff visit project sites so that project progress and the execution of project budgets may be confirmed. Final evaluation monitoring, on the other hand, is carried out by Civic Force, the organization implementing the project itself, and external specialists, all of which conduct observations at project sites and interview surveys with people involved in the project.

The standards of the evaluation are based on the five evaluations of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and are established as: 1) validity; 2) effectiveness; 3) efficiency; 4) degree of adjustment; 5) propagation or impact; and 6) novelty or originality.

Civic Force maintains an understanding of project's progress, results, and issues through monthly reports submitted by the organization conducting it. It is important, however, to travel to the actual site for monitoring in order to understand the passion of people participating in the project towards overcoming difficulties and issues and the mood of the project site or sites, which cannot be found between the lines of reports.

Thus when monitoring, it's important to be a good listening and pick up on what's actually being said at the project site, to hear what sort of feelings project personnel act with on site, and to find out what sort of influence this is having on the people benefiting from the project.

## ■ ■ ■ Preparing for the next disaster ■ ■ ■

### Learning emergency preparedness

It is impossible to predict when or where disasters will strike. As part of our preparations for the next large-scale disaster, Civic Force conducted basic training to provide mainly young staff with the knowledge they should have when preparing for an emergency and when entering a disaster area.

Under a hypothetical situation supposing engaging in support activities in cooperation with rescue personnel and Self Defense Force members in a disaster area, the training covered a lot of ground, including emergency procedures, information on radio operation, using fire both in- and outdoors, and training in safely descending from high places. Through these activities, we

worked to cultivate people able to make proper decisions when the worst occurs. For more information, see our

activity reports on our homepage

(<http://civic-force.org/activity/activity-769.php>).



## ■ ■ ■ Supporting Asia ■ ■ ■

### A thanks and a report on Philippine support

From December 16 to the early dawn of the 17<sup>th</sup> in 2011, the island of Mindanao in the north of the Philippines was hit by a typhoon, with roughly 1.1 million victims, out of which roughly 23 thousand are still living in disaster shelters.

In order to support the activities of Philippine NGO CDRC (Citizens' Disaster Response Center), one of our partner organizations, Civic Force called for cooperation and support through our homepage. From December to the end of January, we received approximately 380 thousand yen in donations. These donations were put to use to purchase life essentials to distribute to the disaster victims such as rice, canned food, sugar, cooking oil, soap, water, and blankets. A message we received from the CDRC states, "We are sincerely thankful for the kind assistance we received

from all of the contributors in Japan, which enabled us to aid several thousand disaster victims. We will continue to work to help those who still require aid." The CDRC plans to continue providing aid until May of this year, and Civic Force also continues to appeal for donations towards this end.

### Execution of donated funds and plan for execution

As of the end of January, we have received a total of ¥11.97 billion in donations in connection with the Tohoku Earthquake. We report our execution of donations, current as of the end of January, below. The amounts are tentative and for informational purposes. The execution of donated funds is approved each time by our board of directors. The fiscal 2011 settling of accounts and project reports may be found on our homepage.

Project	Amount
Emergency/restoration support activities	¥530,480,000
Provision and delivery of emergency support goods	¥232,630,000
Construction of baths to improve daily living conditions	¥18,790,000
Operation of a car ferry to an outlying island	¥19,220,000
Cooperative partner projects with NPOs – Phases I & II	¥141,280,000
Provision of multi-purpose, multi-operation bases	¥68,010,000
Tents for receiving volunteers	¥36,880,000
Reconstruction support survey	¥13,660,000
<b>Reconstruction projects</b>	<b>¥124,630,000</b>
Industry reconstruction support fund	¥95,800,000
Employee volunteer dispatch	¥1,380,000
Cooperative partner projects with NPOs – Phase III	¥27,450,000
<b>Shared miscellaneous project expenses*</b>	<b>¥51,450,000</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>¥706,570,000</b>

\*Amounts below 10 thousand yen are rounded up

## Change in handling of donations designated for Tohoku

From March 2012, Civic Force's handling of donations will change. Donations designated for activities to provide aid in relation to the Tohoku Earthquake were used entirely for project costs from the occurrence of the earthquake until February. After March 1, 2012, we will be using 15% of the total for operation fees. Operating fees include expenses incurred in operating our office in Tokyo and costs involved in preparing for the next disaster. These funds are used for activities that support the foundation of Civic Force.

11 months have passed since the earthquake and, in addition to support for the areas devastated by the earthquake, we are taking these measures to further strengthen our preparations for the next disaster. We ask for your continued and unchanging understanding and support. For details, please see our homepage.

## Now more ways to donate

Until now, contributors have been able to donate via bank, Japan Post Bank, or credit card. We will be changing our system from February 10, 2012 so that in addition to the above, we now also accept donations using PayEasy, convenience stores, Edy, and Suica. Please see our homepage for details.

## A request for monthly supporters

Regular preparation has a huge influence on the speed and quality of support when a disaster strikes. Civic Force once again experienced this during the Tohoku Earthquake and is now preparing for the next large scale disaster. Vigorous discussion and preparation with domestic businesses, governments, and specialist NGOs will be necessary in the future.

Civic Force's activities are truly supported by the civic force (the power of the people), and your strength 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, necessary for preparing for the next large scale disaster, as a monthly supporter,

contributing an amount of ¥1,000 each month.

Disasters, particularly earthquakes, can occur anywhere at any time. Please help us to 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 Bank, Aoyama Branch, savings account no. 6953964

■JP Bank : 00140-6-361805

(The account holder for both of the above is "Public Interest Incorporated Association Civic Force")

■Credit card: Please check the "Donate Now!" section on the Civic Force homepage.

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

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



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