



# CIVIC FORCE

## NEWS LETTER Vol.19

(Dec, 2019)



The typhoon hit farms right before apple picking season. This is a photo of saffron flowers that blossomed through the mud. It brightened the faces of volunteers and victims who have been busy with cleanup efforts. (Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture)

(photo taken by Miho Ogino, JOCA)



### 【Typhoon No.19】 Now Accepting Donation !

#### ■ Credit card, e-money

<https://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php>

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

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#### ■ Japan Post Bank 00140-6-361805

#### Civic Force

\*Please specify "for Typhoon No.19" in the memo section. Please note that 15% of your donation will be allocated to general operating expenses.

## 2019: Recurrent Natural Disasters

There is only a month left in 2019. Following 2018 which was defined by a kanji character meaning "disaster" (the "Kanji of the Year" selected by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing), we experienced large-scale natural disasters again this year – the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain in August, Typhoon No.15 in September, and followed by typhoons No.19 and 21 in October. Typhoon No.19, which was designated as an "extremely severe disaster" and an "extraordinary disaster" by the government, caused enormous damage with more than 100 persons dead or missing and 90,000 houses destroyed or flooded in 31 prefectures (as of November 25). The number of people living in evacuation shelters is gradually decreasing compared to the peak period. However, there is still a considerable number of "home evacuees," or people who have chosen to stay in their flooded houses, living on the 2nd floor and so forth, as there is no privacy at evacuation centers. It is not clear how many of these home evacuees exist or how they are living, and therefore assistance policies are not yet sufficient.

Typhoons, unlike earthquakes, are predictable to some extent. Nevertheless, the damage caused by Typhoon No. 19 was extensive and created a great deal of disruptions in different areas.

Before the disaster occurred, Civic Force formed an emergency support team with partner organizations and started gathering relevant information. The day after the typhoon struck, we checked on the damage from the air using helicopters and airplanes and began by transporting patients who were stranded at a hospital in Nagano City to a neighboring hospital. At the same time, we visited evacuation shelters in Nagano and Fukushima prefectures in order to obtain and provide necessary resources. We responded to rapidly changing needs through networks of companies and NPOs, including cooperation with the Social Emergency Management Alliance (SEMA), which has 52 member companies.

In this newsletter, we look back on the two months of our emergency support activities in the wake of Typhoon No. 19, and also report on our Tohoku support project which was newly started this year.

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# Supporting Disaster Affected

The following articles describe the emergency responses, the aid activities, and the reconstruction efforts that Civic Force has provided in various disaster-affected areas in Japan.

Typhoon  
No. 19

## “They came to help us just after the disaster occurred when we were in our hardest time”

“Rescue requested. Hospitals are isolated due to submergence and power outage.”

Upon receiving the above message, the joint disaster relief team (Civic Force, A-PAD Japan, and PWJ) which had been gathering information before the outset of Typhoon No. 19, headed for the affected area. Members left from Saga and Hiroshima prefectures on the morning of October 13, 2019, dispatching a dedicated airplane, two helicopters, and three vehicles. The team arrived near the Chikuma River on the same day and transported patients of the Nagano Prefectural General Rehabilitation Center and the Sanikukai Clinic, which had been flooded above floor level.

The team conducted this emergency operation in cooperation with DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) of Nagano Prefecture and the Self-Defense Forces and rescued more than 270 patients. Medical doctors and nurses from the team, 13 in all, checked the physical conditions of the rescued patients, briefed relevant information to the receiving hospitals, and transported them by vehicles. The team members even helped clean the hospital during the five-day operation.

Mr. Nobuo Arai, Chief of General Affairs Division at the Nagano Prefectural General Rehabilitation Center, said, “They came to help us just after the outset of the typhoon when we were in our hardest time. Even now, their support still encourages us. Things have not been back in place yet, but we are working towards restoration.”

## Delivery of Emergency Relief Goods to Evacuation Sites in Nagano and Fukushima Prefectures

At its peak, the number of people who were forced to leave their homes and stay at the evacuation sites was approximately 4,500 people across 13 prefectures. About 50% of these affected people were from Fukushima and Nagano prefectures. The emergency relief team, along with providing medical support, delivered the needed supplies to more than ten locations, including evacuation sites in Nagano City, Obuse Town, and Suzaka City in Nagano Prefecture. The delivered supplies were clothes including cold weather gear and undergarments, sanitary goods such as wet wipes, water, and food. Water-supply bags were handed out to citizens of Minami-Soma City in Fukushima Prefecture, where the water supply was cut. As such, Civic Force has provided assistance that was tailored to each need.

## Equipment Lent to Medical Facilities Suffering from Power Outage

Civic Force had loaned electric generators and lanterns for about a month to medical facilities that suffered from power outages. In addition, Civic Force loaned pressure washers to the Social Welfare Council of Obuse Town, Nagano Prefecture which is still in use for cleaning. Further, mops and floor wax were delivered to Naganuma Elementary School in Nagano City for their gymnasium where a sports event was to be held in November 2019 for the local children.



## Expert Assistance Essential for Recovery- NPO Partner Projects

“My home and farmland have been drowned in mud.” “We can’t possibly clean up by ourselves.” ---Wishing to respond to such calls for help from disaster victims, many volunteers from all over the country are rushing to the affected areas. Meanwhile, support from organizations and/or persons with specialized knowledge and experience are essential to dispatching volunteers with various skills and to think quickly and efficiently in a way that meets the needs of disaster victims. As of the end of November 2019, Civic Force is working with five organizations operating in five prefectures to support the early restoration of the affected areas. Civic Force is also planning to support local organizations that are responsible for mid- to long-term recovery in the affected areas.

### The Sanriku Hitotsunagi Nature

### Taking advantage of experience and networks from the Great East Japan Earthquake



The Sanriku Hitotsunagi Nature School, based in Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture, which has been supporting the restoration and reconstruction of the region after the Great East Japan Earthquake, began removing mud and driftwood around the Unosumai River Basin near their activity base on October 13. From the end of October, they started dispatching volunteers to affected areas dotted around the city in cooperation with the Kamaishi Volunteer Center. In addition, the school opened the Santsuna House, an accommodation facility equipped with baths and toilets, and provide it free of charge to disaster recovery volunteers from across Japan.

### The NGO Collaboration Center

### “Otagai-sama Bus” –Transporting volunteers to affected areas

The NGO Collaboration Center, which has been responding to domestic disasters in various regions since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, continues to operate the “Otagai-samaHelp each other) Bus” that efficiently dispatches volunteers from the neighborhood to the areas affected by Typhoon No. 19. In November, two routes were running: “Nagaoka City, Niigata Prefecture to Tochigi City” and “Hara Village, Nagano Prefecture to Hoyasu, Nagano Prefecture.” Volunteers removed stones and urns piled up on residential land in Tochigi City, and removed mud from apple orchards in Nagano. A total of approximately 60 people participated in these activities.



### JOCA (Japan Overseas Cooperative Association)

### Supporting operations of Nagano Northern Volunteer Center



JOCA, headquartered in Nagano Prefecture, dispatched staff to the affected areas from October 17, responding to the request of local governments. JOCA staff are currently supporting the operation of the Volunteer Center (VC) of Hoyasu District, which was particularly damaged among the five satellite VCs operated by the Nagano City Northern Volunteer Center. JOCA staff are in charge of the reception of volunteers arriving every day and matching them with the needs of local residents. Civic Force is providing financial support to cover part of the operating expenses as well as the cost of introducing bicycles for efficient survey of local needs.

### Disaster Support Team “Gorilla”

### Bringing smiles to affected areas in Ibaraki and Fukushima through Eating

The disaster support team Gorilla, which was launched in the wake of the West Japan Floods in 2018, opened soup kitchens and cafes in Hitachiota City, Ibaraki Prefecture and Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, which were damaged by Typhoon No.19. Leveraging the experience of areas affected by heavy rain in Okayama and Saga prefectures, these facilities provide an environment where affected people can peacefully enjoy eating inside and outside the shelters. In addition, the team is providing support to create a place where local people can gather and interact even after the shelter is closed in the near future, and which can be independently operated by local people.



### Soma Rescue Team

### Taking care of horses in areas affected by water outages and flooding



The Soma Rescue Team works on the theme of “horse,” a historical and cultural symbol of the Soma Futaba region of Fukushima Prefecture. Due to Typhoon No. 19 and the subsequent heavy rain, the water conduit that supplies water from the dam to the area was damaged and the water outage affected up to 23,000 households, mainly along Hamadori. The Soma Rescue Team managed the physical conditions of the horses that were affected by flooding and referred them to veterinarians. In addition, the team called for and procured emergency supplies such as drinking water and water supply bags from all over the country and delivered them to meet needs.

## “Your Support Encourages Us to Move Forward.” Messages from Mabi Town, Okayama Prefecture

“NPO Partner Projects,” launched in July 2018 for the West Japan Floods, finished at the end of October 2019. Through collaborative projects with seven groups in Okayama, Hiroshima, and Ehime prefectures, Civic Force contributed to the restoration of disaster-stricken areas and the community development initiated in the affected areas. Having said that, it will still take a long time until the heavily flooded area recovers to its former state. Here are some of the messages from people who are still struggling for recovery and reconstruction.

### “Mabi Beer Available Soon”

– Shinji Tada (Okayama Mind “Kokoro” )

We have continued to provide employment support and manage a group home for people with mental health problems. Many of the facilities were damaged by the torrential rain, but thanks to support from a lot of people, a flooded workshop has been reconditioned, and a wheat-producing plant which is a hub for our career support program will be reopened in the next year. We are looking forward to the time that you all enjoy real local beer made from barley grown in Mabi Town.

The monthly music events have been attended by 3,200 people throughout a year and has become a place for local people to socialize with each other. Meanwhile, a new general incorporated association, called “Otagai-sama Mabi Lab” was established to build networks among volunteers from about 20 groups such as welfare and medical institutions and business establishments in Mabi Town.

In order to share the lessons learned from the disaster we underwent, we plan to publish a book in the near future. We hope that it will be useful for other disaster areas.



### Nursing Care to Support Locals to “Live in the Community”

—Natsuko Kataoka (SOUL Visiting Nurse Station)

We have provided a home-visit nursing service emphasizing “living in the community” , but our office and staffs houses were affected by the heavy rain. The entire town was flooded, and the number of our clients was drastically reduced at one time. However, thanks to everyone, our service is somehow getting back to normal.

In the weekend café, which we have been running for the local community, many people are still gathering and enjoying the interaction with each other. The collaboration projects with Civic Force have given us opportunities to learn about specialized knowledge and skills in community reconstruction and nursing in various places, including the affected areas by the Great East Japan Earthquake. This experience encourages us to take a further step. For the future, we will make further efforts to create an environment in which we can care for patients on their deathbed.



## 【West Japan Floods】 【Hokkaido Eastern】 Thank you for donations

Civic Force stopped accepting donations for support activities for the West Japan Floods and the Hokkaido Eastern Iburu Earthquake at the end of August. The total amount of the donations was about 66.6 million yen for the West Japan Floods and about 23.92 million yen for the Hokkaido Earthquake. We would like to thank all of the corporations and individuals that kindly donated for their great contribution.

“NPO Partner Projects” with seven groups

have been completed, but we have just entered another crucial phase in our effort for the reconstruction of the affected areas. As natural disasters have frequently occurred in recent years, we will keep up our community-based activities in various areas from the mid-to long-term perspectives, by making the most of our close connection with locals and our expertise fields. We hope for your continuous support.

- 【West Japan】
- NPO SOUL Visiting Nurse Station: <http://nposoul.com>
  - The NGO Collaboration Center for Hanshin Earthquake Rehabilitation: <http://ngo-kyodo.org/>
  - NPO Riera (Formerly known as Hikuchi Volunteer Center): <https://www.facebook.com/rearea.oita/>
  - NPO Kyushu Christ Disaster Relief Center: <https://kyusyuchristdrc.wixsite.com/kumamoto>
  - NPO Okayama Mind “Kokoro” : <http://mindkokoro.web.fc2.com/>
  - NPO Dappi: <http://dappi-okayama.com/>
  - Arts and Sports for Everyone: <https://ase-2016.org/index.html>
- 【Hokkaido】
- NPO Iburu Nature School Hokkaido: <http://iburui-nature.com/index.html>
  - NPO ezorock: <https://www.ezorock.org/>

## Depopulation, Aging, Nuclear Accident ... Support for Restoration by Turning Attention to New Issues

As eight years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, restoration and rehabilitation have shown steady progress in major parts of the affected areas. On the other hand, the restoration process newly revealed some challenges and problems: depopulation and aging accelerated after the earthquake and increased isolation and solitary death. In addition, in parts of Fukushima Prefecture, the restoration of the deserted towns is a heavy problem, where the return of residents is not progressing smoothly even after the lifting of the evacuation order. The official statistic doesn't necessarily show the whole situation of evacuees, as a significant number of people have left their community voluntarily rather than by the government order. There remain the needs to support the voluntary evacuees, as well as to offer recreation to children in such circumstance.

Civic Force combined the "Great East Japan Earthquake: Dream Support Project" and the "NPO Partner Projects" to start a new project in 2019 addressing the present issues and needs. Here we introduce part of the activities carried out by our partner organizations."

### Miyagi Ishinomaki Restoration Support

#### "Yatpesu!" Moms' challenge for the restoration of the town

Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, is one of the most affected municipalities in the Great East Japan Earthquake, with 3,600 either dead or missing. The city has experienced a population outflow, particularly child-rearing families, which has led to stagnation of the community.

To respond to the situation, the Ishinomaki Restoration Support Network has been supporting the maintenance and development of local communities with a slogan "Yatpesu!," which means "do it together." Mothers in Ishinomaki have been leading activities to support child rearing and to cultivate human resources, as well as to assist communities at temporary and public housings for disaster recovery.

Although the nation-wide support to the disaster hit areas is decreasing, NPO Partner Projects and Civic Force support the management of children's cafeterias, childcare consultation meetings and workshops by making use of the networks with companies and NPOs which Civic Force has cultivated. We also put effort into the development of local communities where elderly people can spend fruitful days by periodically providing opportunities for gathering like a salon or an event at Ishinomaki public housings for disaster recovery, as the isolation of elderly persons is a problem there.



### Fukushima

#### Bridge for Fukushima

#### Developing "Future Volunteers with Entrepreneurial Mind" expected to support restoration

The earthquake, the tsunami, the nuclear accident ... the level of the damages caused by these disasters in the Great East Japan Earthquake differs depending on the area, which in fact made the restoration process in Fukushima increasingly complicated. Bridge for Fukushima has been implementing a practical human resource development project targeting high school or university students in Fukushima Prefecture who hope to be involved in Fukushima's restoration effort.

Their collaboration project with Civic Force aims to foster young people's abilities to solve problems and to take leadership through seven programs such as an internship program for high school students, a training camp with adults from diverse occupations, a project-planning course, and an interaction training of high school and university students. We hope that the students who participated in the project will become "volunteers with entrepreneurial mind" and solve problems concerning the restoration of Fukushima as well as a variety of social issues.



#### [Dream Support Project] Thank You for Your Support!! – Final Report



Civic Force implemented the Dream Support Project as part of the Great East Japan Earthquake Mid-to Long-Term Reconstruction Support Project to support students affected by the earthquake in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures from March, 2013 to March, 2019.

Dream Support Project offered a scholarship of 30,000 yen per month for high school students whose economic situation was suddenly worsened in the affected areas for a maximum of seven years until they start working, as well as creating holiday training courses and exchange programs for them.

The latest report shows the implemented activities, the messages from scholarship students, the account report, the situation of scholarship students, and the information about donor companies.

Please access the report through the website below.  
<https://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/choki/children/>

## Expanding to Asia

What did we learn from Japan's disaster experiences and how can we share them with others? We continue to develop a disaster response system for Asian countries that are frequently affected by natural disasters.

A-PAD

### Donation to A-PAD Sri Lanka Conduct "ZERO Death Campaign" in Preparation for Monsoons

Every year torrential rains and monsoons occur in Sri Lanka. In May 2019, a large-scale disaster risk reduction workshop was held at the disaster prevention center located in Colombo City. In response to this workshop, A-PAD Sri Lanka, the local office of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (a sister organization of Civic Force), started the "ZERO Death Campaign." Civic Force donated 500,000 yen to fund its activities.

As part of the campaign, a workshop was held to educate people on disaster risk reduction. Around 650 households from Kalutara District in the western province where the monsoon damage was extensive, and more than 1,750 people from Matara and Galle districts in the southern province, participated.

A-PAD Sri Lanka, along with the disaster prevention center and local companies, conducted

a demonstration on how to survive in water and basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation using plastic bottles and school bags. They also explained the importance of the "grab bag": to grab a bag and escape to a safe place as soon as you sense danger. Many managers from various entities came and learned how to safeguard their employees. The central and local governments, military personnel, and civil volunteers also participated and distributed disaster-prevention stickers, flyers and posters to passersby.

Because of the Easter bombings in April 2019, Sri Lanka was under a tense situation including a night-time curfew. However, A-PAD Sri Lanka continues to work in a diversified and practical way across the barriers of organizations, religion, and race.



### [A-PAD] Framework of Mutual Support Expanding to Many Countries After Seven Years from Establishment

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (headquartered in Tokyo) was established in October 2012 to expand the framework and the experience of Japan's emergency collaboration platform, including Civic Force. Currently, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh are the six member countries of the alliance. Seven years have passed since it was established, and it has grown into a

practical institution that provides disaster-relief assistance to people from all walks of life.

Although headquartered in Tokyo, the A-PAD emergency collaboration platform that has been implemented in disaster-prone Asian countries is functioning effectively.

For more detail, visit the website at <http://apadm.org/>



# Creating an Emergency Preparedness

We are undertaking various efforts to develop our emergency preparedness mechanism in the face of disasters. This page introduces media coverage of our activity and information associated with our partner organizations.

Emergency  
Preparedness  
Mechanism

## Donations Accepted Until December 2019 -LIFULL Social Funding

The “crowdfunding platform LIFULL Social Funding” will be permanently closed at the end of January. As a result, Civic Force will stop accepting donations through the platform on December 22.

“LIFULL Social Funding, formally known as Japangiving”, was a crowdfunding pioneer in Japan started in March 2010. Civic Force received JPY726,604,123 yen (59,941 donations as of December 10 through LIFULL Social Funding, largely for the Great East Japan Earthquake. We would like to thank our donors for their generous support made through this site website.

Emergency  
Preparedness  
Mechanism

## Support Activities in an Easy Manner!

Donations are being accepted on the following company websites.

### <General Donations>

- Heads “Charity Happiness Shopping Bags”  
<https://www.e-heads.co.jp/products/detail2/3219>
- ASKUL “Phase-free Certified Paper Cup”  
<https://www.askul.co.jp/p/P678379/>
- Value Books “Charibon”  
<https://www.charibon.jp/partner/cf/>
- Hondana-Otasuke-Tai  
“Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books”  
<https://hondana.biz/second-hand-books-selling-for-charity/charityhtml>
- EC Navi “Smile Project”  
[https://ecnavi.jp/smile\\_project/](https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/)

### <Typhoon No. 19>

- BEAMS “Tanaka Misaki Charity T-shirt”  
<https://www.beams.co.jp/item/beamst/t-shirt/71080007591/>
- Yahoo Net Donation (T Points Accepted)  
<https://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747015/>
- The Asahi Shimbun Crowdfunding Site “A-port”  
<https://a-port.asahi.com/projects/civicforce/>

### <Great East Japan Earthquake>

- Value Books “Books for Japan”  
<http://www.booksforjapan.jp/action/>

Recruitment

## Program Coordinator (in Tohoku region)

Great East Japan Earthquake “NPO Partner Projects” is recruiting a program coordinator (as of December 2019). The coordinator is to assist the mid- to long-term reconstruction support activities conducted by local NPOs in the Tohoku region (mainly Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures). For more information, please visit Civic Force’s website.

<https://www.civic-force.org/news/news-2110.php>

Emergency  
Preparedness  
Mechanism

## Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

In order to be better 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://bokinchan3.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php>





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