



CIVIC FORCE

NEWS LETTER Vol.8

(July, 2016)



Approximately 80 unit housings were set up in Mashiki Town that was hit by the Kumamoto Earthquake. Evacuees were encouraged to move into the unit housings from their emergency shelter tents with the rainy season coming around the corner. They have become homes for 35 or so families, mainly with pets.

Relentless Rain and Prolonged Evacuation

The rainy season. Kyushu is among the first to start its rainy season in Japan and this year it began in early June. In some areas of Kyushu, the rainy season is called “nagashi” in the local dialect. There are various theories as to the origin of the word “nagashi,” which means “to run water” in standard Japanese, and one of them asserts that it originates from “the heavy rain that sweeps everything away” during the rainy season.

This is the period when disasters such as floods and landslides are likely to occur across the nation every year. Risks of such disasters increased in quake-hit Kumamoto as the major earthquakes in April loosened the ground of the region. In fact, downpours, which began on June 19, caused landslides and flooding of houses in the area. As an increasingly active seasonal rain front had brought heavy rain after June 20, evacuation advisories were issued to more than 400,000 people in the four prefectures of Kyushu. “Another mountain landslide occurred” and “We will never finish restoring our damaged paddy and farm fields” are heartbreaking voices we hear of the residents who had been living in coexistence with nature.

In this issue of the Civic Force News Letter, following the extra edition issued in May, we will report on “what’s happening now” in areas affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake as well as the current state of our support activities and all-out efforts to improve the lives of evacuees during the rainy season and in the extremely hot weather. We will also announce the results of the photo contest carried out as part of the “Dream Support Project,” a youth support program designed to support high school and university students of the three prefectures affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Furthermore, this edition includes the report on the activities of the “Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD),” which was established after the Great East Japan Earthquake along with an NPO helping disaster-affected areas in Asia.

■ Contents

P2 Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

【Kumamoto Earthquake】

- Shifting Focus From Tents Village to Unit Housings
- NPO Partner Projects in Kumamoto Started
- Looking Back on Emergency Relief Activities
--- from Disaster Outbreak to Present

【The Great East Japan Earthquake】

- “Dream Support Photo Contest 2016” Winners Announced

P6 Expanding to Asia

- Sri Lanka - Relief for Landslide/Sediment Disaster
- Korea -Held International Conference on Nepal Earthquake

P7Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

- Rescue Training in Hiroshima

Date of issue: July 2016
 Publisher: Civic Force
 Tomigaya OgawaBldg.2F,
 2-41-12 Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
 151-0063 Japan
 TEL : +81-3-5790-9366
 e-mail : info@civic-force.org

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.

Kumamoto Earthquake

Started Moving into Temporary Housings

Two and a half months have passed since the earthquake struck the Kumamoto areas on April 14. 1,110 temporary housings will be built by the end of July at ten locations of Mashiki Town – one of the most damaged areas, where around 4,800 houses were fully or partially destroyed.

Some evacuees won a 1-in-3 odds lottery to move into the temporary housings after they had stayed in the tent village which was set up and operated by the emergency relief team in collaboration with Civic Force’s partners: the Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). The people who were leaving the tent village with the expression of relief said “I feel somewhat relieved. Thank you very much for your support up until now,” which made us recognize that we fulfilled our role as a bridge from the emergency period to the next period. We have been moved by the accomplishment while missing the evacuees who left for the temporary housings.

Meanwhile, not every refugee can move into the temporary housings. Although the prefectural office and the municipal office have been in the process of acquiring lands and setting up temporary housings in Mashiki Town, more than 400 housings are still needed as far as we know. In addition, we had to remove all the tents in Mashiki

Town that we and other organizations had set up at the end of May because the tents would not function adequately to protect people from heat stroke and infection.

Shifting Focus From Tent Village to Unit Housings

We built 80 unit housings by June 7 at the parking space of Techno Research Park in Mashiki Town so that the evacuees including those who were in the tent village could secure places to sleep in and stay at. Each room is equipped with air conditioner, and kitchen, shower unit, western-style toilet and laundry are in place nearby. We have been trying to respond to the change of the evacuees’ demands as they face the rainy season and heat wave.

More than 35 households have moved from the tents to the unit housings, where approximately 100 people in total are staying as residents – many of them keeping pets. In and around the two community rooms that were built at the same time, we can see children doing their homework after school and people chatting during dog walking.

Ritsuko Miyazaki who stayed at an evacuation center in a school gymnasium and then in the tent village after her house in Mashiki Town was hit by the earthquake, is now living in the unit housing. She looked tired as she had to move around several times but said to us, “I appreciate that finally I have a private room and I am sheltered from the rain and the wind.”



a-b Children get together in the community space – which is now a haven of rest.
c-f Volunteers from all over Japan: an artist drawing portraits, a high school student planting flowers, and people shampooing and walking dogs
g-j Kitchens and toilets set in around the unit housings.

NPO Partner Projects in Kumamoto Started

To support the local restoration and rehabilitation works, Civic Force started the NPO Partner Projects in May 2016. This project provides financial aid to the organizations after the close review of their management structure and business. In exchange we receive monthly reports from them and visit the sites with the third-party experts for the mid-term monitoring and the final evaluation. This mechanism, which was launched in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, is now applied to three ongoing projects in the first period for Kumamoto's restoration and rehabilitation.

Supporting Evacuation Center

The NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation



The NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation, which started in the wake of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, has supported various disaster affected areas in Japan. When the Kumamoto Earthquake happened, they set up their base in Nishihara Village, Kumamoto Prefecture in view of the geographic conditions where the supporting

organizations and the volunteer workers faced difficulties reaching their activity places and the mechanism of social welfare council there.

They set up the base for volunteer workers to clean up the disaster-affected houses in cooperation with the disaster volunteer center in Nishihara Village and the other volunteer groups. A volunteer service to provide foot bath in the evacuation center has been also carried out.

The NPO Partner Projects provided financial aid for the operating expenses and the travel cost and salary for the staff. While delivering relief supplies, we are supporting the NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation, which values the victims' voices and continues careful supports for the reconstruction.

Supporting Women

Kumamoto Child & Woman Safe Support Net

In the disaster-affected areas in Kumamoto, more and more people are suffering from mental stress due to the earthquake scare and the harsh daily lives in the evacuation centers. Among them, children are noticeable as they have been forced to live in various anxieties.

To address the problems, several groups who developed the support activities for children and child care even before the Kumamoto Earthquake occurred, organized a network called "Kumamoto Child & Woman Safe Support Net." As some of the supporters have run the groups that deal with consultation from mothers caring for children and the organizations which specialize in mental care, they set up an information exchange meeting and built a platform for the case study about the



successes and failures of the programs implemented by each group.

The NPO Partner Projects will support the parents and children who try to thrive on the severe experiences through providing aid to Kumamoto Child & Woman Safe Support Net.

Community Development

Tsujunkyo Bridge Aid Project Team

"Tsujunkyo Bridge," which is a national important cultural property and located in Yamato Town, Kamimashiki County, Kumamoto Prefecture, has been used for agricultural water supply and supported the farmers' lives in the town. However, the earthquake destroyed the connection of stone tubes and made it impossible that the bridge releases water, which damaged the agriculture and the economy in the town. The repair work requires a lot of cost and time, which leads to accelerating depopulation, because people are leaving the town or quitting agriculture during the repair.

Against this backdrop, local young farmers got together to establish "Tsujunkyo Aid Project Team." The team strengthened the unity of



community and held a PR event called "Otaue-matsuri (Rice Planting Festival)" this June to raise fund for the repair work through disseminating the situation of the disaster-affected areas.

Kumamoto Earthquake

Looking Back on Emergency Relief Activities from Disaster Outbreak to Present

■ Outbreak of Earthquake

The earthquake broke out at 9:26 p.m. on April 14.

We formed an emergency relief team with Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) and Peace Winds Japan.



■ Rescue Team Started Searching for the Missing

At 11 p.m. on April 14, we started to check the level of damage and search for the victims in Soryo District and Yasunaga District in Mashiki Town, central part of Kumamoto Prefecture, which had been severely damaged. After another great earthquake broke out on April 16, we flew by helicopter to Minamiaso Village. We searched for the missing with rescue dogs, cooperating with police, fire fighters and Self Defense Forces.



■ Procurement and Delivery of Relief Goods

We cooperated with the companies that we built the network with in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake to distribute the emergency goods that was supposed to be necessary in the affected area to the evacuation centers. We researched the needs of small-scale shelters which didn't receive supports, to deliver goods such as food, clothing and daily necessities by truck for a month.



■ Offer of Residential Space and Operation of Tent Village

On April 18, we transported emergency tents to Mashiki Town, which had been stocked in a disaster prevention storage in Fukuroi City, Shizuoka Prefecture—the city office is our partner-ship organization. As of May 2016, we operated the tent villages in two areas, Shibafu Plaza on the side of Mashiki Town Gymnasium and Saishunkan Hill Top, where about 200 people of 50 households were living in total.



■ Establishment and Operation of Unit Housing

We closed the tent villages in Mashiki Town so that the evacuees would not suffer from heat stroke and infectious disease. Instead, we set up 80 unit housings as an alternative facility where the shared equipment such as kitchen, shower unit, restrooms and washing machines was in place.



■ Cooperation with NPO Partners

In June, we developed more careful support projects to respond to changing needs in affected areas, in cooperation with NPOs that had specialty and local groups that started moving for reconstruction. At present, we are on the way of carrying out support projects together with three NPOs.



The Great East Japan Earthquake

“Dream Support Photo Contest 2016” Winners Announced

“Dream Support Project” supports high school and university students in three prefectures in Tohoku who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In March 2016, Dream Support Photo Contest 2016 was held for 1,000 scholarship students and the Best Award Winner and the two Excellent Award Winners were selected.

Pick Up !

Best Award



Ms. Aya
Kubota

Ms. Kubota posted this photo with the message; “The sea is quiet as if nothing special happened there. The sea which took away our precious people. The sea which took away our precious home town. But I just can’t hate it. Our sea, which I love.”

Her comments about the Best Award; “I am so happy because I never thought I could win the award.” Her comments about her motivation for the application; “Although the sea took away lots of things, home town and even precious people, it stays there calmly. I wish I could hate the sea with anger but I can’t, because I’ve been growing up with the sea, which I love. Such emotion motivated me to apply for the contest.”

Excellent Award



Ms. 圭薫
Inada

Ms. Inada posted the digital composite photograph with the message; “Even though I try to live looking ahead, I cannot get away from my memory of the disaster.” She told us her motivation for the application, saying, “I created the photo as I wish the scene in front of me could be vanished like this.” She also sent us a very positive message on the award; “I want to thrive on this award.”

Excellent Award



Ms.Mami
Kameya

Ms. Kameya posted the photo of the Dragon Pine with the beautiful scenery on the back. The Dragon Pine was miraculously left standing even though affected by the tsunami, so it has been regarded as a symbol of restoration of Kesenuma. A judge commented, “The photo shows us the hardiness to live strongly together with the sea of Kesenuma. The important thing is to hand the experience of this earthquake disaster down to the future generation.”

[Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund] Changed its Name to [Fund Japan]

General Incorporated Foundation “Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund,” in whose start-up process Civic Force engaged in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, has changed its name to General Incorporated Foundation “Fund Japan” after five years from the establishment.

We need to supply the long-term support for Tohoku and Kumamoto – which is our first challenge in terms of juggling two different disaster-affected areas. So, we will create and move forward a new system to make the most of our know-how which was

developed in Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund for the support to Kumamoto as well.



“Long Beach House” for children in Fukushima, one of the projects we support, was completed.



What did we learn and what can we share with others from the experience of the March 11 earthquake? We aim to develop a disaster response mechanism between Asian countries that are frequently affected by natural disasters.

A-PAD Sri Lanka -Relief for Landslide/Sediment Disaster

In Sri Lanka, over 400,000 people were affected by landslides and floods caused by the heavy rain which had started on May 15. A-PAD Sri Lanka immediately started emergency relief activities and provided emergency supplies to several shelters. Also, temporary clinics were set up and operated by collaboration with the Sri Lanka Air Force and volunteers sent from companies.



A-PAD Korea -Held International Conference on Nepal Earthquake

A-PAD Korea, which had been providing support for the victims of the Nepal Earthquake, held an international conference in Korea on May 25. It was co-organized with “Beautiful Coffee” and “The Promise,” Korean NPOs, as well as other organizations such as IsraAID of Israel and research institutes. The conference set “psychosocial support for earthquake victims in Nepal” as its agenda. Through the activity reports from each organization, the participants shared the importance of supporting victims by a combined measure of psychosocial aid and livelihood aid.



A-PAD Japan



[Gave Report in Saga Prefecture on Relief for Kumamoto Earthquake]

On May 21, a briefing session on the relief for the Kumamoto Earthquake (organized by Terra People Association) was held in Saga Prefecture and Ms. Kaori Neki, Head of the Secretariat of A-PAD Japan, presented a report on its activities.

Immediately after the earthquake, A-PAD Japan organized a joint relief team with Civic Force and Peace Winds Japan, its sister groups, and offered balloon shelters and tents to the victims. In setting up and operating the tent village, they received help from volunteers dispatched by Saga Future Design Foundation, and the team is still working on site.

Founded in Saga Prefecture in November 2015, A-PAD Japan is one of the local platforms of A-PAD, which will continue working with governments, enterprises and NPOs.

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

Rescue Training in Hiroshima

In order to perform prompt rescue activities at times of disasters, the staff members of Civic Force continue to rigorously train themselves with sister organizations under the specialists' guidance.

Trainings are conducted regularly in Jinsekikogen Town, Hiroshima Prefecture, and the one held in the middle of May was during our support activities for the victims of the Kumamoto Earthquake. At this training session, we looked back on our rescue activities in Kumamoto and shared information to make the most of what we had learned to prepare for the future. We also participated in a two-day seminar for the IRO Mission Readiness Test organized by the Rescue Dog Trainers' Association (RDTA).



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>
• For Kumamoto
<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/kumamoto.html>

Media

Article Published in The Yomiuri Shimbun (Evening Edition)

Emergency support activities in Mashiki Town, Kumamoto Prefecture, was introduced in the evening edition of The Yomiuri Shimbun (local pages) dated June 18, 2016, under the title: "Unit House Village in Mashiki for Evacuees with Pets Upon Termination of Use of NPO Tents."

Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Start Your Support with Only 33 Yen per Day

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>





CIVIC FORCE