



Twelve years since March 11, 2011.  
Photos showing "Tohoku Now" have arrived  
from our partner organizations.



①②Maine District in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Pref. The wetlands inundated by tsunami have been preserved as a field for environmental education. ©The Forest is a Lover of the Sea  
③Ongoing exchange events in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Pref. ©Yappesu ④Walking in front of the Miracle Pine, everyone felt energized! ©Riku Café ⑤A book event held at the Disaster Prevention, Tourism & Exchange Center built in Ofunato City, Iwate Pref. ©Ohanashikororin

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## Twelve Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake

### From Hardware to Heartware Protecting lives by passing down lessons learned from residents' perspectives

Twelve years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. In the affected areas in Tohoku, development of "hard" assets such as seawalls and public housing for disaster victims have progressed and facilities to pass down memories have been built one after another. On the other hand, "soft" initiatives based on victim-centered perspectives are not readily visible, so it is important to evaluate reconstruction from various perspectives.

In this newsletter, we report on our current focus, "Passing Down Memories to Future Generations." Everyone will be required to protect his/her own life in the forecasted mega disasters such as the Nankai Trough Mega Earthquake. It is important to look back on the Great East Japan Earthquake and other disasters occurring in various regions and pass down lessons learned from the residents' perspectives. Civic Force is engaging in activities to root disaster risk reduction in Japan, which will lead to protecting lives.

# Twelve Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake “Passing Down Memories” Project to Support Storytellers

Twelve Years Since 3/11. Civic Force is implementing NPO Partner Projects to support the recovery of communities affected by the disaster, based on three themes: “Community Revitalization,” “Fukushima Welfare Support,” and “Passing Down Memories to Future Generations.” Of these, “Passing Down Memories” is an activity that aims to pass down the experience of the earthquake to future generations in order to realize a society that is prepared for disasters.

We bring you the voices of our NPO Partners who are making great efforts to apply the lessons

learned from past disasters to the future.

**Miyagi** 3.11 Memorial Network  
**Delivering “Power to Save Lives”  
to the Rest of the Country**

Mr. Masaharu Nakagawa



We serve as a collaborative organization that passes on the memories of the earthquake and tsunami mainly in the three prefectures in the Tohoku Region. By verifying and visualizing the effects of storytelling activities on encouraging disaster preparedness, we aim to shed light on the social value of storytelling. We support storytellers with the hope that people will never have to experience the same grief. We want storytellers to expand their connections and deliver the power to save lives to the rest of the country.



**Fuku shima** Tomioka 3.11 Discussion Group  
**“Passing Down Memories”  
to Restore Lost Connections  
Between People**

In Tomioka, where all residents were temporarily forced to evacuate due to the nuclear power plant accident, we continue to hold storytelling classes and other activities. Talking about the current situation and issues stemming from the earthquake disaster will also help restore the lost connections between people. Passing down memories of the disaster is not only talking about experiences, but a way to communicate what people must not lose in their lives.



Ms Toshiko Aoki



**Fuku shima** OSPA  
**Emotional Recovery from  
Disaster through Theatrical Arts**

The Odaka Society for the Promotion of the Arts (OSPA), headed by playwright and novelist Ms. Miri Yu, operates La MaMa ODAKA, a theater in Odaka, Minamisoma City, to help the emotional recovery of local residents through theatrical arts.

**Iwate** Kosodate-ship (Parenting-ship)  
**Making Disaster Management  
for Infants and Toddlers  
an Everyday Practice**

Continuing from the first phase, we are providing opportunities for parents to learn postnatal care and how to interact with babies. We are also focusing on efforts to establish disaster management for infants and toddlers in the community through lectures on disaster preparedness and publication of records of disaster experiences.

**Miyagi** TEDIC  
**“Secret Base Tanoma”  
for Children**

To reduce isolation of children and young people, TEDIC operates “Secret Base Tanoma” with the help of various organizations and people in the community. Tanoma means “fun space.” We aim to create a community where children and adults can care for each other while having fun.

**Fuku shima** Shinsei  
**“YAMA NO GAKKOU” Aims for a Symbiotic Society**

We opened the “YAMA NO GAKKOU (Mountain School)” to learn about symbiotic society and natural environment in a welfare farm that was developed in the first phase of the NPO Partner Projects. A diverse range of people participate in our activities including people with disabilities, farmers, students, researchers and business people, aiming to create a rich and symbiotic society based on the lessons learned from Fukushima.



**Iwate** Shiragiku Executive Committee  
**Fireworks named  
“Shiragiku (white chrysanthemum)”  
in Memory of Disaster Victims**

“Shiragiku” was created by a fireworks master in Nagaoka City as a memorial to his fellow soldiers who lost their lives in Siberian detention. Fireworks have been set off in various places on the day of the Nagaoka Air Raid and the anniversary of the end of the war. Every year since March 11, 2020, they have also been set off in Unosumai, Kamaishi City, which was severely damaged by the tsunami, to commemorate the victims.



Ms Akiko Iwasaki



**Iwate** walavie  
**High School Students in Kamaishi City  
Sending Messages to World**

walavie, launched in March 2022, is encouraging young people who grew up in the disaster-affected Otsuchi region of Kamaishi to convey lessons learned for disaster preparedness. This year, they plan to discuss disaster preparedness and mitigation with young people from Aceh Province, Indonesia, also a tsunami-affected area. Such efforts will nurture their ability to live in a diverse society.



**Miyagi** Memoire de Yuriage  
**Lecture by Kunio Yanagida:  
“Connected by Grief”**

In Yuriage, Natori City, where many people were killed by the tsunami, we have been operating the “Memoire de Yuriage,” a Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Museum. We offer earthquake disaster learning programs and nurture leaders in disaster awareness activities. We also held a lecture by writer Kunio Yanagida titled, “Connected by Grief,” in February 2023 and a memorial service on March 11.



**Projects in Progress**  
as of March 2023

## 2022 August Heavy Rain

### Niigata Tsukisara Partners' Center Holding Counseling Events for Parents and Children

Seven counseling workshops were held for parents and children in the three flooded areas from December 2022 to January 2023, in cooperation with "Murakami ohana net," a parenting support group in Murakami City, Niigata Prefecture. With the help of experts such as nurses, psychologists, and local dining spaces, we have cared for parents and children while enjoying our time with them. A participant said, "It's my pleasure to take my children here after a long time."



## 2020 Summer Heavy Rain

### Atami Saga Lending Cars to Support Groups

Civic Force has been lending cars to Tenkarasen, a volunteer group which operates reconstruction assistance activities for people affected by the mudslides in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture, and for Galapagos, a child welfare center which was hit by the heavy rain disaster in Saga Prefecture.

Giving Children  
a Ride!



## Typhoon No.19

### Nagano Shinano Naganuma Folk House Preservation Society Yonezawa Residence - Base for Local Community Revitalization

"Yonezawa Residence," an old folk house in Nagano City was affected by Typhoon No.19 in 2019. We have been promoting a project to reconstruct and utilize it as a platform for local community revitalization. Using the house as a base for volunteers from all over Japan, we have organized a variety of traditional cultural events and learning opportunities.

As part of the NPO Partner Projects (until August 2022), Civic Force helped with setting up the website, and preparing them for repairing, recruiting, and fundraising.



## COVID-19 Response

### Fuku shima Caro Fukushima Providing Places for Students to Study at Ease

Twice a month, Civic Force has provided junior high and elementary school students with a safe study space called "Let's study at Caro." For university students aspiring to be teachers, this program also provides teaching experience. In addition, we hold "Let's study at Caro" at different sites for those who live far from Caro.



### Miyagi World Open Heart For Creating Counseling Manual

Since September 2020, we have operated a hotline to take care of COVID-19 patients and their families who suffered discrimination. A fact-finding survey is ongoing to create "Counseling Manual in Emergency Situation including Disaster."

### Iwate Ohanashikororin Story Reading Bases at Community Libraries

"Ohanashi Salon," a story-reading event, was held in libraries. This program to create a safe space where people can spend time with books to help them feel relief from anxiety or isolation.



## Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

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

## Players Fund Our Thanks and Report

A disaster assistance fund, commonly known as Players Fund, co-organized by the Japan Professional Baseball Players Association and Civic Force, has held a crowdfunding campaign since December 12, 2022, receiving 1.249 million JPY in total. In the charity auctions held from December to January, a total of 6,295,565 JPY was donated thanks to the cooperation of the players. The donation will be used for a disaster relief activities.



## Speeches in Korea and Saga Prefecture

**Saga** 22.11.25

Introduction of a disaster preparedness quiz and assistance activities in disaster-affected areas @After School Child Care Club

**Korea** 22.11.29

Introduction of how the Saga Prefecture Furusato Nozei (hometown tax) has been utilized @Furusato Nozei (hometown tax) Forum

**Tokyo** 23.01.27

Introduction of disaster assistance activities @Integrated Study Class, Nakano Junior High School, Nakano Ward

**Saga** 23.02.24

Speech about World Disaster Assistance in Japan and the current situation in Saga Prefecture @Collaboration town planning lecture



## Relief Goods for the Underprivileged

In December 2022 and March 2023, Civic Force provided clothing, diapers, face masks, and hand sanitizers to co-op groups supporting underprivileged persons in Saga Prefecture.



## Participating in ARROWS Multiorganizational Coordination Training

Civic Force participated in a multiorganizational medical rescue training organized by ARROWS (Airborne Rescue & Relief Operations with Search) in Kochi Prefecture on December 10-11, 2022.



## Media Coverage

23.01.24 **Magazine** Toyota Foundation Public Information Magazine JOINT  
To help people out of poverty and difficult situations

## Support Our Activities Easily

### General Donations

**Regina Clinic "SDGs Plan"**  
<https://reginaclinic.jp/sdgs/>

**Brilliance+ "secret stone"**  
<https://www.brilliance.co.jp/about/news/donation-program.html>

**Hometown tax payment program**  
<https://www.furusato-tax.jp/city/product/41001/107>

**Heads: "Charity Happiness Shopping Bags"**  
<https://www.e-heads.co.jp/shop/g/CHRC-M/>

**SUNNAP (sales limited in ASKUL)  
"Phase-free Certified Paper Cup with Measurement"**  
<https://askul.disclosure.site/ja/themes/103>

**Hondana-Otasuke-Tai: "Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books"**  
<https://hondana.biz/charity-application/>

**EC Navi: "Smile Project"**  
[https://ecnavi.jp/smile\\_project/](https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/)

**どんな未来が  
いい?** 「寄付をはじめよう」キャンペーン  
2023.3.1 Wed - 3.31 Fri

**Value Books: "Charibon"**  
<http://www.charibon.jp>

### Great East Japan Earthquake

**Yahoo! Net Donation**  
<http://donation.yahoo.co.jp/detail/3747011>

## 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.

- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation :**  
Aoyama Branch Account No. 6953964
- **Japan Post Bank :** 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/page.1.php>

## SNS



Previous newsletters ▼  
<https://www.civic-force.org/news/newsletter/>

Subscribe to updates from the disaster areas ▼  
<https://www.civic-force.org/mailmagazine/index.html>

## Companies, NGOs, and Governments Work Together to Support Disaster-Affected Areas

In October 2012, A-PAD announced its foundation at the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in Indonesia. Since then, A-PAD has established a public-private cooperative platform for disaster assistance in six Asian nations. In recent years, we have responded to COVID-19 and the earthquake-stricken areas in Turkey.

In the forum, Dr. Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of A-PAD, delivered the opening address and expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in the assistance activities.



## A Hub for Disaster Assistance —Save more lives in less time

Special guests at the opening session included Ichiro Aisawa, Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of Diet Caucus to Explore the Strategic Role of NGOs & NPOs, Yasuhisa Shiozaki, former Chief Cabinet Secretary, Taro Kono, Member of the House of Representatives and Secretary General of Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum for Disaster Management, and Shunsuke Takei, State Minister for Foreign Affairs. A-PAD effectively utilizes contributions and grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to provide emergency assistance and was praised as "a Japanese initiative that brings innovation to Asia as a hub for disaster assistance." It was encouraged that NGOs, governments, and businesses from various regions work closely together and enhance their activities through the cross-border framework for international disaster assistance.

## Panel Discussion "Beyond Disaster Management"

Following the opening session, a panel discussion was held titled, "Beyond Disaster Management – Collaboration to Bring Progress to the Asia-Pacific." Five panelists looked back on the past ten years and exchanged views on the future of the Asia-Pacific Region.



**Facilitator**  
**Kumi Fujisawa**  
Chairperson, Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies

**Nobutaka Murao**  
Professor, Kwansai Gakuin University

From Beyond Disaster to Beyond Nation – We call for peace with one voice.

**Kazuya Endo**  
Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

A-PAD's activities across the sectors are very meaningful.

**Junko Chano**  
Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

**Firzan Hashim**  
COO of A-PAD, Representative of A-PAD Sri Lanka

**Kensuke Onishi**  
CEO of A-PAD

We decided to support A-PAD ten years ago because of its concept that effective support could be achieved through collaboration between external actors and the affected communities. We were fascinated by their enthusiasm and practical skills to create a better future in Asia.

Climate change is the main cause of natural disasters. We should work together for the net zero (zero emission of greenhouse gases) goal.

We have witnessed more volcano eruptions, conflicts, and refugees than ever before. We are scoping various kinds of disasters and humanitarian aid.

## Disaster Management Awards Six Group/Individual Awardees

Awardees of the newly-established A-PAD Awards were announced from the six member-nations for their contributions to restoring disaster-affected areas and raising disaster preparedness through their assistance activities in the past 10 years.



Kentaro Kawabe, CEO of Z Holdings Corporation, expressing his delight in receiving the award

- BPBD Bali** (Indonesia): Established standards for "Disaster Safe Hotel" and possible countermeasures against disasters during the international conferences held in Bali in 2022.
- News 1st** (Sri Lanka): The largest media group in Sri Lanka, News 1st supported A-PAD and reported its activities through media channels. Their assistance contributed to developing disaster-resilience in society.
- Mr. Carlo Buenafior (Founder, Fleet of Hope)** (The Philippines): Contributed significantly to rebuilding livelihoods of fishermen devastated by Typhoon Rai in 2021 by donating 140 fishing boats.
- Saber Hossain Chowdhury** (Bangladesh): As a representative of Kamaphuli Group, Saber Hossain Chowdhury coordinated the relationship between A-PAD Bangladesh and the private sector in spreading medical cards for those in poverty.
- Disaster Channel.co** (Indonesia): Opened a portal site to provide disaster-related information and knowledge, raising public awareness of disaster preparedness and helped build a network.
- Yahoo Japan Corporation** (Japan): Established a response platform called SEMA for companies to provide their goods and services in case of disaster.

## Disaster Management Training

Disaster management training was held on March 1-2 in Tokyo with about 30 participants from the member countries of A-PAD and other groups.

On Day 1, participants shared about the cooperative actions they took during disasters in the past ten years, talked about the strengths and characteristics of A-PAD, and discussed future objectives and action items.

On Day 2, they visited Sona Area Tokyo, a facility in Ariake, to learn about disaster preparedness through various activities. During the visit, they joined Tokyo Direct-hit Earthquake 72h TOUR, where they learned skills to survive the initial post-quake hours when assistance would be limited.



## Turkey Earthquake Emergency Assistance

The powerful earthquakes on February 6 claimed more than 54,000 lives and displaced many people in Turkey and Syria (as of March 2023). A-PAD staff members were immediately dispatched to Turkey and engaged in emergency relief work.

Donate Now



### Search-and-Rescue with Local NGO

On February 6-10, A-PAD and its partner NGO in Turkey, GEA, continuously conducted search and rescue for those trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings and rescued 41 survivors. With the critical 72-hour window closed, GEA's representative commented, "We will never give up even in the despair."



### Procurement and Installation of 110 Tent

On February 15, A-PAD donated 110 tents to Adiyaman, one of the most heavily affected cities, in cooperation with two Taiwanese companies. Through Education and Research Hospital, the tents were distributed for the storage of medical supplies. At the request of Turkey's Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), A-PAD also set up 50 tents to accommodate evacuees.



### Area without Assistance

As part of ARROWS, A-PAD is continuing the delivery of supplies in Hatay Province. The team distributed in-kind assistance including food and daily necessities for 100 households in the suburban town of Arsuz where assistance had not yet reached. Locals contributed greatly in procuring and packing the aid items.

