

Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in the Three Years from March 2011

JICA has continued related supportive activities during the three years from the right after the earthquake of March 11, 2011, to the present. In the beginning, the main activity was direct support, including shelter for evacuees, dispatch of JICA staff and former volunteers, coordination of international organizations from overseas, and cooperation with NGOs, which played a central part in people's support to the damage area. At the present time JICA engages in information-sharing and submission, compilation of lessons learned from reconstruction efforts, and support to international conferences.

Regarding the damage by Typhoon Haiyan (called

Yolanda in the Philippines), which struck the middle part of the Philippines on November 8 and 9, 2013, JICA provided information on the study of reconstruction processes from large-scale disasters, and officials from Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture, visited the damage area and gave advice based on the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

JICA uses Japan's experience of recovery and reconstruction from large-scale disasters, including the Great East Japan Earthquake, for international cooperation to developing countries.

1.

Tohoku Earthquake Reconstruction Support

- (1) Accommodation of people unable to return home, shelter for evacuees, provision of disaster prevention supplies and storage space, and donation of money collected
- (2) Dispatch of JICA staff to NGOs, municipalities, and universities, offering of office space to NGOs, and dispatch of assistants to schools in the disaster area to support operations
- (3) Coordination of international assistance from overseas, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), and the Israel Medical Team
- (4) Assignment of reconstruction promoters in Higashimatsushima City
- (5) Dispatch of former JICA volunteers to the disaster area through cooperation with the Reconstruction Agency and the Japan Overseas Cooperative Association [→ see Case Study on page 109]
- (6) Cooperation with the Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy (HOPE) by acceptance of officers from Banda Aceh City, Indonesia
- (7) Transmission of support messages from domestic and overseas sources
- (8) Support of visits by Japanese teachers to the foreign damage area
- (9) Dispatch of officers of Higashimatsushima City to the areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- (10) Implementation of JICA Partnership Program projects in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Cambodia, proposed by the damage area of Higashimatsushima City, Kesennuma City, and Tagajo City [→ see Case Study on page 113]

2.

Information Sharing and Submission

- (1) Implementation of the training course on the reconstruction process for the Great East Japan Earthquake
- (2) Holding an exhibition about disaster resilient national buildings, Japan, and disaster prevention and reconstruction support
- (3) Holding a photo exhibition to introduce former JICA volunteers who supported the reconstruction process in Fukushima
- (4) Briefing to JICA volunteer candidates about the present situation and reconstruction in Fukushima
- (5) Introduction of overseas reconstruction support and JICA actions in school classes

3.

Compilation of Lessons Learned from Reconstruction Efforts

- (1) Implementation of the study of reconstruction processes after large-scale disasters and the study of the mainstreaming of disaster prevention
- (2) Implementation of study of the disaster reconstruction support approach
- (3) English translation of command guidelines for initial disaster response prepared by the Tohoku Regional Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

4.

Support to International Conferences

- (1) Co-sponsorship with the government of the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku
- (2) Support for the Sendai Dialogue — a Special Event on Managing Disaster Risk in the program of the 2012 International Monetary Fund–World Bank Group annual meetings
- (3) Co-sponsorship with the World Bank of the seminar titled Sharing Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake with the World
- (4) Preparation for the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction