



CIVIC FORCE

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Making Use of Experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake around the World

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Tomigaya Ogawa Bldg. 2F,

2-41-12 Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

151-0063 Japan

TEL : +81-3-5790-9366

e-mail : info@civic-force.org

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

Natural disasters have been occurring one after another in and out of Japan in the past several months, including the eruption of Mount Shindake on Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, the earthquake on Borneo Island in Malaysia, and the eruption of the Wolf Volcano in the Galapagos Islands.

In particular, the major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 that struck Nepal on April 25 caused an enormous damage. As of June 2015, it has taken the lives of more than 8,700 people in Nepal, and many more in the neighboring countries including India, China and Bangladesh. Throughout Nepal, 490,000 houses were completely destroyed and 270,000 were partially destroyed. Many people are still forced to live in tents or other places away from their own houses.

Support organizations from Japan and other countries rushed over to Nepal, but their rescue efforts faced tough situation because of repeated aftershocks, lack of hospitals and doctors, poor conditions of the airport, and isolation of some mountainous villages caused by landslides.

Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), which Civic Force helped launch in 2013 with disaster relief groups in Asia, headed for the disaster stricken areas the day after the earthquake to start emergency relief operations. With an aim to make use of the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, A-PAD has been developing a platform for mutual support between companies and NGOs in Asian countries. This emergency relief activity was a challenging opportunity for them to exercise their “power of collaboration” which has been developed.

This issue of the Civic Force News Letter reports the voices of the people suffering from Nepal earthquake and the emergency relief activities of A-PAD. We also report on the progress of the projects underway in Tohoku area.

Expanding to Asia

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

Emergency Relief Activities in Nepal

Concerning the disasters caused by the earthquake of April 25 in Central Nepal, a joint team of “Asia Pacific Alliance (A-PAD)” , in which Civic Force participated, and “Peace Winds Japan,” an NPO, left Japan on April 26, to enter the affected areas and start emergency relief activities.

On April 28, as the joint team heard that approximately ten people remained under a collapsed building in Katmandu, the Capital of Nepal, they searched for missing people with rescue dogs named “Yumenosuke” and “Haruku.” The team asked to stop the removal of rubble by heavy machinery which had already started there, and searched for the missing people even though the area was unstable due to earthquake devastation.

On the next day, April 29th, they carried out the search activities in the Sindupalchowk District where more than 1,400 people were estimated to have died. After that they continued to provide search and rescue in the suburbs of Katmandu for a total of five days. Unfortunately, they did not find any survivors. Some of the victims who saw the rescue dogs doing their best said that the support from Japan was very powerful and they thanked the team for the amazing work of the rescue dogs.



Distribution of Relief Supplies to Victims in Mountain Areas



A-PAD delivered relief supplies to 700 households in the mountain area where aid has yet to arrive.

The damage caused by the earthquake in Nepal was not only located in the Capital, but also in wider areas, and it is said that more than eight million people were affected. Many villages located in the mountains became isolated as the roads were cut off by landslides and falling rocks. As a result, the joint team distributed emergency relief supplies in the district of Shindupalchowk where the damage was so huge that the joint team had also searched for missing persons.

After four hours of journeying through intense winding mountain roads, the joint team arrived in Sindupalchowk district located east of the capital Kathmandu where clearing debris by hand was difficult work and the row of collapsed houses remained untouched as evidence of the severe shaking that struck the site.

Rescue dog, “Yumenosuke”

In the joint support team leaving from Japan for Nepal, there was a rescue dog called “Yumenosuke.” Yumenosuke was once an abandoned dog and was captured by the Hiroshima Animal Care Center. The dog was about to be killed. However, Peace Winds Japan, whose purpose is to activate the rural areas by protecting and training abandoned dogs, accepted Yumenosuke and trained him to be a rescue dog in the division of the search and rescue operation with special dog trainers.

At the beginning, Yumenosuke was very cautious of human beings, so everybody was concerned whether he would be suitable as a rescue dog. But he has developed relationships with people through repetitive training to follow the instructions of people.

This support activity in Nepal was his 3rd dispatch following the Hiroshima sediment disaster of last August, and the typhoon disaster in the Philippines which occurred at the end of last year.



Yumenosuke



Delivering relief supplies in Khubinde village in Shindupalchowk district

The team selected Khubinde village as the supporting area, which was located in the mountainous parts of the same district, 2,000 meters above the sea level, and believed that 95 percent houses were totally or partially destroyed. They delivered 25 kilograms of rice, one liter of cooking oil, 4 kilograms of lentils, and one kilogram of salt per household as emergency relief supplies on 9 trucks and cars of full load to the 700 households affected by the earthquake. They were able to deliver the goods safely in corporation with the police, though there was a tense situation with many villagers in need interfering with the vehicles of the government and support groups, because foods were running out in the mountainous areas.

A-PAD

Bangladesh Medical Team Begins Medical Assistance in Mountain Area

A-PAD member Dhaka Community Hospital Trust (DCH Trust) from Bangladesh has sent a nine-member medical team to Nepal and have started treating injured residents in the remote mountain villages where aid has yet to arrive.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal, the medical team conducted medical activities in seven mountain villages in Kavrepalanchok District located 30km southeast of Kathmandu. Most of the mountain villages here dot around the mountaintop and the accessibility to a hospital in town is time consuming. DCH Trust borrowed the office of a local social welfare organization where they set up the health care center and has been providing medical care. In consideration for the injured living in the remote areas, they also conduct “a mobile clinic,” bringing their doctors to the patients.

More than one month has passed since the earthquake. More and more affected people are complaining of physical symptoms such as headaches and high-blood pressure, because of their anxiety for future. DCH Trust Director Md. Mostafa notes, “Most of the villagers’ houses have collapsed and they are forced to stay and live outdoors. They need continuous support.”

A-PAD Sri Lanka has also sent its staff to Nepal to offer relief assistance for those affected by the earthquake. In addition, our A-PAD partners in the Philippines and South Korea are calling for support in their country.

Voice



Pravin Nepali, 65 years old

“When the ground started to shake violently, I ran out in confusion and saw my house collapse at the moment I did. Now I’ m living in a shelter I built from iron sheets with my family of 10. This is the first time I have received any help and I’ m so happy. But we are in a really tough situation now as I have to clear the debris of my house and rebuild it.”



Medical treatment at the mobile clinic. More than 200 patients came to the clinic.

Sharing Tohoku Experiences with Disaster Management Leaders in ASEAN Countries

Sharing the disaster experiences of Japan with ASEAN countries. For about a week from May 11, Civic Force and the Asian Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) accepted 16 trainees from eight ASEAN countries, who had been studying at the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in Indonesia, and provided disaster management training in Miyagi Prefecture, Kobe City of Hyogo Prefecture and Tokushima Prefecture.

This training program is part of the “AHA Centre Executive Programme,” which is a half-year training program for national disaster management officers from ASEAN countries. It aims to develop human resources with adequate knowledge and abilities in disaster management so that they can be leaders in disaster management in ASEAN countries. In the first half of the training program, the trainees visited Minamisanriku City, Miyagi Prefecture, which was heavily affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, and observed various places including the coastal areas where the construction projects to raise the land level were under way, temporary shopping areas, and a junior high school devastated by the tsunami disaster. The trainees also stopped at the International Research Institute of Disaster Science at Tohoku University, which specializes in the research on natural disaster science, the Miyagi Office of Reconstruction Agency and other places, and proactively exchanged opinions with experts and government officers about the disaster response of government and NGOs from the time of the earthquake to the present.



The 16 trainees from 8 ASEAN countries



Mayor Jin Sato of Minamisanriku Town explaining the town's approach

In the second half of the program, the trainees visited Kobe City, which is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, to observe the current situation of the government-led reconstruction projects and the approach to the restoration work by the communities. In addition, they heard about how the government and NGOs had played their roles in the reconstruction projects, from the representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the NGO Collaboration Center for Hanshin Awaji Quake Rehabilitation and the Hyogo Research Center for Quake Restoration. Mr. Seiichi Sakurai, Advisor for Regional Power Creation of MIC, explained the importance of seismic design and collaborations with private sectors under the theme of “Livelihood Recovery Support Framework for Individual Disaster Victims.” “We received a lot of relief supplies from all over Japan, but clothing and food were mixed up in the same boxes. Our staff kept sorting them out for many days without sleep but could not finish it, when a logistics company helped us and sorting was completed efficiently. I learned the importance of working together with experts and organizations in various fields,” he emphasized.

Later, the trainees visited the Tokushima Factory and the Human Resource Development Center of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Otsuka Foods Co., Ltd. and learned how the mental attitude of leaders should be.

Theophilus Yanuarto, a 38-year-old trainee from Indonesia, commented: “By actually visiting Tohoku and Kobe, the areas which experienced earthquake disasters, I was able to learn a lot about disaster management in Japan. Indonesia also experienced a tsunami in 2004, but the government's disaster response was insufficient. I hope to utilize what I have learned in Japan for the sake of my country.”

Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

The following articles describe Civic Force's aid activities after the Great East Japan Earthquake, which has been continuing since March 11, 2011, as well as its emergency response activities in Japan post-disasters.

The Great East Japan Earthquake

Briefing of "nina Jinseki-Kogen" Held in Fukushima

Hiroshima Prefecture-based "nina Jinseki-Kogen," a partner NPO of Civic Force, conducts researches and supports activities for potential applicants interested in relocating and/or evacuating from Fukushima Pref. On June 7 and 8, they participated in a consultation session offering recuperation ideas, which was held in Nihonmatsu City, Fukushima Pref.

The consultation session was organized by 311 JNDAA (Japan Nuclear Disaster Aid Association) known as the "accept-and-welcome nationwide association" for those considering relocation and/or temporary evacuation resulting from the nuclear power plant accident. As many as 38 NPOs gathered from all over Japan to introduce their relocation plans and weekend recuperation programs, and the number of visitors totaled over 400 persons. During this session, "nina Jinseki-Kogen" held a briefing on relocation and the details of the Jinseki-Kogen tour to be held this summer.

Mr. Minoru Ueyama, Director, says, "Hiroshima Pref. is distant from Fukushima Pref., but the ambiance is somewhat comparable. So I hope people utilize this opportunity to consider life in a different region by participating in programs such as the summer tour."



More than 400 people attended the consultation session.

Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund Donates Four Million Yen to "dreamLab"



After-school day-care by "dreamLab"

Under the principle of common benefit investment, the Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund (general incorporated foundation) supports reconstruction activities of areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In April, 2015, they released four million yen to "dreamLab, Co., Ltd." that operates after-school day-care for school children in Iwaki City, Fukushima Pref.

"DreamLab" has branded itself with the motto "Watching over children to help them discover their dreams and goals of life." They have developed an education business with focuses on English education, hands-on programs, and character-building for elementary school children.

The Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund decided to make the contribution because they shared the same vision to bring new talents to the world from the Tohoku region with experience of overcoming the Great East Japan Earthquake. This is the first time funding was made to the field of education and it will be used to renovate the facility.



神石高原ティアガルテン

On July 4, 2015, "Jinseki-Kogen Tiergarten" will have its grand opening in Jinseki-Kogen Town, Jinseki County, Hiroshima Prefecture. "Tiergarten" is a nature experience park designed to make use of the natural terrain of Jinseki-Kogen town and its famous sea of clouds. It consists of a dairy farm, a dog run, vegetable and herb gardens, a tree house, etc., where visitors can enjoy various activities by connecting with experts in each field.

One of the founders of this park is Mr. Michitane Soma who founded the NPO called "Soma-Kyuentai (Soma Rescue Group)" after the Great East Japan Earthquake to support those affected in Fukushima Pref. He moved to Jinseki-Kogen with his family in March, 2013 and has since been promoting relocation and employment for the people affected by the disaster. "Soma-Kyuentai" is one of the organizations allocated to receive support from the "Tohoku Common Benefit Investment Fund", a general incorporated foundation established by Civic Force.

The Great East Japan Earthquake

Agreements Concluded with Two Hospitals in Sendai City

“All Round Helicopter (ARH)” is a partner NPO, which operates multipurpose helicopter services for medical use in Kesennuma City and the Sanriku coastal area in Miyagi Prefecture. ARH concluded agreements for helicopter utilization with Sendai Kousei Hospital in April and with Sendai Open Hospital in May.

These agreements provide a multilateral cooperative system; such as transporting of patients, doctors, health care professionals and medical equipment; usage of heliports; and collaborating in large-scale disasters. ARH now has a total of six agreements with medical institutions.



Sendai Open Hospital with which ARH recently concluded agreement

The Great East Japan Earthquake

Creating the “SOS Sheet”

“Just after the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we could hardly get information on those who needed help, so it was difficult to dispatch medical support teams sent from all parts of Japan.” --This experience led six organizations in and around Kesennuma City (including ARH and Kesennuma City Hospital) to develop the “SOS Sheet” for the first time in Japan. The “SOS Sheet,” being 1.8 meters by 4 meters large, is capable of providing real-time information to helicopters hovering in the sky on capacities at medical facilities and evacuation sites at times of large-scale disasters.

These sheets come in two colors with red meaning a major damage found in the facility thus, it is necessary to evacuate immediately. The other is yellow, which shows a medium level damage in the facility meaning that evacuation must be completed within a few days. It can also display occupancy as well as the number of persons injured and it is sold at JPY150,000 per sheet. We will make an announcement to public facilities, such as medical institutions, welfare facilities and schools, that such sheets are available and can be lent out for disaster prevention drills led by local governments.

Voice

“Dream Support Project” offers scholarships and support programs to students of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures who became victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and need financial support. Following are some essays written by scholarship students looking back on the fiscal year of 2014.

“Becoming a Skillful Beautician is My Way of Repaying”

In my first academic year at the training school for beauticians, I was never late and I never missed a class. Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, there were times I felt like giving up. But knowing that I have people supporting me changed my “attitude towards learning.” This year I am busy preparing for the National Beautician Qualifying Examination and hunting for a job, but I am working hard to become a skillful beautician as it would be the way for me to repay the people who supported the Dream Support Project.

“To Contribute to My Hometown Designated as No-go Zone”

I am a member of an urban design study club, where I devote myself to study analyses, designing, and assembly of bridges in order to participate in the annual academic event. After graduating from this college, I wish to continue studying urban environment systems engineering at a university in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, where my experiences and expertise would be helpful. My dream is to get a job involved in the reconstruction of my hometown designated as the no-go zone. In order to make my dream come true, I am working to broaden my knowledge by studying at my college, through club activities, and by participating in internship programs. I hope to become a helpful person.

Creating an Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

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

Civic Force Joins Disaster Drill in Aichi

To raise awareness of disaster prevention, “Toyota Traffic Safety & Disaster Prevention Festa” was held on May 18 in Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture. In the event, Civic Force participated in “Friendship Disaster Prevention Day 2015,” a program organized by “Aichi Net,” our partner NPO.

In Aichi Prefecture, disaster drills and collaboration between organizations are actively promoted, based on an estimate that a megaquake along the Nankai Trough could kill as many as 29,000 people and destroy around 382,000 buildings. In the “Disaster Prevention Day” event, Aichi Net and other organizations provided training on the assumption of an epicentral earthquake, including providing guidance, first-aid treatment and transport for evacuees, and sorting and delivery of emergency supplies. Civic Force staff explained how to set up and use the Emergency Evacuation Tent, which can be used as an evacuation center, locker room or aid station, and also presented our past achievements in natural disaster relief. Additionally, we deepened exchange with other organizations.

Civic Force will continue to cooperate with other partners to get ready for providing quick emergency support.



Civic Force explained how to use the emergency tent to many visitors.

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
<http://www.psc-inc.co.jp/clickdonation/index.html>

The United People Fund’ s “Single-click donation” was closed at the end of March 2015. Thank you for your long-standing support.

Emergency Preparedness Mechanism

Announcement regarding relocation of our Tokyo Office

Civic Force will relocate its Tokyo Office on April 27, 2015.

New Address:

Tomigaya-Ogawa Bldg. 2F, 2-41-12, Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0063

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
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