



CIVIC FORCE

NEWS LETTER Vol.10

(Dec, 2016)



It has been about eight months since an earthquake hit Kumamoto, the nation's leading agricultural prefecture. This month, they revealed that its overall damage in agricultural forestry and fishery products amounted to JPY165.3 billion. Landslides in the mountains and damages in agricultural machineries and aquaculture facilities greatly impacted the primary industry, so the crucial stage of reconstruction is yet to come. This is a photo of the "Tsu Junkyo Bridge," a water supply bridge in Yamato Town, Kamimashiki County, which was still in use before the disaster. As one of our NPO Partner Projects, we are now calling for support to resume the water supply.

First Year-End Season After Kumamoto Earthquake

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More than eight months have passed since the outbreak of the Kumamoto earthquake in April and its first year-end season after the quake has arrived. Quakes of intensity 7 were observed twice and the impact of repeated aftershocks dealt a great blow to Kumamoto Prefecture where more than 160 people were killed including "disaster-related deaths." "Collapses of houses" top the list of damages, which is estimated to be more than 178,000 cases. By November 14th, 4,303 temporary emergency housings in 16 municipalities were completed (according to the Cabinet Office). However, there are no signs of reconstruction for permanent houses; so many disaster-affected people are showing anxieties in restarting their new life.

How are those who were affected living now? And how far has the recovery/reconstruction been progressed? In Mashiki Town, more than 90 percent of the houses were damaged. In Nishihara Village, geographic factors led to temporary isolation. In Minamiaso Village, landslide caused great damages such as the collapse of the Aso-Ohashi Bridge, a symbol of the region. In each disaster-affected area where many residents were uprooted for evacuation, many issues on recovery/reconstruction are still piled up. The newsletter of this month shares challenges of the affected areas, which have begun to appear by the support given to the "NPO Partner Projects" of Civic Force and in the activities of those who stood up for recovery/reconstruction.

Civic Force has published its financial statements for fiscal 2016 in the middle of this month. Our activities are supported by contributions from many individuals and groups. We will remain active in supporting voluntary activities conducted by the people of the local communities in Kumamoto so that our activities can surely help the affected areas.

Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

The following articles describe the emergency response and aid activities that Civic Force has executed in various regions in Japan which were affected by disasters including the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 and the Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016.

Kumamoto Earthquake

Monitoring on the NPO Partner Projects Took Place

In order to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation in the areas affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake, Civic Force has implemented the NPO Partner Projects since June 2016. In the projects, three programs with other organizations were completed by Nov 2016. We held an inspection and monitoring on these programs by outside experts on December 12 and 13 to confirm the achievements and impacts and find the issues.

Community Planning

The NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN Quake Rehabilitation



“The NGO Collaboration Center” has supported the operation of the disaster volunteer center in Nishihara Village, Aso County, which was seriously damaged by the Kumamoto Earthquake. It has dispatched volunteers to help reconstruct the farm lands and provide massage and foot bath services for the victims. It is now supporting “Nishihara Village Reborn Network,” a network that is composed of support groups inside and outside Nishihara Village, and “WAKABA Meeting,” a group for supporting voluntary activities by the residents in the village.

The NGO Collaboration Center, established in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, has held a workshop and a symposium to create a new community, utilizing the experiences they gained through the emergency activities and the community reconstructions after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake as well as their broad network. Seeking ways to recover the people’s “everyday life” and develop a new community together with the local people, it has been supporting the reconstruction works led by people in the area.

Support for Women and Children

Kumamoto Children / Women Support Net



“Kumamoto Children / Women Support Net” is a network organization formed by several groups in Kumamoto Prefecture to assist the children and parents living in anxiety due to the Kumamoto Earthquake. It holds the “Information Exchange Meeting” on a monthly basis, where the groups which specialize in the support for mothers raising children and the mental care gather together to share the contents and the issues regarding their activities for a better support. It also conducted a survey on NPO activities in the prefecture, the information of which had not been organized until that time, and made a database with the survey result.

The organization also carries out a practical workshop, “Hug Project,” to study trauma care, and the “Classroom in the Forest Project,” which gives affected children an opportunity to learn together in nature. Through these activities, it has been supporting the people who are making efforts to get over the painful experiences in the aftermath of the Kumamoto Earthquake.

Community Development

Tsujunkyo Bridge Aid Project Team



“Tsujunkyo Bridge Aid Project Team” has been aiming at the restoration of “Tsujunkyo Bridge” in Yamato Town, Kamimashiki County, Kumamoto Prefecture, one of the largest stone-built arch bridges in Japan and an important cultural property, and the reconstruction of the town. It has held several festivals since June 2016 such as “Otaue Maturi,” a rice planting festival, “Yamato de Nomi Fes,” a drinking event in Yamato Town, and “Inekari Kai,” a rice harvesting festival to raise public awareness of the situation in the disaster affected area. It was also involved in volunteer activities to support farmers like mowing and cleaning around the bridge.

Through these activities, the damage of the bridge has become widely known and the bond among local people has strengthened. Also these activities gave a boost to the establishment of the fund for Tsujunkyo Bridge reconstruction work at the town’s board of education. In addition, with the recent decision by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to financially support the project, the town’s board of education announced that they aimed to finish the reconstruction work by the end of fiscal 2018 and to resume running water through the bridge in April 2019.

New Projects Start

“NPO Partner Projects” will launch new projects.

NEW

Project of Dispatching Social Childcare Workers



Kumamoto Children/Women Support Net 2

“Kumamoto Children/Women Support Net,” which has built a network for the groups that support children and women in Kumamoto Prefecture, will hold a symposium by March 2017 to further strengthen the collaboration among the groups.

It came to light that the system for protecting mothers and children was vulnerable due to the Kumamoto Earthquake. So we will launch the “Project of Dispatching Social Childcare Workers,” in which the experienced childcare workers from outside the affected area will support the childcare workers in the affected area. Amid increasing calls to improve shortage of childcare workers and quality of nurseries all over Japan, Civic Force will disseminate the importance of social role of nurseries and childcare workers, as well as encourage building a system where children and childcare workers can receive support without feeling anxiety through this project, which was initiated in the wake of the Kumamoto Earthquake.

NEW

“Boccia” Aiming for Inclusive Society



Arts and Sports for Everyone (ASE)

ASE, established by the members of “Special Olympic Kumamoto Japan,” a group for supporting intellectual disabled people, has been continuing activities for distributing relief supplies to the affected area since the disaster happened. It is currently encouraging temporary housing residents to take part in a universal sport called “Boccia” to prevent them from being isolated.

During 2017, as well as supporting the ASE’s activities, “NPO Partner Projects” will hold two events to resolve the issue of a lack of understanding to the disabled people, which was revealed through the Kumamoto Earthquake. One is an exchange program between the temporary housing residents and the students of special-needs school. The other is a sports forum to strengthen the collaboration with organizations for the disabled people.

Kumamoto Earthquake Thanks to Your Donation

Immediately after the Kumamoto Earthquake occurred on April 14, 2016, Civic Force formed an emergency assistance team with partner organizations and conducted search activity. At the same time, we procured and delivered relief supplies, and installed emergency tents at two sites in Mashiki Town, where we operated the tent village with maximum capacity of 200 people of 50 households. From June to the end of October, we established and operated 80 unit housings as the living space for the victims and the bases for the aid organizations to supply meals to them. We are now carrying out a supportive activity for restoration with our NPO partners.

Our activities are supported by donors. As of November 2016, we raised 115,562,744 yen for Kumamoto. We hope you will continuously pay your attention to what is going on in the affected areas.

The Donation –classified as the designated donation, can be made through bank transfers to Civic Force.

■ Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation:
Aoyama Branch Account No. 7027403

■ Japan Postal Bank:
Please write “Support for Kumamoto Earthquake Affected Areas” in the message column field.
Account No. 00140-6-361805

The account holder’s name of the banks above is “Civic Force”

Creating an Emergency Preparedness

We are taking various measures to strengthen our emergency preparedness mechanism. This page introduces the support given by our partners, such as magazines that published articles about activities conducted by Civic Force.

Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Students of Nakano Junior High School Visit Tokyo Office

Five second-year students of Nakano Municipal Junior High School visited our Tokyo office on November 18. They visited us as part of their integrated study. The aim of their visit was to think about social issues and what they can do for the society by asking us on the features and actions of an organization that is engaged in social contribution activities.

We introduced the emergency relief activities executed for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake; and the role of a private organization, which is in charge of the public interest. We later answered many questions inquired by the students. They expressed their thoughts saying, "This visit gave us a chance to consider about disasters and disaster prevention, which we usually don't think deeply about." Afterwards they sent us a thank-you letter.



Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

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Announce

Financial Statements Have Been Published

The annual business report and financial statements of Civic Force for fiscal year 2016 (from September 2015 to August 2016) have been published. Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting standards of public-interest corporations.

Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be 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. Payments can be made through bank transfers to Civic Force:

•Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation:
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964

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Please check the "Donate Now!" section of the Civic Force website below
<https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.ph>

