

Thirteen months since the Tohoku Earthquake CIVIC FORCE Activity report

Photo: "Oshima," Kesenuma, Miyagi

Spring in Tohoku

In April, 2012, light snow falls in many areas in Tohoku and spring is still to come. On this day last year, many disaster victims were forced to stay in evacuation shelters. More than one year has passed since then. People's life seems to come back to normal on the surface. However, there are a lot of issues to be solved including revitalization of community seriously damaged by the tsunami, recovery of local businesses, and mental healthcare of individuals. Area reconstruction is now facing a crucial moment.

The thirteenth monthly report introduces "Kesenuma Oshima Run Festa" to be held on this May 27 in Oshima, Kesenuma, Miyagi and new activities of the NPO Partner Project.

Kesenuma Oshima Run Festa" to be held on May 27!

"Kesenuma Oshima Run Festa: Enjoy to make support" will be held on this May 27 at Oshima, an inhabited isolated island of Kesenuma, Miyagi. Kesenuma Oshima Run Festa is the first reconstruction event since the earthquake occurred. The people in Oshima proposed the event. Oshima has held annual "Kesenuma Oshima Tsubaki (camellia) marathon" around April when camellia blooms as a traditional event of the island since 1983. However, the islanders had no choice but gave up holding 29th event scheduled in April 2011 because the running course was damaged and most staff became victim of the disaster.

After the earthquake disaster, the islanders have been engaged in the reconstruction of the island together with Civic Force and other supporting organizations and volunteers. While making efforts toward reconstruction, people in the island thought, "We want to hold the event in the

island again," "We have to set the stage for reconstruction of the island by ourselves," "We want people to know our beautiful green island again."

In order to succeed in Run Festa proactively planned by the islanders as a recovery support event, Civic Force helps the islanders establish a planning committee and supports operation and coordination of the event.

Civic Force has supported people in Oshima by conducting various projects and programs after the earthquake disaster; large-scale procurement and delivery of emergency supplies, the car ferry service project to lend a ferry to provide means of transportation for the islanders, the employee volunteer dispatch program continued in cooperation with companies, etc. Support of Run Festa is one of these supporting activities. As an NPO Partner Project, partnering with the planning committee of the island, Civic Force cooperates in solicitation of participants and corporate sponsors in and out of the island.

For further information on the event, see below [\[Overview\]](#)

- Time and date: Sunday, May 27, 2012
9:00 Ceremony / 10:00 Start
- Place: Oshima, Kesenuma, Miyagi
- Sporting events: (1) 10km (2) Half
- Course: Around the Oshima Island / starting and finishing line (Fureai Hiroba)
- Event site: Fureai Hiroba
- Number restriction: 750 people (Maximum 1,200 people)
- Participation fee: 5,000 yen for general public (2,500 yen for participants from Miyagi, Iwate, Fukushima, the disaster areas)
- Hosted by: The Planning Committee of Kesenuma Oshima Run Festa
(Chairperson: Shoichi Shirahata, Bureau chief: Osamu Matsumoto)
- Official website: <http://oshima-runfes.jp/>
- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/runfes>

“NPO Partner Project” to support mid- and long-term community development, Phase 3

In order to respond to ever-changing needs of the disaster areas, Civic Force has run the “NPO Partner Project” since April 2011. We have launched 29 projects together with 25 organizations. In the phase 3 which is ongoing, we support community development from mid- and long- term viewpoint.

We report progress of the projects which are underway as of April, 2012.

We are monitoring the projects conducted so far with senior advisers at the time of completion, disclose the results and give feedback to each organization. For details, please visit our website.

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

■New Projects■

■Kesenuma Future Plan/Osawa Team x Civic Force

In Osawa area, Karakuwa-cho, Kesenuma City, more than 140 families, 80 percent of the area were flooded and damaged by the earthquake and tsunami. “Osawa Chiku Bosai Shudan Iten Sokusinkisei Domei-kai” is taking initiative in considering group relocation and reconstruction and planning of community development. Civic Force’s NPO Partner Project supports community development workshop cooperating with “Kesenuma Future Plan/Osawa Team” in order to support residents’ participation and consensus formation

indispensable for new type of community development. The organization was established by experts in

town planning and students from Kobe University, Yokohama City University and Tohoku University of Art and Design, who have familiarity with town



planning and architecture and have some connection with Kesenuma. In this project Civic Force supports enhancement of community toward community development by providing advice based on knowledge, opinions from residents, governments and third parties.

■Run Festa Planning Committee x Civic Force

Civic Force supports the planning committee of RunFesta to be held on May 27 in Oshima, Kesenuma, Miyagi to make the event successful. For details, see page one.

■Projects which are ongoing (as of April 11, 2012)

-Phase II Projects- (Projects with specialty and novelty in which local communities in the disaster areas participate)

■Moriwa Umi no Koibito x Civic Force

“Mori wa Umi no Koibito” (Forests are Lovers of the Sea), which is based in Kesenuma,



Miyagi and operates in the areas of environmental education, reforestation and environmental conservation, held a symposium “Living with the Sea – Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction and Mori wa Umi no Koibito Campaign” at Nikkei hall in Tokyo on April 3 (sponsored by Civic Force). This symposium was held twice so far at Sendai in December 2011 and at Kesenuma this March. The result of the survey on the sea conducted together with experts of sea life, civil engineering, etc after the Great East Japan Earthquake was reported along with the proposal for community development . Next symposium will be held in Fukuoka this May. Mr. Shin Hatakeyama, the vice chairperson of this NPO says, “I want more people to know about the recovery situation of the sea of Tohoku and a new type of community development.”

**—Phase III Projects—
(Community support, projects for local
reconstruction with medium- and long-term
viewpoint)**

**■Kesenuma Volunteer Network Seikeikai x
Civic Force**

Seikeikai, established by disaster victims in Kesenuma, continues to visit disaster victims in their own house and make accessories to prevent disaster victims from isolation. As a NPO Partner Project, the organization visited and listened to disaster victims in their house from October to December last year. Since March, the organization provides opportunities for training under the support of Civic Force.

**■Koizumi Chiku no Asu wo Kangaeru Kai x
Civic Force**

In Koizumi District, the tie among residents is strong, and they quickly decided to relocate to the higher ground. Civic Force, and the Architectural Institute of Japan based on this district, engaged in the new type of community development for residents between October and December, 2011. Since this March, the organization has hold workshops for community development and has been engaged in other activities

■Japan Forest Biomass Network x Civic Force

The Project, “Tenohira ni Taiyo no Ie” to accommodate disaster victims from Fukushima is



continued. Recreation events were held for children and parents from Fukushima on March 24 and 25 at Tome City, Miyagi to spend holidays in rich nature and have opportunities to communicate with local people. In addition, the

framework completion ceremony of eco houses that are under construction in Tome will be held on April 29. The construction will be completed in May.

■Network Orange x Civic Force

“Developing more attractive community”— Last November, Network Orange held Tohoku Marche with shop owners from Sanriku coast. This event attracted more than 1000 people. Now the organization hold workshops and training in cooperation with small and medium enterprise management consultants to create new communities. The organization will continue to work for industry recovery and community development.

■Peace Jam xCivic Force

In the aftermath of the earthquake, Peace Jam delivered milk and diapers to babies. Now Peace Jam



supports independence of mothers through making vegetable jam. The leader of this organization says, “I hope that not only providing job opportunities but also places for community will encourage mothers and will result in healthy growth of children and reconstruction of the town.” Civic Force supports the organization to stabilize its business and cultivate the leadership among mothers.

■ The second term of “Employment Volunteer Dispatch Project” finished

The “company employee volunteer dispatch program” in Oshima of Kesenuma, Miyagi continued from July 2011 to March 2012. In the program, company employees did voluntary activities with the cooperation of Fuji Xerox and Global Compact Japan Network (GC-JN). A total

of 350 employees from nine companies participated in the project from September to this March. Volunteers removed debris, cleaned houses and washed up photos in the first term and made rafts for oysters and scallops in the second term.

Civic Force specializes in support for a large disaster through the cooperation with companies, governments, and NPOs. Civic Force arranged employees from several companies and established programs to continuously dispatch volunteers to the disaster areas. Coordination office in Oshima coordinated the program was closed. From now on, looking back on what we have done and cooperating with companies, Civic Force make efforts to provide support to meet needs of people in the disaster areas.



No. 3 case of industry support project was determined.

The general incorporated foundation, Tohoku Relation Capitals which was formally established in last December by the donation to Civic Force decided to support Oikawa Denki as the third case. This company is engaged in repair and maintenance of electric equipment of ship in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi.

Mr. Kohachi Oikawa, the president of Oikawa Denki is the chairperson of a council consisting of



32 companies of ship building and relating businesses in the area. After the earthquake, he took initiative in recovery of ship equipment business that supports fishery in Ishinomaki He quickly accepted subsidies, and purchased common equipments for fisheries.f.. However, there is a growing demand for repairing damaged

ships and we've faced the lack of fund for the reconstruction and the maintenance of damaged factories Therefore Tohoku Relation Capitals decided financial support in order to speed up reconstruction process. For details, please visit the website. <http://kyoueki.jp/>

Information on opening of Kesennmuma office

Civic Force opened Kesennuma office in early April, 2012. The following is the address of the office.



<New address>

3-4-4, Tanakamae, Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture 988-0053

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 the designated activities. However, we use 15% of the donations for operating expenses since March 1. Operating expenses are cost for Civic Force Toyo office and preparation of future disaster.

One year has passed since the earthquake disaster. In order to enhance ability to prepare future disaster as well as support for the Great East Japan Earthquake, we changed the use of donations. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Method to make donation

We accept donations by transfer from banks, Japan Post Bank, or credit cards. Since February 10, 2012, you can also use Pay-easy, convenience stores, Edy and Suica to make donation. For further information, please visit our website.

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

Request for monthly supporters

Regular preparation has a huge influence on the speed and quality of support when a disaster strikes. Civic force experienced this during the Tohoku Earthquake and is now preparing for the next large scale disaster. Intensive 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 our monthly supporter, contributing an amount start from ¥1,000 each month. Disasters, particularly earthquakes, can occur anywhere at any time. Please join 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

(三井住友銀行青山支店普通 6953964)

■JP Bank: 00140-6-361805

(The account holder for both of the above is “コウエキン
ヤダンホカジン シビツクフォース” (Civic Force))

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

Request for supporting member company

Civic Force is seeking corporations that support us to prepare large-scale quick supporting activities when a big disaster occurs. Please participate in emergency drills and other activities and support Civic Force as a supporting member with 50

thousand contributions each. For further information, please visit our website.

<http://www.civic-force.org/about/membership/>

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

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



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