

Japan: Tohoku EQ/Tsunamis - Broadcasting multi-language relief information in the affected area

23 Mar 2011

SEEDS Asia

As part of our immediate response to the Tohoku earthquake, SEEDS Asia is supporting the affected communities by compiling humanitarian information on the ground in the affected area to be disseminated to the greater humanitarian community. FMYY, our partner and a leading community radio network based in Kobe is collecting disaster related relief information and broadcasting in multi-language for the affected community in Tohoku area. FMYY is also sharing real-time multi-language programmes with local community radio networks in the affected area via MP3 files.

With great efforts by the Japanese government, local/international NGOs, and other players, relief items started to reach the affected communities. Many local radio networks keep broadcasting relief operations (some do in multi-language), yet localized vital information is not reaching the most needed due to lack of information receivers. Internet-based information is accelerating the overall emergency response within/from outside, affected aged community are still not in this loop. As availability of radio { band frequency of Japanese radio stations: FM 76MHz - 108 MHz (or 90 MHz)/AM 530KHz - 1600 KH} is getting very limited, we are collecting second-hand radio within Japan and compatible band frequency radio from other parts of the world. FMYY estimates 30 - 40 thousands of receivers are needed for the affected areas in addition to the radios that are already collected for relief response by the Japanese government (including in-kind donations from leading electronic manufacturers such as Sony and Panasonic). In order to collect ground information and coordinate among local radio network, a representative of FYMM departed today and will report from the affected Tohoku area.

The following is the list of active community radio stations in Tohoku as of March 18.

Yamagata Prefecture

Yamagata City :

Radio Monster [76.2MHz] <http://www.fm762.co.jp/>

Vigo FM [78.8MHz] <http://www.vigofm.co.jp/> (Twitter)

Harbor Radio [76.1MHz] <http://www.sakatafm.com/>

Fukushima Prefecture

Iwaki City : Sea Wave FM Iwaki

[76.2MHz] <http://www.fm-iwaki.co.jp/cgi-bin/WebObjects/1201dac04a1.woa/>

(including multilingual broadcasting, also Internet radio) ※staying indoors on alert for the nuclear reactor problem

Fukushima City : FM Poco [76.2MHz] <http://www.fm-poco.co.jp/> (Twitter, as special station for the disaster, 100W)

Kitakata City : FM Kitakata [78.2MHz] <http://www.fm-kitakata.co.jp/> (Twitter)

Aizuwakamatsu City : FM Ai'S [76.2MHz] <http://www.fmaizu.com/> (also Internet radio)

Motomiya City : FM Mot.Com [77.7MHz] <http://www.fm-mot.com/> (also Internet radio)

Kooriyama City: Koko Radio [79.1MHz] <http://www.kocofm.jp>

Aomori Prefecture

Hachinohe City : Be FM [76.5MHz] <http://www.befm.co.jp/> (Twitter)

Hirosaki City : FM Hirosaki Apple Wave 78.8MHz <http://www.applewave.co.jp/> (Twitter)

Inakadate Village : FM Jaigo Wave [76.3MHz] <http://www.fm-jaigo.co.jp/>

Mutsu City : FM Azur [76.2MHz] <http://www.fmazur.jp>

Iwate Prefecture

Oshu City : Oshu FM [77.8MHz] <http://www.oshu-fm.jp/>

(including multilingual broadcasting, as special station for the disaster, 150W)

Morioka City : Radio Morioka [76.9MHz] <http://www.radiomorioka.co.jp/> (Twitter)

Hanamaki City : FM One [78.7MHz] <http://fm-one.net/> (as special station for the disaster, 100W)

Ninohe City : Cassiopeia FM [77.9MHz] <http://www.779.jp/>

Akita Prefecture

Yuzawa City : FM Yu topia [76.3MHz] <http://www.yutopia.or.jp/~fm763/>

Akita City : Akita Community Broadcasting FM765 [76.5MHz] <http://www.fm765.com/>

FM Tsubakidai [79.6MHz] <http://www.fm796.com/>

Yokote City: Yokote Kamakura FM[77.4MHz] <http://fmyokote.seesaa.net/> (Twitter, also internet radio)

Miyagi Prefecture

Iwanuma City : Hohoemi [77.9MHz] <http://www.fm779.com/> (by self- power generation)

Izumi Ward (Sendai City) : FM Izumi [79.7MHz] <http://www.fm797.co.jp/> (10:00 – 17:00, from the ward office)

Aoba Ward (Sendai City) : Radio3 [76.2MHz] (also Internet radio) <http://www.simulradio.jp/#tohoku>

Shiogama City : Bay Wave [78.1MHz]

Ishinomaki City : Radio Ishinomaki FM76.4 [76.4MHz] <http://www.fm764.jp/> (as special station for the disaster, 100W)

Tome City: H@! FM [76.7MHz] <http://hat-fm.net/> (as special station for the disaster, 100W)

Taihaku Ward (Sendai City) : FM Taihaku [78.9MHz] <http://www.fm-t.net/>

Osaki City : Osaki disaster FM (as special station for the disaster, 50W)

<Community radio in preparation for setting up a new broadcasting station lent their equipment to the city>

Ibaraki Prefecture

Mito City: FM Pululun [76.2MHz] <http://www.fmpalulun.co.jp/> (by self- power generation))

Tsukuba City: Radio Tsukuba [84.2MHz] <http://radio-tsukuba.net/> (also Internet radio, including multilingual broadcasting, as special station for the disaster, 80W)

Kashima City : FM Kashima [76.7MHz] <http://www.767fm.com/>

(including multilingual broadcasting, as special station for the disaster, 50W)

Hitachi City : Hitachi FM [82.2MHz] <http://www.hfm.or.jp/> (by self- power generation)

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FMYY(<http://www.tcc117.org/fmyy/index.php>): Many foreign citizens suffered as a result of the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1955. Soon after the earthquake hit, the Radio FMYY was established by the various abilities of citizens from Kobe City's Nagata Ward as a tool to provide multi-lingual disaster information and to be a forum for community activities. FMYY broadcasts in 10 different languages to the local community and is one of many NGOs that joined together in a single community structure named Takatori Community Center.