

COMMUNICATION AND RECOVERY

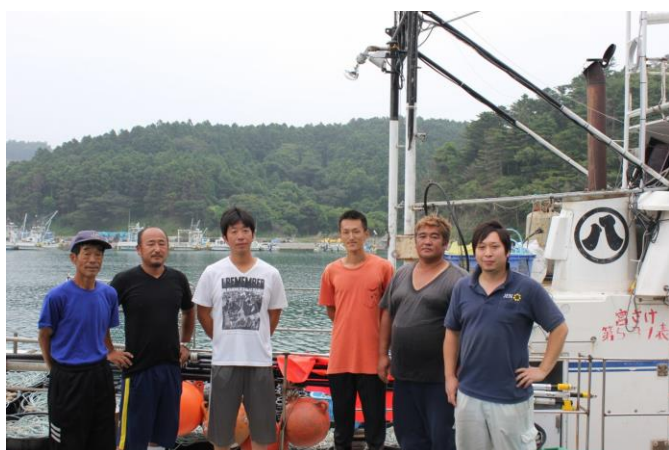
Categories: Regaining People's Livelihood/Community Building

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Regaining People's Livelihood

JEN Helps Fishermen Regain Livelihoods



Above: JEN staff along with the local fishermen

Conger eel fishing has long been a practice in the region of Omotehama. Although it is not common knowledge, this region is in fact one of the largest Conger fisheries in Japan. Fishermen had long depended on fishing as a form of livelihood prior to the March 2011 disaster, thus once the tsunami essentially ravaged their boats, equipment, and even X, the Conger fishing industry had to somehow get itself back on its feet.

This was where JEN stepped in to support the Omotehama fishing industry. By allowing the fishermen to come together in order to discuss what they required in order to continue their businesses, JEN was able to allocate equipment to the fishermen with respect to their jobs.

“Even after the disaster, what we can harvest from the sea remain unchanged and I’m proud of what I had been doing so I must resume it at first,” Mr. Osawa, a Conger fisherman said humorously. “I suffered from the disaster, but I have never thought about giving up for that

reason. By that argument, whenever I’m on the boat, I always ‘feel terrible,’ or ‘feel like quitting fishing.’ Even fishermen get seasick. We just endure it!”

This resilient spirit is not uncommon among the fishermen of Omotehama. Many are eager to get their businesses back in order to regain a life that they once had prior to the disaster. Yet even though Conger fishing has, in effect, taken off again, there is still much work to be done in rebuilding homes, fishing ports, and even boats.

Community Building

Summer Festivals Bring Smiles

As summer begins to enter the fall season, many neighborhoods in the Minato-Kudama area of Ishinomaki City hold their summer festivals.

This year, a few exciting changes were made in order to bring the community together. Kudama-Nishi Park (also known as Panda Park) had in fact long been restricted due to safety concerns, for damaged play equipment had been simply left after the disaster with no repair. However, as the area was relatively surrounded by public apartments with parents and children, the community association president for the apartments, Mr. Tsuchiya, called for a formal cooperation between the government and local volunteers in order to renovate the park for the benefit of the community. A new basketball court was built for the children to play in, and new playground equipment replaced the old damaged ones.

On September 30, a tea party festival called “Dai Ochako Nomi,” or “Big Tea Party” was held in enthusiasm among the community members. Despite being only a little more than a year following the disaster that ravaged the area,

COUNTRY: Ishinomaki City, JAPAN

community members have slowly been able to recuperate with support from one another.

The overall atmosphere of such festivals allow for community members to talk amongst one another, sharing their feelings and thoughts on the aftermath of the disaster. Through community members build stronger relationships, thus constructing a community spirit in an effort to continue their recovery.



Above: Children gathering for the festival

Community Building

Festival Brings People Together

On October 14, ‘Fureai Hiroba,’ festival ro “Revive Kamikama’ was held in order to provide opportunity for residents to interact with one another.

The event itself began with an inauguration by the mayor of Ishinomaki City, Mr. Kameyama, and a prayer. In fact, the park is essentially a cemetery for some 200 victims due to the shortage of space following the disaster. The prayer was for all those buried in the park.

After the introduction, many attractions were featured throughout the day including kite flying, jumping rope, and tug-of-war. The region itself had always been athletic, per se, thus the festival brought back to the surface the residents’ competitive spirit – a sensation they had not felt in a long time.

It has long been JEN’s mission to encourage people in local communities to interact with one another in order to promote a better understanding in order to strive towards recovery. Those living in different areas of Ishinomaki had the opportunity to speak to one another about their experiences and thoughts on the disaster. Through communication, people are

able to develop mutual respect for each other. In fact, the festival attracted those living in temporary housing as well, creating an even bigger arena for conversation.



Above: Tug-of-war among community members



The 7 EN’s of JEN

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

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NGO JEN (Japan Emergency NGO)
 7/F, Daini Tobundo Bldg, Ageba-cho, Shinjuku,
 Tokyo, JAPAN 162-0826
 Phone: (81) 3-5225-9352 / Fax: (81) 3-5225-9357
 Email: info@jen-npo.org / web:www:jen-npo.org
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