

## Mid-term report for the Eastern Japan Earthquake Relief Support

March 12 to 31, 2011

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake with the epicenter at the offshore of Miyagi Prefecture hit the Eastern part of Japan at 2:46 PM on March 11, 2011. To respond to this enormous earthquake, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) decided to take an immediate action at its strategic meeting held on the same day and sent its staff members to the disaster hit areas for an initial assessment on March 12.

The PWJ staff witnessed the dreadful damages caused by the earthquake and tsunami on site. As soon as they confirmed the situation of a great number of evacuees who ran for their lives and were staying at the evacuation center without having sufficient food and medical supplies, PWJ started its emergency relief effort based at Kesenuma Junior High School in Kesenuma City, Miyagi Prefecture.

Given the wide areas of damages and lack of access to these affected areas due to the cut-off roads and their bad conditions, it has been extremely challenging to provide relief support. Despite the difficulties in securing gasoline and the sensitivities towards the influence by the nuclear power accident in Fukushima, the PWJ continues to implement its activities.

As of March 31, PWJ is operating relief effort to respond to the needs that change at the daily basis in addition to the temporary bath construction project at the evacuation center as well as distribution of emergency relief supplies. PWJ also started to look into the necessity for mid to long-term support such as provision of supplies to those moving into the temporary housing and psycho-social care, both from the hard and soft dimensions.

We have received a number of donation and messages from private companies and individuals from all over Japan as well as overseas. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to your support which will enable us to continue our relief support operation. We will periodically report our activities and the use of the donations.

To support the recovery of the disaster affected areas at the earliest possible, PWJ will continue its relief effort for the disaster victims who desperately need support. We highly appreciate to your continued support.

April 1, 2011

Peace Winds Japan



## **(Relief Support Activities by PWJ to date)**

### 1. Actions following the earthquake

- March 11: The Eastern Japan Earthquake hit the offshore of Miyagi Prefecture. Decision to provide relief support was made at the strategic meeting.
- March 12: Initial assessment started. Field inspection trip to Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture held by helicopter.
- March 13: Assessment of Ishinomaki City and Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture. Decision for provision of relief support to Kesennuma made. Procurement and transport of emergency relief supplies via air and land started.
- March 14: Delivery of support supplies in Kesennuma City started
- March 16-18 Provision of satellite phone service and charging mobile phones started at the evacuation center located in Kesennuma Junior High School
- March 18: Areas of relief support extended to Rikuzen Takada City and Ofunato City in Iwate Prefecture. Distribution of relief supplies started.
- March 19: CEO of Peace Winds America, PWJ's sister organization, and the staff members of NGO Mercy Corps (Portland ,USA) visited the disaster affected sites
- March 20: Areas of support extended to Minami Sanriku Cho, Miyagi Prefecture
- March 28: A temporary bath construction project started in Ofunato City

### 2. Distribution of emergency relief supplies

PWJ has been distributing self-procured supplies as well as those donated by others such as private companies in four locations, Kesennuma City, Minami Sanriky Cho, Rikuzen Takada City, and Ofunato City. By the end of March, the supplies that PWJ has distributed to evacuation centers and the local government collecting centers amounted to over 30 carloads with a four-ton truck. We will continue to procure and distribute supplies according to the needs voiced at the evacuation centers and in coordination with the disaster control HQ in respective cities and towns as the requirement changes.

### **Relief supplies distributed by the end of March**

#### **Food**

7200 cans of canned bread; 1000 meals of pregelatinized rice; 20,000 bags of potato chips; bread; fruits (tangerines, Iyokan oranges, apples, bananas etc); sets of ingredients for emergency meal preparation; water; sports drinks; coffee; kamaboko-processed seafood product; snacks; etc.



### **Items for protection against cold**

100 stoves; 4500 liters of kerosene; 1360 sets of blanket; 600 sets of comforter; 500 sheets of styrofoam; nursing mattresses; regular mattresses; urethane mattresses; kairo- portable body warmer; etc

### **Sanitary products**

200,000 masks; 1950 sheets of nappy wipes; towels; diaper underwear for adults; pads for urine ; sanitary pads; diapers; powdered milk; portable toilets; bath towels; handkerchiefs; laundry detergent; facial tissues; etc

### **Clothing**

Underwear for men and women; diapers; sweat pants; T shirts; socks; etc

### **Other items**

Large tents; emergency shelters (emergency tents for families); gasoline; plastic containers; polytarps; emergency meal preparation set; portable gas stove with gas cylinders; paper plates; plastic films etc

## **3. Provision of telecommunication services through satellite phones / mobile charging services**

Majority of evacuees didn't have means for communication as the telephone lines were cut off and congested. PWJ therefore offered its satellite phones for free for three days at the evacuation center in Kesennuma Junior High School so that the evacuees could contact their loved ones and acquaintances to find out each others' safety. A lot of people lined up in front of the satellite phones. Some people were even crying after confirming the safety of their family members for the first time after the earthquake. Mobile charging services were also provided through a generator, given the continuous power blackout.



## **4. Construction of temporary bath**

PWJ is implementing a temporary bath construction project in cooperation with local carpenters using the local materials including piled-up scrap wood. With the prolonged life in evacuation centers, evacuees are physically and mentally tired and sanitation problems are beginning to arise.

PWJ decided to provide the bath service to offer warmth and comfort to the evacuees who live under cold weather. In consultation with Ofunato City Disaster Control HQ, PWJ started the first temporary bath construction project at Takoura Fishing Village Welfare Center on March 28. Locally available materials will be used as much as possible while insufficient materials/tools will be provided by PWJ, and the disaster affected local people will be engaged in the construction. The project also aims at generating a foothold for recovery using their technical skills as well as income who lost their means of livelihood by employing and making them payment. It is envisaged that this project will be extended to other areas.

**(Future Activity Plans)**

PWJ is planning to implement the following activities as its mid-term support effort (Please note that activities may change depending on the needs and conditions on the ground)

**1. Provision of daily commodities for those who move into temporary housing**

To provide daily commodities for those moving into temporary housing under the temporary housing scheme that Iwate Prefecture is implementing, PWJ is coordinating with the Prefecture Office regarding the targeted number of households (10,000-20,000 expected) and the supply list.

**2. Provision of play space (room) and psycho-social care for children**

PWJ is planning to provide space (play room) where children can play with their parents. PWJ will also create a day care type of space where parents can leave their children at ease under the prolonged evacuation life. Implementation of a psycho-social program is also currently under consideration.

