



# CIVIC FORCE

## NEWS LETTER Vol.12

(July, 2017)



Massive amounts of driftwood and dirt flowing into houses and fields made it extremely difficult to search for the missing after the torrential rain that struck northern Kyushu. Going forward, volunteers who can remove dirt and debris and restore fields are needed to support those who are still living in evacuation shelters.



## Massive Amount of Mud and Driftwood Hamper Recovery Efforts

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Tomigaya Ogawa Bldg. 2F, 2-41-12 Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

151-0063 Japan

TEL : +81-3-5790-9366

e-mail : info@civic-force.org

URL : http://www.civic-force.org

Caused by the torrential rain that started from the dawn of July 5, 2017, both Fukuoka and Oita prefectures were badly damaged with 35 people dead and six missing (as of the end of July, 2017). The surface of the mountain collapsed with a rumbling sound and massive driftwood piled up on the road while flood water swamped fields and houses.

The number of affected houses went up to 637 houses in the two prefectures and about 650 people are still at shelters such as gymnasiums and public halls as of the end of May 2017. Construction of temporary housings in the severely affected Asakura City and Toho Village in Fukuoka Prefecture is to be finished in late August. However, the restoration of roads hasn't progressed, so residents of the affected areas are still having a hard time.

Civic Force formed an emergency support team soon after the incident and rushed to the affected area early in the morning of July 6 by various vehicles (including amphibious vehicles) and helicopters. At the same time, we went to the headquarters for disaster countermeasures and shelters to find out the needs of the affected people. With the support of sponsors, we distributed undergarments, sanitary goods, and electric fans for beating the heat. From the middle of July, we are continuing to coordinate volunteer registration for cleaning and scooping out mud with the help of the NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation that supports the operation of shelters in Hita City, Oita Prefecture.

In this newsletter, we will report on the support activities conducted in areas heavily damaged by the Kyushu torrential rain. We will also introduce some essays written by the scholarship students and graduates of the "Dream Support Project" that supports students affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition, we will provide information on the volunteer tour planned as part of the "NPO Partner Project" to revitalize tourism in areas affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake.

# Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

The following articles describe the aid activities Civic Force continues to execute since March 11, 2011, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as its emergency response activities for disasters that occur in various regions of Japan.

## Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain

### Reviewing the Emergency Aid Activities

Floods caused by record downpours that hit the northern part of Kyushu from early in the morning on July 5, left many people missing. Civic Force set up a rescue team with Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) and headed for the disaster-affected areas. A-PAD Japan is a sister organization of Civic Force based in Saga Prefecture. PWJ is the non-governmental organization which puts efforts to breed rescue dogs. Our activities from the day the team was dispatched to the sites until today are as follows.

Torrential rain hit Kyushu

From July 5 to 6

Emergency heavy rain warnings were issued for most areas of Fukuoka and Oita Prefectures Information gathering began



Damages of Asakura City photographed from the helicopter (left)



From early in the morning of July 6

Rescue team dispatched

Two rescue dogs and eight rescuers headed for the disaster-affected areas from Hiroshima Prefecture by amphibious vehicles and other means of transportation. After the weather improved, helicopters were also sent to check the conditions of the affected areas and to rescue people from the sky.



From July 6 to 11 Search for the missing by rescue dogs began

The rescue team gathered information from the Emergency Response Headquarters of Asakura City, Fukuoka Prefecture, which was heavily damaged. They searched around Nakamura of Hakimasue District in Asakura City for the missing in cooperation with their families, the Self-Defense Forces, fire fighters, and police officers.



From July 6

User needs

survey conducted and procuring and distributing of relief items began



Based on the needs survey conducted to the victims immediately after the disaster occurred, we distributed emergency relief supplies to 13 evacuation centers in Asakura City and Toho Village of Fukuoka Prefecture and Hita City of Oita Prefecture. To procure these items, we cooperated with several companies such as Gunze, a manufacturer which we work with regularly.

NPO Partner Projects

Refer to p.3.

#### Locations where relief supplies were distributed

- (Haki District in Asakura City)
- Rakuyu-kan
- Fureas-Amagi
- Haki Junior High School
- Haki Branch of Asakura City Government
- Sunrise Haki in Haki City
- Kugumiya Elementary School

- (Toho Village)
- Toho Village south evacuation center
- Toho Village Kamifukui public hall
- Toho Village north evacuation center (Kirakuraikan)
- Hoju-no-Sato
- Toho Village volunteer center
- (Hita City) • Otsuru public hall

#### Relief Supplies

- Clothes (3,200 undergarments, 1,200 socks, 600 towels)
- Hygienic items (cooling neck wraps, cooling gel sheets, compresses, disinfectants, bandages, detergents, soaps, tissues, plastic gloves, etc.)
- Food items (170 ready-to-eat boxed meals, 200kg of fruits, water, energy drinks, vitamin pills, seasonings, etc.)
- Home electronics (portable air conditioners, dehumidifiers, fans, extension cords, etc.)
- Equipment for volunteers (chainsaws, vehicles, etc.)

## NPO Partner Project Starts in Hita City, Oita

In order to provide assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected area, Civic Force is supporting the operation of the volunteer center in Hita City, Oita Prefecture, through the NPO Partner Project with the NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation. The structure of the NPO Partner Project, established at the outbreak of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, is utilized here in northern Kyushu which has been ravaged by torrential rain.

### Support for Local Governments

### NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation



Local governments in the disaster areas face numerous challenges toward reconstruction of the areas such as investigating affected peoples' needs and organizing volunteers. In collaboration with the NGO Collaboration Center, Civic Force is providing operational support to the Hita City Disaster Volunteer Center.

The NGO Collaboration Center has been providing support with focus on mid- to long-term reconstruction efforts in other disasters in Japan since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Mr. Ryota Yorimasa of the NGO Collaboration Center says that their immediate activity will be mainly removing mud and soil.

## 【Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain Disaster】 Thank You for Your Donation

Total donation for the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain Disaster, which started right after the disaster, is at about 3.4 million JPY as of the end of July 2017 (preliminary figures including operating cost). We appreciate your swift action and generous contribution to the relief fund. The fund will be used for support activities for the affected people. Donation for the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain Disaster will be accepted until the end of July 2017.

### Voices from the Affected People

“I am glad to be able to change clothes for the first time in three days.”

— A child who received underwear.

“Cool and comfortable. I will sleep well tonight.”

— A woman using a portable air conditioner at a public hall in Toho Village.

“I can dry my laundry!”

— A man who received a dehumidifier in a shelter.



## Thanks for the Fund which Expanded our Future Possibilities — Messages from Scholarship Students of the Dream Support Project



The Dream Support Project provides assistance to the students in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures who suffered the Great East Japan Earthquake. The project has been offering a scholarship of 30,000 JPY per month since September 2011. Here are some of the messages sent by the graduates who finished universities with the help of the scholarship in March 2017. Many of them, having overcome their difficulties, took a new step to enter the work-force or be a graduate student. (Due to some editorial reasons, part of the messages is either omitted or edited. The age described below is as of April, 2017)

### Working as a Nutritionist in a Hospital — Fukushima Prefecture/Female/Age 22

Having lost our house due to the tsunami, I thought that I had to work after graduating from high school because I was the oldest sister of three siblings. But my parents encouraged me to continue studying at school, saying “You want to study at a university as you like.” In this spring I could get a job as a nutritionist at a hospital in Miyagi Prefecture.

Thanks to my family and the Dream Support Project, I could take a new step toward my dream for the future.

### Thanks for the Fund which Expanded My Future Possibilities

—Fukushima Prefecture/male/Age 22

When I was a high school student I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, which made me take interest in the restoration and the social infrastructure development of the affected areas. Just after the earthquake I thought that I would find a job instead of going to college because of the financial difficulty. But thanks to the Dream Support Project, I could go to college and decided to work in the field of the construction industry. I am now studying at a graduate school and doing my best for the future goal.

### Wishing to Become an Adult Who Can Support the Dreams of Younger Generations

— Miyagi Prefecture/Female/Age 22

I graduated from a college in this March and since this April I have been working at a facility for the handicapped. When I was in my college, I acquired the qualification of kindergarten teacher and nursery teacher. Now I am waiting for the announcement of the result of social worker examination. I would like to work utilizing these qualifications to make donations for the Dream Support Project as a repayment even just a little bit, which I hope will help support the younger generation’s dreams.

### Realized My Dream of Becoming a Ground Crew

—Miyagi Prefecture/  
Female/Age 22



Just after the earthquake I did not imagine that I would be able to go to college. But because of the support offered by Dream Support Project, I could study at college for four years. Since this April I have been working as a ground crew at Narita International Airport. Through working hard and contributing to the society, I would like to repay your kind supports as much as possible.

### Wishing to Support Mothers and Children with the Same Experience as I Faced

— Iwate Prefecture/Female/Age 22

I acquired the qualification of midwife when I was in college and I have been working at a hospital in Miyagi Prefecture since this April. During four years in the college I desperately studied and practiced for the qualification, which gave me a chance to learn the feeling of parents about children and the bond between parents and children. This period was also the difficult days, when I couldn’t stop recalling my deceased parents. After overcoming such a tough situation, I am now proud of myself having dreamed of being a midwife and actually taken on the job, where I can work for the mothers and children who suffered the bitter experience that I also faced.



### Unforgettable Relief on that day

— Miyagi Prefecture/Male/Age 22

I was affected by the earthquake when I was in the first year at high school, which got me full of anxiety for the future. In this situation, my class teacher introduced to me the Dream Support Project, which made it possible for me to pave the way for the future. Even now I clearly remember the relief I felt on that day. I have been working at a local financial institution since this April. I owe what I am to the fruitful days I spent in high school and college.



## What Scholarship Students Want to Convey Right Now

This year again, as part of the “Dream Support Project,” we asked scholarship students to write an essay on such themes as “What I learned this year,” “What I want to challenge,” “Looking back over the past six years,” and “What I want to convey right now.” We will introduce some of the essays here. (Please note that the essays are edited due to space constraints. The students’ grades are as of April 2017.)

### “Internship experience helped me find a goal for the future”--College senior / native and resident of Miyagi Prefecture

Wanting to change my passive personality, I started working as an intern at a company this past March. For the first three months I learned the basics of web programming, and then I was involved in system development. I felt uneasy because it was my first experience, but I was selected as the group leader and worked together with seniors. We made a presentation to the officials of our college and they decided to actually use the system we developed, with some modifications. I will keep working hard to be a professional web programmer.

### “I want to achieve what only I can achieve as a disaster victim”

--College senior / native of Iwate Prefecture, residing in Kyoto Prefecture

I am living by myself in Kyoto after leaving home for college. Sometimes I feel lonely because people around me regard the earthquake disaster six years ago as someone else’s problem, although I know they really don’t mean it. In such a situation, I got an opportunity to attend the “Asia Workshop on Post-Disaster Trauma” which was held in China in November 2016, and the experience made me think about disasters again. I am going to present my disaster experience to the Chinese youth of the same generation at this year’s conference. I want to achieve what only we, the disaster victims, can achieve.

### “We won’t let our ancestors’ warning and disaster experience be forgotten”

--College junior / native of Iwate Prefecture, residing in Kanagawa Prefecture

Six years have passed since the earthquake disaster, and I am now a junior in college. The lessons I learned from the disaster is to never forget this tragedy. In Miyako City, Miyagi Prefecture, our ancestors suffered huge Sanriku earthquakes in 1896 and 1933, which decimated the entire village. Thus they built about 200 stone monuments in commemoration of the great tsunamis on the mountainside at 60 meters above sea level, in order to warn us not to build houses below them. However, as time passed, the warning was gradually forgotten. As a result, many lives were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake. I often hear people saying that the tsunami was much higher than their predictions. But we have to be aware that we are living in an earthquake-ridden country, and must always be prepared for the worst-case scenario.

### “Don’t turn earthquake sufferers into ‘victims’”

--College senior / native of Fukushima Prefecture, residing in Miyagi Prefecture

That day six years ago, I lost many things such as family, friends, house, smile, and so on. I was too young and helpless to do anything. However, as I grew up watching the adults bounce back from the disaster strongly and cheerfully under the slogan of “reconstruction,” I was also motivated and began to have a big dream for the future. In the Kumamoto earthquake disaster last year, I began to feel that making use of our experience to support other affected people will also lead to the reconstruction of Tohoku. On the other hand, seeing reports of bullying and harmful rumors against the nuclear disaster evacuees, “reconstruction” might have a longer way to go outside of the disaster areas. The message I wish to convey now is: “Please don’t turn earthquake sufferers into ‘victims.’”

### “I want to keep seizing every available opportunity”

--Junior college sophomore / native of Miyagi Prefecture, residing in the U.S.

I have been attending a junior college in the U.S. since the summer of 2015. After graduating from the junior college this summer, I will transfer to a four-year university. I’ve studied harder than ever in the U.S. and I regret my earlier lack of study efforts. At the university, I want to find my true self by actively participating in volunteer activities, club activities and intercultural exchanges, which can only be experienced in the U.S. Through my study abroad, I have learned that not only motivation but also gaining experience and knowledge is important in seizing opportunities. I want to broaden my potential by aggressively seizing every available opportunity.

### “I want to be a doctor and devote myself to community reconstruction”

--College senior / native and resident of Fukushima Prefecture

Evacuation order in Tomioka Town, my home town, was lifted in April 2017. However, 60 percent of the former residents responded in a questionnaire that they would never go back to their home town. A major bottleneck that prevents them from returning home is the lack of hospitals and transportation for elderly people. There is a clinic in the neighborhood, but it cannot accept emergency patients at night. Under such circumstances, however, one doctor has returned to Tomioka, leaving his family behind, to work for the townspeople. Also, in Hirono Town, Futaba County, Dr. Takano of the Takano Hospital continued to work until he died last winter. I want to be a doctor like them, making every effort for community reconstruction while staying by the residents in my beloved town.



## Book Donation Program:

Through the Book Donation Program for the scholarship students of the Dream Support Project, 26 books were donated to 26 students. Some of their book reports are posted on our website.

## Conduct Volunteering Tour This Summer to Reconstruct Tourism Industry

“NPO Partner Projects in Kumamoto” – launched in June 2016 to support rehabilitation and reconstruction of the regions damaged by Kumamoto Earthquake – has been conducting four projects. This summer, students from South Korea and Tohoku region will join a volunteering tour involved in the reconstruction of tourism industry in Kumamoto Prefecture.

NEW

A-PAD KOREA

### Young South Korean People Promote Attractions in Kumamoto!



Although Kumamoto with its magnificent beautiful scenes like Mt. Aso is a popular area among foreign people to travel in, the tourism industry has been suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake. In cooperation with A-PAD KOREA, a network organization for disaster prevention in South Korea, Civic Force’s NPO Partner Projects will conduct a volunteering tour in Kumamoto for reconstruction of its tourism this summer where young people from South Korea promote Kumamoto’s attractions.

The project has done some preparations for the tour including an education to the students in South Korea regarding the restoration process in the affected areas and conducted a pre-surveys to discover tourism resources in Kumamoto. They will find out regional attractions in Kumamoto which are not only famous but also unknown to foreigners through interactions with people in the affected areas, and post them on SNS using movies and photographs. The tour, also joined by the students who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, will provide an opportunity of discussions toward reconstruction as well as international exchanges.

### Reborn Network

### Talking with Everyone Is What We Value – Round-Table Talk about Reconstruction Took Place

In response to the situation in the affected areas, where more than 1,000 houses were fully and partially collapsed, Nishihara Village Reborn Network, which helps the residents promote collective relocation and rebuilding of the area, convened a “big round-table talk about reconstruction” on May 20 at Center for Reorganization of Nishihara Village. About 100 residents and support members gathered at the meeting to make presentations about current situations and problems of their daily lives in each community and temporary housing unit. A participant in a temporary housing said “I learned how people in other communities were making the reconstruction process. We tend to feel anxiety and loneliness, but I think what is most important is that we share information for the reconstruction by talking with various people.”



### Arts and Sports for everyone (ASE)

### Boccia Gathering held with 200 attendees

On June 25, ASE held a gathering of universal sports, Boccia at Hiroyasu Elementary School in Mashiki Town. The meeting has seen about 200 attendees including students with special needs, their parents and residents in temporary housing. Mr. Yoshida, the representative of ASE, said, “Thorough this event, we could build a network with many people. We will look back on this event and make use of this experience to run Sports Forum for Disabilities, which will be held in this November.” ASE got qualified as a general incorporated association in this June and has been expanding its activities.



### LGBT-JAPAN

### Hold a Lecture in Kumamoto City

※LGBTQ : Lesbian、Gay、Bisexual、Transgender、Quetioning

LGBT JAPAN aims to find out worries and concerns of LGBT\* who has been affected by Kumamoto Earthquake and continues an investigation to do preparedness for the future natural disasters. On July 8, they held a lecture with the theme “LGBTQ\* living in affected areas” at “Aiport,” the Support Center for

Citizen Activities in Kumamoto City. About 20 participants had discussions on how they would handle the problems surrounding LGBTQ such as the toilet. And the support organizations working at the affected areas attended the conference for the establishment of Volunteer Station, which is scheduled to be set up in August.

# Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

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

### Joint Disaster Drill with Overseas Team

To prepare for disasters in the Asia Pacific region, the joint rescue team of A-PAD Japan and Peace Winds Japan, including Civic Force, works hard in daily training to save as many lives as possible, as quickly as possible.

The base of the monthly training is Jinseki-Kogen, a town located in the eastern part of Hiroshima Prefecture, where rope climbing is done both indoors and outdoors as part of intensive training. Rescue teams of Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong are planning to have a joint drill in mid-August.



## Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

### Support Us with Single-click Donations

You can make social contributions in one click a day.

■「gooddo」  
<http://bit.ly/17Xr7N3>

■PSC Click Fund  
• For Tohoku  
<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/index.html>

## Media

### Interview to be Aired on “J-WAVE” Radio Station

Mr. Taku Shinjo, a member of the rescue team who is supporting activities in affected areas of the Kyushu torrential rain, was interviewed in “JAM THE WORLD,” a program of “J-WAVE” radio station. It will be broadcasted from 9:45 p.m. on July 17.

## 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

•Japan Postal Bank:  
Account No. 00140-6-361805  
Account holder's name of the above banks is “Civic Force”

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





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