

18 months since the Tohoku Earthquake CIVIC FORCE Activity Report

■ Dispatched to provide support after the flood in the Philippines

Eighteen months have passed since the Tohoku earthquake that brought unprecedented damages on March 11, 2012. Since then, there have been successive calamities throughout the world, including Japan.

In the Philippines, there are more than 2.4 million victims suffering from the typhoon and downpour that occurred in August. Currently, there are still many villages that are flooded around Lake Laguna and Pasig



River that flows into the capital of Manila. Since the rainy season lasts until around November in the Philippines, it may take quite a time for the water level to decrease and there is a concern of the spread of water diseases due to the flood remaining in living areas.

■ Emergency relief supplies distributed to 2,550 households

In such a situation, we announced aid to support the partner NGO CDRC (Citizen's Disaster Response Center) in the Philippines from August 13. Also, the relief activities took place with a subsidy from the international humanitarian aid committee JPF (Japan Platform).



Due to the deterioration of the living and sanitary situation in the affected areas, we prepared to distribute food

supplies such as rice, beans, dried fish, and other living supplies for about two weeks after August

16.

These supplies were packaged and distributed to 2,550 households in the state of Metro Manila and provinces of Rizal, Pampanga, Zambales and the outskirts of Lake Laguna. Furthermore, we have visited those areas again to monitor the usage of supplied goods by the residents.

“We could live for a week on the food supplied. It was very much helpful since I have three kids.” said Mr. Nimpa who lives in Pasig, Manila.

Although relief supplies are limited, people in the village where Mr. Nimpa is living discuss who actually needs the goods with one another and help each other to overcome this situation.

According to our staff, “At first, we wondered why they didn't move to other safe areas? But through the onsite support activities, we recognized that they have no choice. Due to financial reasons, they have to live in that area even though they know it is dangerous. Thus people in the village encourage one another saying “Don't give up because of the disaster,” “Better to be smiling than in sorrow.”

The result of such a prompt delivery of aid to the victims this time is because the residents and the local NGO have always taken action in disasters. We have reconfirmed through this mission that counter-measures for preventing disasters is the work of society.



■Tohoku Earthquake Aid: Key Recovery as seen in “Community Disaster Management Workshop”

In the affected areas of Tohoku, there is a combination of difficulties such as the relocation of Community to more elevated areas, disposal of debris from vast areas, employment security, and mental care for victims. For the people living in coastal areas, the subject of how to protect tsunami is one of the most controversial.

Community Disaster Management Workshop has been held around ten times during August and September by groups of volunteer residents in Kesenuma City in Miyagi Prefecture. In Miyagi Prefecture, there is a plan to construct walls for tsunami protection 3 to 11 meters in height divided into 22 blocks on the coastline. Even though the tsunami partially destroyed walls last March, there is the opinion that bigger walls are still necessary to prevent future disasters. On the other hand, there is the opinion that we should seek other preventive measures in consideration of the landscape and the ecological impact.

As such, the workshop has become a means to advance the discussion on how to re-plan the community based on correct information; learn about legal aspects and local government policy, basic rules and the construction schedule; and exchange basic information within the district.

Participants have been increasing - now numbering more than 100, and sometimes over 170.

These workshops are not an opportunity for the people to express their opinion “for” or “against.” Moreover, the importance of expressing their own opinion from a local authority and civil standpoint has arisen with regards to reconstructing the community with cooperation from domestic and foreign advisers, also bearing in mind that the sea cannot be disregarded.

In many of the affected areas of Tohoku, there have been demands to revitalize the area since before the disaster took place, as aging and depopulation is advancing. This is a common problem in rural area throughout Japan. The people are responsible for reconstruction as a concern for their livelihood, while the local authority is there to listen to the people. The first step for revitalization of the area is to discuss local revitalization.

We entered the affected area by helicopter on the day following the disaster and have been supporting the affected people in procuring and delivering aid goods. We have also been building on relationships with the local residents, advancing a network of intellectual resources and working on a mid to long term support program. Specifically, the introduction of an emergency medical helicopter, vitalization of tourism, renewable energy, and group relocation and reconstruction of community planning are main themes projects that are developing with the mid to long term viewpoint on reconstruction assistance projects. Details will be uploaded on our website.

Renewable Energy - Mid to Long Term Reconstruction Support Project

Toward supporting the project for the revitalization of areas by nurturing the forest – Observing Forest Academy

Under the slogan of “A chance to maintain the forest and obtain a side revenue,” the Mori no Academy Chainsaw training was held on August 27 and 28 in the forest at Area 21 of Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture. There were 23 participants. This lecture was given by Kesenuma Local Energy Development Corp., which undertook the project Green Localization Reform from Kesenuma City. The purpose was to study basic techniques and safety measures, as well as the cross cutting of cedar trees. It was aimed at retired persons and housewives who are interested in forestry

development with certain income, and participants learned cutting and thinning of wood and its transportation.

This thinned wood is processed into firewood or wood chips, which are materials for wood biomass and recycled material energy for the area.

We note the prevalence of natural energy and development of the forestry industry in these locally made and consumed energy and commence support activities present in the framework of the mid to long term support project.

■“NPO Partner Projects” Progress Report

In the third and fourth phases of NPO Partner Projects to assist the reconstruction of the affected areas led by local people, the Slow Food Kesennuma has started as a new project. Also, five other projects are in operation as of August, and we are continuously seeking out unmet needs in the affected areas.

■New Project

■Slow Food Kesennuma x Civic Force

Kesennuma city in Miyagi prefecture, which has eminent fishing ports and an abundance of nature, has declared itself the “City of Slow Food,” ahead of other cities. Slow Food Kesennuma was established in 2003 and ever since, the community has been developing taking food as a guide. The Marukajiri Kesennuma Guidebook, a guidebook introducing the history, culture and nature of Kesennuma, was originally published to pass on the traditions of local culture and is well known by the local citizens.

They are now reprinting this guidebook and developing key projects to reconstruct the city, not only with new ideas but also by passing on the former memories of Kesennuma’s nature, history, culture and the significance of its industries. We have decided to support this reconstruction project and also to support the excavating the regional resources of Kesennuma.

■Projects in progress (As of September 11, 2012)

■**Mori wa Umi no Koibito:** Summer schools had been held among elementary and junior high school students in August for them to think about forests, sea and protection against calamities.

■**Japan Forest Biomass Network:** Parents and children from Fukushima prefecture started to move into ecological recovery and coexistence houses “Tenohira ni Taiyo no Ie” from August.

■**Chiiki Saisei Project:** Car sharing project is carrying out to support people living in Oshima, Kesennuma.

■**Oshima/Kesennuma community reconstruction support:** Supporting the reconstruction of community in Oshima, Kesennuma.

■To prevent the next disaster – participating in emergency drills in Fukuroi city

Sep 1, known as Disaster Drill Day, we participated and cooperated in the Emergency Shelter Lodging Drill hosted by Fukuroi city, Shizuoka prefecture.

Since the MOU (Memorandum of Agreement) with Fukuroi city in 2008 for the prevention of large scale disaster such as the potential Tokai Earthquake, we have been cooperating in many areas such as storing goods for distribution, dispatch planning, enacting drills and actual relief support for the affected areas of Tohoku.

On the day, around 60 people including staff from Fukuroi city, and volunteers from the community gathered in the Tahara district



center, which is designated as one of Fukuroi city’s evacuation shelters. The Emergency Shelter Lodging Drill took place to prepare for the long-term shelter living that is currently necessary due to the Tohoku earthquake and to prepare for the hypothesized large-scale earthquake centering on the Suruga trough to the Nankai trough.

Specifically, partitions for privacy, and other materials were used for set-up drills in a gymnasium. Drills and roleplays for hot meat distribution and shelter operations were carried out. We arranged and displayed two temporary shower booths which have been actually used in Tohoku and an emergency tent for a changing room and explained how to set up and use them. The partitions set up in a gymnasium can quickly partition it into small rooms and are important for maintaining privacy and reassuring evacuees. The ones we used this time had beds in which three to four adults can sleep. Participants were discussing the usage and said “the beds are durable and comfortable,” and “these beds can also be used for emergency cases and for those who have small children.”

As such, we are continually preparing with corporations, governments and NGOs for the next unexpected disaster.

■ For those who support Civic Force

Thank you for your continuous support. The amount of donation concerning the Tohoku Earthquake as of August 2012 is 1,253 million yen (15% has been appropriated for our operational costs). Details of its provisional and prompt report of the amount executed as of August are as follows. Donations are used according to the approval of the board. We disclose project operation, use of funds, the account settlement and the business report of fiscal 2011 on our website. <http://www.civic-force.org/about/>

Project	Amount (million yen)
Emergency, reconstruction supports	¥552.64
Supply and delivery of emergency relief goods	¥233.10
Temporary bath setting	¥18.79
Car ferry operation to the outer islands	¥19.98
NPO partner project (1 st & 2 nd phase)	¥159.58
Providing multi purpose, movable base	¥70.25
Tents for volunteers	¥36.88
Reconstruction support investigation project	¥14.04
Reconstruction support activities	¥212.01
Industrial reconstruction supporting funds project	¥95.80
Internal volunteers dispatch	¥2.60
NPO partner project (3 rd & 4 th phase)	¥61.22
Mid to Long term reconstruction support (Medical access improvement)	¥45.29
Mid to Long term reconstruction support (Tourism vitalization)	¥3.01
Mid to Long term reconstruction support (Renewable energy)	¥2.09
Mid to Long term reconstruction support (Group relocation)	¥1.99
Sundry expenses for common projects	¥59.19
Total:	¥823.85

■ Amendment and request for corporate supporting membership

We are currently building cooperative relationships with various organizations to prepare for large-scale rapid support activities when a disaster occurs. For this

purpose, we have amended a part of the membership and laid out the two models of “Leading Partner” and “Partner.”

The “Leading Partner” is for organizations that could take a lead role to provide comprehensive support for relief activities. These organizations participate in emergency drills and cooperate in emergency relief activities and will be mutually publicized through websites and PR media. Annual membership fee is 500 thousand yen per contribution.

The “Partner” is for organizations that support us in disaster prevention and emergency relief activities. Annual membership fee is 100 thousand yen per contribution.

We look forward to as many corporate supporting members participating through these memberships as possible.

■ Request for monthly supporters

Regular preparation has a huge influence on the speed and quality of support when a disaster strikes. We experienced this during the Tohoku Earthquake and is now preparing for the next large scale disaster. Your help 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 to prepare for the next large scale disaster, as a monthly supporter, contributing 1,000 yen per month.

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

■ JP Bank: 00140-6-361805

(The account holder for both of the above is “Civic Force”)

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



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

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