

Support from All Over

Categories: Emergency Assistance/Regaining Livelihoods/Psycho-Social Care

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

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Emergency Assistance

An Unprecedented Natural Disaster

A Message from Secretary General Keiko Kiyama

“It is often said that this is the triple suffering with Eastern Japan massive earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor accident.

“Unprecedented” can be meant by truly resulted with this triple suffering.

NGO staff, business people, scholars, government officials, politicians, and media people, adults and children... Let’s do something which we have never done before.

Two months have passed after the earthquake. With the victims, all the supporters have been working hard, and everybody is quite exhausted. However, nobody is taking a rest at all.

The reason is... just because this was an “unprecedented” natural disaster. Everyone has been working hard up to his/her limit.

It is not a lack of the effort, but the size was too big to cope within a short time. The victim’s environment at the sight is extremely hard. But this is the real fact. That’s why we have to keep working as much as we can, although it takes a long time. If you are considering any support, it will never be too late; if you are hesitating to take action, it will truly be “too late.”

Even if it gets a little late, the important thing is “starting right now.”

Let’s start moving with “emergency act” in your heart. Your act will be exceeding your moral. We have been expecting the declaration of an “emergency act” by the Japanese government for the last two months. But we cannot wait any longer.

Let’s take action which might exceed your own moral, considering always for the best of the victims. Our action; what you can do at where you are will change the victims’ situation.”

Emergency Assistance

Volunteers from All Over



Above: Just a few of many volunteers in Ishinomaki

The disaster that struck northeastern Japan essentially called for volunteers not only from all corners of Japan, but from around the world and from various backgrounds.

Many people came together in Ishinomaki to join JEN’s “sludge-buster” team, and included a diverse group including an Afghan-born German-educated semiconductor researcher, a German-Swiss web designer who had taken unpaid leave from his job to fly to Japan to help, and a Hebrew-speaking Japanese photographer. Although the volunteers were to initially stay in wet and windy campgrounds, JEN managed to rent an old house just outside the tsunami zone, which provided the volunteers with lighting and heating.

Those living in Ishinomaki who needed their homes cleaned and cleared of debris needed to submit a “needs form” to the volunteer center in order to be matched to an available group of

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

registered volunteers. JEN’s volunteer groups worked on clearing doors, windows, and beams, and also cleaned up “wara,” or dried grass, that covered entire fields. As the tsunami was estimated to have covered an area of 433,000 square kilometers, there was a lot of land to cover.

The residents of were very thankful and displayed their gratitude by serving tea and “tonjiru,” or pork based soup to the volunteers while conversing with them. In fact, some people revealed that they had initially been worried about asking volunteers for help. The more time the volunteers and local residents spent time together, greater trust was built between them. JEN realizes that it is important to build trusting relationships with the local residents.

Regaining Livelihoods

Support for Local Industry

JEN has been quite involved with the residents of Higashihama in Oshika Hanto in numerous ways, from distributing relief supplies to holding doll making workshops in the local elementary school. This time, JEN volunteers supported the local oyster farming program, a major industry in the region.



Above: A volunteer and local resident having a conversation while preparing the scallops

When farming for oysters, scallops are used to catch the oyster larvae. Holes are made in each individual scallop and a wire is put through them, creating a stack that is put into the sea.

However, the tsunami ruined the entirety of the oyster farming industry.

Thus, JEN volunteers joined the fishermen in cleaning each scallop and putting wires through them. While doing so, the volunteers had the opportunity to speak to the local people about their experiences over the last few months following the disaster. The conversations held over the projects garnered a spirit of trust that we can hopefully carry on for future projects.

Psycho-Social Care

Workshop Held by Cirque du Soleil

On June 17, a workshop was held at Ishinomaki Kita High School led by performers of the famous Cirque du Soleil’s “ZED.” The performers were from all over the world, and held activities including juggling, acrobatics, and dancing.

While the students seemed quite nervous at first, after some time their movements became smooth as they began to feel more comfortable. Soon they were enjoying themselves and laughing along with the performers despite the language barrier.



The 7 EN’s of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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