



CIVIC FORCE

NEWS LETTER Vol.16

(Nov, 2018)



One hundred days have passed since the Western Japan Floods, often described as “the worst rain disaster in the Heisei era.” On October 14, a concert was held in the heavily affected Mabi Town in Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture, where 80% of the living area was flooded, and 700 people gathered to listen to the musicians sing and play music. One of the organizers of the event, Mr. Shinji Tada of the NPO Okayama Mind Kokoro, said that everyone in the audience shared the same feelings through music, mourned together, and parted ways saying, “Thank you!”
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“Long Way Back to Normal Life”

This year, Japan suffered from an unprecedented number of natural disasters: an earthquake Northern Osaka Prefecture in June, Western Japan Floods in July, numerous typhoons, and earthquake in Hokkaido in September: Areas of Western Japan such as Okayama, Hiroshima and Ehime Prefectures, were particularly hit hard with torrential rains with over 200 people killed by the resulting floods and landslides. Subsequent large typhoons only exacerbated the damage.

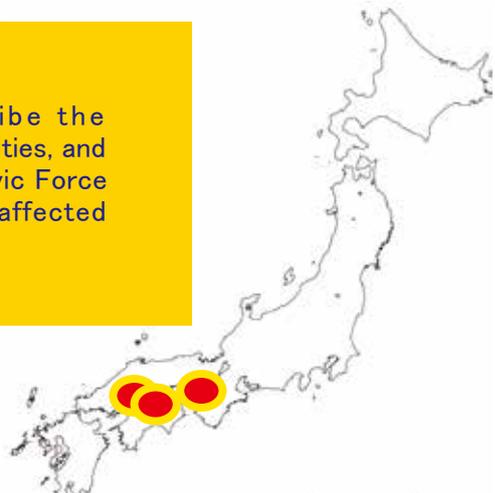
Many of the evacuation shelters in the affected areas have already been closed, and the evacuees have begun to move into temporary houses. However, many evacuees still say that the disaster had completely changed their lives and their situations remain the same. In addition to an increasing number of companies and welfare facilities going out of business, some towns are facing new challenges of population decline. Reconstruction of the affected towns is now entering a crucial phase and will continue into next year and beyond.

Responding to the tremendous damage inflicted by the Western Japan Floods and the Hokkaido Earthquake, Civic Force immediately formed disaster relief teams, including doctors and rescue dogs, at the onset of the disasters. The teams headed to the affected areas by helicopter and began searching for missing people. Along with search-and-rescue (SAR) operations, the teams visited disaster response headquarters and evacuation shelters to assess people’s needs, and delivered much-needed supplies such as underwear and sanitary goods in cooperation with partner companies. “NPO Partner Projects” is also in progress with other organizations that are working to meet the needs of each area, including sending volunteers to clear the mud and debris.

This edition of the newsletter reports on our disaster relief activities in the areas affected by the Western Japan Floods and the Hokkaido Earthquake. It also includes a report on a study camp for scholarship students that was organized as a part of the “Dream Support Project” of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Supporting Disaster Affected Areas

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.



Western Japan Floods

Responding to Changing Needs in Affected Areas

Record-breaking torrential rains caused tremendous damage to the western areas of Japan. On July 5, responding to numerous alerts of missing persons, Civic Force formed a disaster relief team with Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) based in Saga and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), an emergency relief organization, and headed to the disaster-hit areas. Here is a summary of what the team has achieved so far since its deployment.

July 5 : Heavy rains begin



Rescue & Medical Support

The day after the torrential rains began, our team deployed to the affected areas by helicopter and amphibious car, and rescued patients from the submerged Mabi Memorial Hospital. We also helped in searching for missing people with rescue dogs and establishing temporary medical sites.



Procurement and Delivery of Emergency Relief Goods

In cooperation with local governments, companies, and NPOs, we assessed the needs of the victims and delivered relief supplies to those staying in shelters or at home



Lending Trailers

Together with our partners, we transported several trailers to the affected areas to be used as temporary medical sites where doctors could provide medical care to patients (until the end of July). Currently, the trailers are lent to an NPO in charge of home-visit nursing and are used as offices for nurses who are working day and night or as resting places for local residents.



NPO Partner Projects

In order to keep up with the fast-changing needs of the affected areas, we are supporting the restoration and reconstruction efforts of NPOs specializing in disaster aid as well as local organizations. More details on page 3.

NPO Partner Projects: Projects Are Underway

To support the reconstruction efforts of the areas affected by the Western Japan Floods, NPO Partner Projects was launched in August 2018 and cooperative projects are underway with six partner organizations in three prefectures thus far.

Hichiku Volunteer Center



Passing Down Disaster Experience: From Oita to Ehime

Hita City in Oita Prefecture, where the Hichiku Volunteer Center is based, was one of the areas hit by heavy rains in the summer of 2017. Providing their expertise from past experiences, the Center's staff went to Uwajima City in Ehime Prefecture with Hita City officials after the floods, and supported the management of the disaster volunteer center. They also helped remove mud from submerged houses and rice and crop fields by operating volunteer buses. Currently, they plan to support the restoration activities of the damaged mandarin orange farms and to organize exchanges between the residents of Hita and Uwajima.

The NGO Collaboration Center

Efficiently Dispatched Volunteers from Neighboring

The NGO Collaboration Center for HANSHIN QUAKE Rehabilitation, who has supported the various affected areas in Japan since the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, operated volunteer buses that dispatched people to the affected areas in Hiroshima, Okayama, and Tamba during the weekends in July and August. In total, 141 people participated from Kobe, Shimane, and Yamaguchi. They helped remove mud from submerged houses, rice and crop fields, and prepared free meals. One of the benefits of the volunteer bus is that volunteers and local people can take time to communicate and get to know each other better. Among the participants, a high school student said that they wanted to visit again to take advantage of this experience.



Soul Visiting Nurse Station

Continuing Home-visit Nursing Service and Community Building

Soul provides a home-visit nursing service in Mabi Town, Okayama Prefecture. Both staff houses and the Soul office were damaged by the floods. However, even amidst their own difficult situation, Soul staff contacted all the patients and their families to confirm their safety and they continue to provide service for home care patients. In addition, they stored relief supplies delivered from all over Japan inside and outside the Civic Force trailer, which they were using as a temporary office, and distributed them to the stay-at-home evacuees. Since October, they have focused on creating places for local people to get together through operating a café, providing health checkups, etc.



Okayama Mind Kokoro

Over 700 People Participated in Recovery Event

Okayama Mind Kokoro was established by people with mental health problems and their families in Mabi Town in March 2002. Although the group home, brewery and beer hall were damaged by the floods, the staff organized a volunteer group to help remove mud and clean up houses in the community. In August, they resumed the monthly "Local Beer and Music Night" event. In October, 700 people gathered for the event, a place for people to share their feelings about the disaster while enjoying music. Okayama Mind Kokoro also participated in a project to establish an organization called the "Otagaisama Center Mabi," which will play an important role in the restoration and reconstruction of the affected areas.



Kyusyu Christ Disaster Relief Center

Dispatched Nurses to Special Needs Shelter

Nurses are dispatched to assist the management of Makibiso, a special needs shelter in Mabi Town, to which about 50 people, including senior citizens with chronic diseases and children with developmental problems, have evacuated. A collaboration project with Civic Force, the Center promotes a nutrition improvement program for people who are forced to live in shelters for a long time to supplement protein, fibers, vitamins, minerals, and calcium, etc. They especially focus on supporting the evacuees whose diet requires nutritional care. In addition, they are now building an isolation room in preparation for flu and infective gastroenteritis epidemics.

Dappi

Helping Disaster-affected High School Students Move Forward

Dappi, an organization that provides career support for middle school, high school, college students and young adults, offered a career support program to disaster-affected students at a high school in Okayama Prefecture in October. The students met with adults and college students from disaster-affected areas as well as victims who experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake. It was a great opportunity for the victims to share their post-disaster mindsets that helped the victims to move from the disaster. In November, Dappi will participate in an event called "Mabi Festival" in Mabi Town. The event will provide an opportunity for unaffected middle and high school students to reflect on the disaster together with victims.

From Emergency Relief to Supporting Restoration and Reconstruction

On September 6, the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake struck with a maximum seismic intensity of 7. 41 people died, 691 were injured and many houses in Atsuma Town, Abira Town and Mukawa Town collapsed. That same day, Civic Force commenced SAR operations for missing people and distributed emergency relief supplies to the people in those towns. Currently, we are supporting the activities of local NPOs through NPO Partner Projects.



September 6: Earthquake Occurred



Procured and Delivered Relief Supplies

We surveyed what people in the shelters truly needed and distributed the supplies with help from local governments, companies, and NPOs.



NPO Partner Projects

To keep pace with the changing needs of the disaster-affected areas, we are collaborating with the local organizations that are more familiar with the local circumstances to support the restoration and reconstruction efforts. More details are on page 5.



Rescue

On the day the earthquake struck, we flew to Atsuma Town by airplane and helicopter and searched for missing people with rescue dogs and doctors around the areas where the landslides occurred.



Lending Trailer and Operating Circulating Bus

We are lending a trailer as a resting space for local government and NPO staff who are tirelessly working to restore the damage. Moreover, we operate a circulating bus between a public bath facility and evacuation centers in an area where the water supply was interrupted. We carried out these activities in cooperation with our partner organizations.



Collaboration with Common Benefit Investment Fund JAPAN

To assist the restoration and recovery of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the affected areas, we are planning to collaborate with the Common Benefit Investment Fund JAPAN which supports industrial recovery.

Support Parents and Children in the Affected Areas – NPO Partner Projects

NPO Partner Projects has been implemented in the areas affected by the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake since October 2018. Through this platform, two support projects were launched this November.

Iburi Nature School

Provide playgrounds for children in affected areas



Iburi Nature School, based in Tomakomai City, has promoted nature experience activities for parents and children. The school has led disaster restoration activities such as dismantling collapsed houses, establishing volunteer centers, and managing volunteers in Tomakomai City, Abira Town, Atsuma Town, and Mukawa Town since September 7. Iburi Nature School also provides a nature experience program aimed at healing the anxiety of parents and children affected by the earthquake. The program focused on “Mokuiku” which means to nurture a forest in one’s mind through the use of wood in their daily lives from childhood.

Ezorock

Support the affected areas with dry vegetables produced

Ezorock has initiated a variety of activities all over Hokkaido including environmental maintenance at event sites and nature conservation in national parks. Their efforts have now extended to disaster support projects as well. Ezorock produced and sold dried vegetables in Sumikawa, Sapporo City and Atsuma Town and raised public awareness on disaster risk reduction. NPO Partner Projects plans to instruct the child-raising groups on how to produce and sell dry vegetables to increase job opportunities and develop the region.



We Appreciate Your Donations

Four months have passed since the Western Japan Floods in July and more than two months since the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake. The emergency assistance activities of Civic Force have been supported by your donations. We would like to reiterate our appreciation for the great support from companies and people both domestic and overseas. Let us share the messages of the people in the affected areas.

The recovery and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas are still underway, and a critical phase begins now. Civic Force is supporting self-directed reconstruction activities of the people in the affected areas through NPO Partner Projects. We hope you continue your interest and support in our activities.

Total donation amount

–The Western Japan Floods:
37.75 million yen
–The Hokkaido Earthquake:
12.72 million yen
(as of the end of October, including operational cost of 15%)

《Messages》

“I went to the shelter drenched to the skin with rain. I was relieved to finally be able to change my clothes.” @ Hiroshima
“Thanks for the hot and healthy meals.” @ a food distribution center run by cooking experts
“I feel secure as doctors are available even at night.” @ a temporary trailer clinic
“We are using a trailer as a substitute for the submerged office.” @ Okayama
“Kids are delighted with the number of picture books they have.” @ Ehime



“Dream Support Project”

A Special Training Program in Hita City, Oita Prefecture to Connect the Affected Areas to Each Other

“Dream Support Project,” a scholarship program for high school and university students affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, has held a special educational program for the scholars every summer.

This year, it ran for six days starting on August 1 in Hita City, which was damaged by torrential rain in July 2017. Three scholars (university students) from northeast Japan were accepted by the Hichiku Volunteer Center which has supported the management of Hita City Disaster Volunteer Center and partners with Civic Force in “NPO

Partner Projects.”

During the program, they visited Ono district, where nearly 100 people were living in temporary housing, to hear about the conditions following the disaster at affected sites. They also joined an event to share their experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake with the local children and sent messages of hope to the affected areas of the Western Japan Floods. The scholars and the children bonded by doing homework together and eating nagashi-somen, or “flowing noodles.”

“Returning the Favor”

Kana Iwasa
from Miyagi Prefecture
Senior at Tohoku Gakuin University

“I had a really hard time due to the difficulties caused by the disaster seven years ago, including losing my friend. But thanks to many relief supplies, I managed to navigate through the tough situation during my junior high school days. I wanted to return the favor which motivated me to join this Oita program.

I was impressed that the children were drawing pictures of fireflies at the sandbag supply program in Ehime Prefecture. I appreciate these valuable experiences surrounded by nature.”

“Active and Lively Children”

Shoko Abe
from Iwate Prefecture
Junior at Tsuru University

“In front of the children in Oita, I told them how I felt anxious for three days in the gymnasium without having seen my parents after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Since the quake, every time I hear of a disaster, I am concerned with how depressed the affected people must feel. The children I met in Oita Prefecture were more active and livelier than I had expected. Even though they lost the playgrounds to damage, the residents have been cooperating with each other so that the children could freely play and study.”

“My Turn to Help Affected Areas”

Hinako Maekawa from
Fukushima Prefecture
Senior at Chuo University

“I was affected by the disaster in Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture, but I received a lot of support. In my last year as a student, I decided to participate in this event hoping to be of help to the victims.

Although the children looked cheerful, each of them must have experienced problems. The impact the disaster had on their growth process is tremendous, but I hope they continue to grow up healthily, surrounded by the great nature and people in Hita.”



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

Inheritance Donation

Anyone can become a disaster victim in Japan as natural disasters occur here often. Please contact us if you are thinking of making use of your precious inheritance to help disaster affected areas. Civic Force has been providing prompt and large-scaled support since its foundation in 2009 through collaborations with people from all walks of life. We will remain steadfast in our disaster support activities.

There are two ways to donate through inheritance: donating testamentary gifts and inherited property. Please access the following website for more information.

<http://www.civic-force.org/contribution/legacy/>

Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Support Activities in an Easy Manner!

Donations are being accepted on the following company websites.

<< Western Japan Floods >>

- Yu Nagaba X BEAMS Charity T-shirt
<https://www.beams.co.jp/item/beamst/t-shirt/71080006349/>
- Japangiving
<https://japangiving.jp/campaigns/33840>
- GlobalGiving (US)
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/flood-and-landslide-relief-in-japan-we-need-you/>

<< Hokkaido Earthquake >>

- BEAMS JAPAN Hokkaido T-shirt
<https://www.beams.co.jp/item/tokyocultuart/t-shirt/58040764515/?dcolor=1>
- Japangiving
<https://japangiving.jp/campaigns/33873>
- GlobalGiving (US)
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/hokkaido-japan-earthquake-rescue-medical-operations/#menu>

<< Great East Japan Earthquake >>

- PSC “Donation by Click (Support for East Japan)”
<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/index.html>
- Value Books “Books for Japan”
<http://www.booksforjapan.jp/action/>

<< General Donations >>

- Hondana-Otasuke-Tai
“Donation by Selling Second-Hand Books”
<https://hondana.biz/second-hand-books-selling-for-charity/charity.html>
- EC Navi “Smile Project”
https://ecnavi.jp/smile_project/

Media

Broadcasted on programs such as “Asa-Ichi” on NHK

Civic Force’s activities were introduced in the following TV/radio programs:

<< Western Japan Floods >>

- TV program “Asa-Ichi” of NHK on July 10
- TV program “News Web” of NHK on July 18
- TV program “Hodo Station” of TV Asahi on July 23

<< Hokkaido Earthquake >>

- Radio program “Chronos by Tetsuo Nakanishi” of TOKYO FM on September 10-11

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_e/donation/bokin/page2.php?pm_type=card





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