

Ten months since the Tohoku Earthquake Civic Force activity report

New Year's greeting

We respectfully offer our New Year's greetings. Three years ago in January of 2009, Civic Force was established with the following mission: "In order to meet all of the needs of the victims of the next large scale disaster to occur in Japan, we will work with businesses, governments, and local people to provide high quality support with heretofore unseen speed." The previous year of 2011 has been particularly challenging and has truly seen us put our mission into practice. We entered the disaster area by helicopter the day after the Tohoku Earthquake and began transporting relief supplies such as food and daily necessities starting the week after, delivering 540 different items for a total of 380 tons to evacuation shelters and other locations. With the strength of businesses, governments, NPOs, and citizens, we have continued to operate projects such as handmade baths and a large car ferry. Although there is still a mountain of serious issues at the areas struck by the disaster, we offer our heartfelt thanks with everyone that we've been able to greet the New Year and each and every one of our staff will continue to focus their energies and conduct activities in Tohoku. Civic Force is also preparing for the next large scale disaster. We ask for everyone's continued support, guidance, and encouragement in the New Year.

New NPO partner projects

Ten months have passed since the Tohoku Earthquake on March 11, 2011. While the state of areas hit by the disaster changes due to events such as mass relocations

to higher ground, Civic Force supports urban development aimed at area reconstruction, mainly through NPO partner projects.

In this, our tenth monthly report, we introduce new developments in projects that have continued since April. These projects, operated in coordination with partner organizations, use the specializations of these partner organizations to meet the diverse needs of disaster areas, and are now in their third phase. In addition to introducing two projects created via the conclusion of new agreements at the end of last year, we will also report on a portion of Phase II projects conducted in November and December as well as Phase III projects.

Agreement with the Japan Forest Biomass Network

In order to conduct a project to promote harmony so that children and parents affected by the disaster who are planning to move into the symbiotic reconstruction housing project Te no Hira ni Taiyo no Ie being built in the city of Tome, Miyagi Prefecture (to be completed at the end of March 2012) will be accepted by the whole community, we concluded a partner agreement with the Japan Forest Biomass Network. Founded in December of 2009 with Kurikoma Kougen Nature School and Kurikoma Mokuzai K.K. as its parent organizations, the organization was formed mostly by staff forced to live in evacuation shelters by the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake. Under the belief that this time people from mountainous regions would help those living near the ocean, the organization conducted emergency support activities such as the installation of pellet stoves at evacuation shelters immediately after the earthquake

and constructing large tents from the United Nations World Food Program. Now, as we move from the emergency support phase to a mid- to long-term reconstruction phase, the JFBN's main focus is the Te no Hira ni Taiyo no Ie project.

Orphans, fatherless families, and people forced to take refuge outside of their home area require proper care even now. In order that they may live safely while supporting each other and gradually move towards independence at Te no Hira ni Taiyo no Ie, Civic Force is starting this project in the belief that it is also important for the local community which will be receiving these people to support children and parents affected by the disaster.

■ Agreement with Tokura Fukko Shiendan

There are currently seven temporary housing developments in the Tokura District of the city of Minamisanriku, which was temporarily isolated by the Tohoku Earthquake. The Tokura Fukko Shiendan is working every day in Tokura District to stimulate a new community that crosses generational bounds and to maintain regional ties that have become disrupted due to the disaster. Noting the group's intimacy with social media, Civic force has settled on a partner project to provide information environment support for the independence of disaster victims.

The goal of the project is the rediscovery of the good things about the region by stimulating the traditional local handicraft skills of the older generation while at the same time dispatching information to the outside world through the social media of the younger generation. The project will bury and bridge the physical and generational distances between the seven temporary housing developments in Tokura District and create a unique rural culture from a new viewpoint, distinct from metropolitan areas.

NPO partner project progress

— Phase II projects —

■ Mori wa Umi no Koibito × Civic Force

● Implementation of an urban development study meeting

In December of last year, Civic Force held an urban development study meeting in Karakuwa-cho, Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, Mori wa Umi no Koibito's activity base. Suguru Mori, a professor from Hokkaido University who was involved in the restoration efforts after the 1993 Hokkaido Earthquake, was invited and gave a lecture on the restoration and reconstruction of the island of Okushiri and the issues that were faced there. Harnessing Professor Mori's experience with Okushiri, workshops for residents were held in the Koizumi District of Kesenuma and the people were also introduced to initiatives for a resident-lead mass relocation project. Residents who participated engaged in a vigorous exchange of opinions in order to restore and rebuild the region they had grown used to living in.



● "Living with the sea" symposium held

What changes did the ocean undergo after the earthquake? Mori wa Umi no Koibito conducted surveys of the water quality and organisms living on the ocean floor of Kesenuma Bay with specialists since the earthquake. On December 21, the organization held a symposium at the Sendai Civic Auditorium titled "Living with the



sea – Earthquake restoration and Mori wa Umi no Koibito’s actions” (supported by Civic Force). Over 100 people attended. In addition to reporting the results of surveys conducted for over half a year, including the influence of the tsunami on organisms, the state of the ocean’s recovery, and the safety of marine products, the importance of residents’ central involvement in restoration and urban development was asserted.

■ **Regional restoration projects × Civic Force**

On Oshima, an outlying island of Kesenuma, resident’s movement was particularly restricted as many of the cars that had been left on the mainland were washed away by the tsunami. A car sharing project was started in September of last year to meet the needs of disaster victims on the island. Using cars stationed at Kesenuma bay, the vehicles served as legs for the residents of Oshima, with users sharing them as a means of travel when going shopping or visiting the hospital. The service had been used 280 times by the end of December and the number of people using the service has increased month by month.



■ **Minna no Kotoba × Civic Force**

Minna no Kotoba delivers live classical music concerts as areas hit by disasters. What makes their activities distinct is that listeners are able to enjoy music by singing along with and joining in on the performance of the performers, who play four instruments. As a partner project with Civic Force, concerts were held for 3,670 people from May to December at 55 locations in 16 cities. From January 24 to 29, an activity report



combined with a concert will be held in Shibuya, Tokyo.

■ **Japanese society for Traumatic Stress Studies × Civic Force**

Since September this organization has dispensed specialist advice on trauma care to groups and individual nurses and doctors working in areas struck by the disaster. The goal has been to strengthen regional mental health systems whose core is health care centers and medical facilities and arranging a local system able to provide more suitable assistance by supporting local medical staff. In addition to exchanging information on the status of disaster victims with health care facility staff in Kesenuma in November, they offered specialist advice on mental care. After confirming the necessity of measures to deal with mental health problems such as alcoholism during a visit to temporary housing developments in Kesenuma, the organization is also currently considering how to provide specific support in the future.

■ **Japan Women’s Shelter Network × Civic Force**

The JWSN operates a 24 hour free hotline so that women and children who are victims of the Tohoku Earthquake and are experiencing domestic or sexual violence can call and receive consultation services with peace of mind. The system is also able to respond in seven languages other than Japanese including Thai for non-Japanese women in areas struck by the disaster who are particularly prone to being helpless and isolated in these kinds of situations. Support is also provided by consultants in each language in cooperation with police and attorney’s offices as many of the cases they deal with also require legal settlements or emergency interventions. Starting in November, events to distribute supplies for women have been held at temporary housing developments in

Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture. The activities provide a place where women can freely receive consultation, with a more diverse array of needs being met.

— Phase III projects —

■ Kesenuma reconstruction Association (KRA) × Civic Force

The KRA holds tea parties and other local events at the 93 temporary housing developments in Kesenuma to prevent the isolation of residents and support them in being independent. Events were held at 79 locations with 1,364 people participating in November and 714 people participated in events at 77 locations in December. The KRA was first begun as a receptacle for employment for the citizens of disaster-stricken Kesenuma. Three months have passed since the KRA began a partner project with Civic Force; they now quickly find the various problems held in the temporary housing developments and work with the government to create measures to solve the problems.

They also help in the formation of neighborhood councils and have grown into an independent organization of disaster victims working to restore their region.



■ Architectural Institute of Japan × Koizumichiku Asu wo Kangaeru Kai × Civic Force

Koizumi District in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture quickly turned in their application for the Disaster Prevention Mass Relocation Promotion Program, a government program which provides subsidies for moving to safer land. Although they have gained attention as a model of mass relocation, it is the Architectural Institute of Japan and New Beginning

Koizumi which have harnessed community ties and supported resident-lead urban development. Residents' independent participation is indispensable for forward-looking reconstruction and ten urban development workshops were held by the end of December. They provide a place where the good parts of the area can be reflected on and the future development of the region may be considered and discussed.



■ Network Orange × Civic Force

In November of last year, Network Orange held the Tohoku Marché in the Yokamachi neighborhood of Kesenuma where many of the devastated shops of the city had been located. More than 1,000 people came to the event where a comedy event, *taiko* drum performance, and other events were held in addition to approximately 20 shops operating during the day. A distinguishing characteristic of the event was the workshops with experts, with participants making business plans and sales targets before the Marché and using the event to put their new skills into practice with their shops. The result was that almost all of the shops met their sales goals. The goal is to create a more attractive cityscape than existed before the earthquake through this repeated cycle of learning and practice.



■ Kesenuma Volunteer Network Seikeikai × Civic Force

Formed mostly of disaster victims from the Tohoku Earthquake, the Seikeikai has been visiting disaster

victims at home since immediately after the disaster. As a partner project with Civic Force, in addition to looking after disaster victims, the organization has also been supporting the improvement of disaster victims' lives and building new communities through the creation of accessories such as good-luck bracelets. Disaster victims without acquaintances are able to increase their contact with other people by making good-luck bracelets while also receiving revenue from the sale of the items, leading to an increase in their desire to live and work. Sales are conducted both in and beyond the city with the cooperation of volunteers, with the number of bracelets sold increasing from 1,000 to 2,000 between November and December.



Employee volunteer dispatch project workshops

In cooperation with disaster area reconstruction programs sponsored by Global Compact Japan (GC-JN), a series of 5 day, 6 night volunteer sessions have been conducted since September of last year on the island of Oshima, Kesenuma. In the approximately three months of the program's existence until November, nine companies and 284 volunteers had participated in the nine sessions of the program. On December 5, a workshop was held at the head office of Fuji Xerox in Roppongi, Tokyo, reflecting on the past and considering the future support of the program, where a vigorous exchange of opinions occurred that would be useful in activities to be conducted from January.



Execution of donated funds and plan for execution

As of the end of December, we have received a total of ¥11.89 billion in donations. We report our execution of donations, current as of the end of December, 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	¥530,730,000
Provision and delivery of emergency support goods	¥232,530,000
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	¥140,740,000
Provision of multi-purpose, multi-operation bases	¥68,010,000
Tents for receiving volunteers	¥36,880,000
Reconstruction support survey	¥13,560,000
Reconstruction projects	¥27,610,000
Industry reconstruction support fund	¥5,800,000
Employee volunteer dispatch	¥1,200,000
Cooperative partner projects with NPOs – Phase III	¥20,600,000
Shared miscellaneous project expenses*	¥50,770,000
Total :	¥608,110,000

* Includes expenses related to fundraising

Tohoku Kyoeki Toshi Kikin startup meeting

In December of last year, we established the General Incorporated Foundation Tohoku Kyoeki Toshi Kikin (Tohoku Common Profit Investment Fund) using donations as capital, aiming to be Japan's first "common profit investment." We also held a startup meeting in Sendai in December. See the fund's homepage (<http://kyoeki.jp>) 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 personally 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

(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 “公益社


団法人シビックフォース” (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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