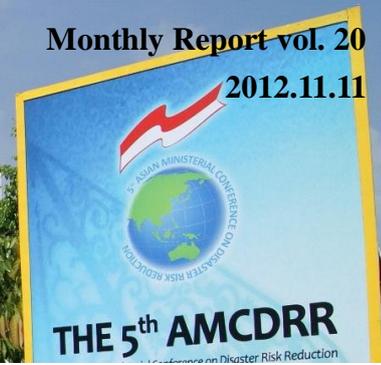


20 months since the Tohoku earthquake Civic Force Activity Report



Beginning “Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management”

Over 18,000 lost their lives or missing (from the National Police Agency, as of October 2012). The Tohoku earthquake (11th of March, 2011) caused enormous damage around Tohoku’s Pacific coast, serving as a painful remainder of nature’s power and our weakness. It also served to reaffirm our everyday connections, with messages and aid from around the world, as well as donations from political organizations, NGOs and businesses all over Asia with cooperation to Civic Force.

We must impress the importance of these “links” on the world, and use this experience to its fullest in any future disasters in the Asia Pacific area. This thought is what led to, in October 2012, cooperating with disaster management groups in Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines to found the “Asia

Pacific Alliance for Disaster

Management”. This alliance aims to share and utilize



information, material, human resources and money between the various organizations in the event of a major disaster in the Asia Pacific region, achieving faster and more effective aid.

The system of mutual international aid

Countries participating in the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (Alliance from here on) will create a “national platform” for governments,

businesses and NGOs in the five nations to form partnerships and work together on disaster relief. They will establish a system of mutual aid between the nations by encouraging links within the national platform.

Additionally, the alliance will raise the disaster relief ability in the participating countries and create people capable of dealing with disasters in the Asia Pacific region through working towards emergency disaster relief and disaster prevention with the businesses, NGOs and governments of afflicted member countries.

Three Years in the Making

The cause for the alliance’s formation reaches back to 2009. Civic Force called attention to the recent outburst of natural disasters in the Asia Pacific region, calling disaster relief specialists for a conference in Hiroshima. Focusing on the many issues regarding giving aid to afflicted nations, we noted the importance of NGOs, governments and businesses working together to solve this, and decided to create a linked policy by 2013, taking after Japan Platform. Thereafter, Civic Force staff went around the five countries to strengthen the network between the disaster relief communities. In September 2011, the “Asia Pacific Disaster Relief Summit” was held, bringing many members of politics, NGO networks and financial group representatives together, preparing to pave the way for effective use of the Alliance over several meetings.



And on October 21st, 2012, the alliance was finally founded, its existence formally announced at the fifteenth AMCDRR, held between the following 22nd and 25th at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The booth exhibit held demonstrations, announcements and press releases, and was visited by many cabinet members from around the Asia Pacific, disaster prevention agencies and President Yudhoyono.

「A role in bringing Asia together」

A founding symposium was held in Japan, in the Nippon Foundation building in Tokyo, on November 5th, with over 130 participants, including the government, NGOs, media members and businesses.

The symposium opened with an address by Faisal Djalal (director of the Alliance and advisory board member of PLANAS) representing our overseas members, stating the strength of the organization as the first international group with cooperation between the civilian and business sectors. At the “what should a newly formed group in the Asia Pacific region aim to accomplish?” panel discussion, moderated by NEWS ZERO caster Nobutaka

Murao (professor at Kwansai Gakuin University), director Faisal, Kensuke Onishi (CEO), director Junko Chano of the Sasagawa Peace Foundation, Yasuhide Nakamura (Osaka University professor and deputy representative director of Japan Platform) and Yamaguchi Matahiro of the ministry of foreign affairs held a debate on the impact and value the Alliance could create. During the discussion, we received many expectations, such as professor Murao stating that “just as the EU receiving the Nobel Peace Prize began with the coal and steel industry, in Asia, these disaster response organizations could lead to bringing nations together”.



「Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management」 Homepage opened - symbol is a bird

The Alliance’s homepage has been open since October. The slogan is “to save as many lives as possible, as quickly as possible”.

We chose a bird as the Alliance’s logo, symbolizing many sectors and nations flying like birds towards the same point the moment disaster strikes.



<http://apadm.org/>

Tohoku Earthquake Aid Helping the recovery through 「mid-to-long-term recovery aid」

From the standpoint of having helped with recovery on-site since immediately after the quake, what can we do now? Civic Force faces the thoughts and words of many victims even now, and is starting the “Mid-to-Long-term Reconstruction Support Project” from this summer, based on four core areas: Tourism Revitalization, Medical Access, Renewable Energy and Community Reconstruction.

For the Tourism Revitalization, we joined the strategy meeting for tourism, debates held monthly in



Kesennuma city, Miyagi, since March 2012. In October, we performed interviews in and outside the city with those in the tourism industry on the city’s projects as well as presenting ideas for a tourism revitalizing platform. From now on, we plan to discuss organizational plans and budget details.

Medical Access focuses on the increasing isolation

of Kesennuma and other afflicted coastal areas and aims to link together with municipalities, firefighters and regional medical institutions to introduce and implement civilian helicopter ambulances. This will allow for quick mobilization in times of a disaster, raise the rate of survival in an area where quick access to high-level medical service is difficult, and build a model case for a more air-centric rescue strategy. Accordingly, in preparation for implementing this next spring, we are investigating a good site for a heliport and working with medical institutions in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures.

Renewable Energy works with the Kesennuma Energy Development Corporation that is at the heart of the renewable energy project in Kesennuma to improve forest environments, employment and other long-term benefits for regional economy. Additionally, this project works with municipalities as well, with the municipality itself calling for the propagation of natural energy. For further details, visit our homepage. <http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/choki>

Progress Report on NPO Partner Cooperative Projects

In April 2011, Civic Force began “NPO Partner Cooperative Projects” to better deal with the changing needs of the afflicted areas. As of November 2012, we are holding seven projects to support the victims in their recovery. Most recently, we have begun a collaborative project with the “Karakuwa Designers League”. More details:

<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/npo/>

■ New Project

■ Karakuwa Designers League x Civic Force

Many of the regions hit by the Tohoku earthquake were already facing issues of isolation and aging. In



the process of recovery, they will require effort to make better and more attractive towns.

Karakuwa, in Kesennuma City is a community that lives on the produce from the sea that surrounds it and is another region that faces problems from its younger population leaving. Accordingly, the Karakuwa Designers League rose up to find a way to create a future for the local area, setting projects and allowing residents an opportunity to rediscover the charm of their homes(<http://karakuwamaru.net/>). Many younger former karakuwa citizens from the metropolitan area, as well as 20~30 year olds in Karakuwa worked together to found this league, taking volunteers, holding “city-walking activities” and publishing a regional information magazine, the “Karakuwa Future Forecast Magazine (KECKARA)”.

Civic Force’s “NPO Partner Cooperative Projects” aims to work together with them to bring out the strength of the region and return life to it through city-walking and other projects.

■ Projects in progress (as of 11 November 2012)

■ Peace Nature Lab x Civic Force

The Peace Nature Lab (<http://pnl.jp/>) that processes and sells the local products in the Mone district of Karakuwa town in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture with the aim of becoming a



reconstruction model by making good use of its unique local food, culture and nature. In October, they have been developing products such as the local smoked or fried oysters and scallops, and confectionaries using the local food, maintaining the producing system and cultivating markets.

■ Moriwa Umi no Koibito × Civic Force

Moriwa Umi no Koibito, which acts in environment education, forest construction and nature conservation areas at Karakuwa town in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture, held an “Autumn Seaside School” for children alongside with surveying for the community reconstruction. Details: <http://www.mori-umi.org/>

■ Japan Forest Biomass Network × Civic Force

The reconstruction symbiosis housing “Tenohirani Taiyo no Ie” is continuously providing the environment for children of Fukushima prefecture to fully experience the activities inside and outside. Consecutive holidays in November were fully booked and now accepting reservation for December onwards. Details: <http://taiyounoie.org/>

■ Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team × Civic Force

The Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team promotes group relocation projects and community reconstruction for the



Osawa district of Kesennuma, held a seeding project as part of the “Osawa Future Meeting”.

■ Kesennuma/Oshima Community Development Support × Civic Force

Oshima Community Development Support that aims to reconstruct the Oshima, an inhabited island in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture putting organizational volunteers into operation and also, preparing for the “Kikitabi” activity.

■ Slow Food Kesennuma × Civic Force

Slow Food Kesennuma has reissued the Marukajiri Kesennuma Guidebook introducing the history, culture and nature of Kesennuma. In October, in cooperation

with the local people, “Kesennuma Ebisu Project” is under operation.

■ Business Report for fiscal 2012 disclosure

Thank you for your continuous support. Donated funds concerning the Tohoku earthquake are used according to the approval of the board. We disclose project operation, the account settlement and the business report of fiscal 2012 (September 2011 – August 2012) on our website. We look forward to your continuous support.

<http://www.civic-force.org/about/>

In addition, the organizations that support our activities are shown on the following page.

<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/suporter/>

■ Amendment and request for corporate supporting membership

We are currently building cooperative relationships with various organizations to prepare for large-scale rapid support activities when a big disaster occurs. For this purpose, we have amended a part of the membership and laid out the two models of “Leading Partner” and “Partner.”

The “Leading Partner” is for organizations that could take a lead role to provide comprehensive support for relief activities. These organizations participate in emergency drills and cooperate in emergency relief activities and will be mutually publicized through websites and PR media. Annual membership fee is 500 thousand yen per contribution. The “Partner” is for organizations that support us in disaster prevention and emergency relief activities. Annual membership fee is 100 thousand yen per contribution.

We look forward to as many corporate supporting members participating through these memberships as

possible.

Details: <http://www.civic-force.org/about/membership/>

In addition, the current partner organizations are shown on the following page.

<http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinohon/suporter/>

Request for monthly supporters

Regular preparation has a huge influence on the speed and quality of support when a disaster strikes. We experienced this during the Tohoku Earthquake and is now preparing for the next large scale disaster. Your help 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 to prepare for the next large scale disaster, as a monthly supporter, contributing 1,000 yen per month.

Your support would be very much appreciated to us prepare for the next disaster that could happen anywhere 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 Banking Corporation, Aoyama Branch, savings account no. 6953964

■JP Bank : 00140-6-361805

(The account holder for both of the above is “Civic Force”)

■Credit card: Please check the “Donate Now!” section on the Civic Force website.

https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/page1.php?bokin_type=donation

Email magazine: “To know the current situation of affected areas.”

A weekly email magazine “To know the current situation of the affected areas” that includes our

activities, situation of affected areas and voices of those commencing the reconstruction inside and outside of Japan.

For registration: <http://www.civic-force.org/mailmag/>

*You can view our monthly reports, released around the 11th of each month, at

<http://civic-force.org/news/monthly/>

Also, delivered through social media:



<http://twitter.com/#!/civicforce>



<http://www.facebook.com/civicforce>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicforceorg>

