

Chapter 1 The Earthquake and Japan in the World



A British rescue team conducts a search in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, on March 15, 2011

On March 11, 2011, Japan suffered an earthquake and tsunami of unprecedented proportion. The Great East Japan Earthquake was measured at magnitude 9.0, the largest ever recorded in Japan's history. The earthquake and the resulting tsunami struck the Pacific coast of the Tohoku and Kanto regions with such devastating force that it dramatically changed the face of the seaside landscape. As of December 13, 2011, the number of dead and missing as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake has reached approximately 20,000 people, with over 350,000 homes and other buildings completely or partially destroyed. In addition, damage from the earthquake and tsunami at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station led to a serious nuclear accident, forcing many of the residents of surrounding areas into

long-term evacuation. An uncountable amount of support, messages of encouragement, and many donations of money and goods, etc., have flowed from countries and regions around the world into the affected areas that suffered this enormous damage, and to Japan in general. It can be assumed that behind this is a sense of trust and gratitude toward Japan that has been fostered by a variety of international cooperation in which Japan has participated in the past. Japan has a deep responsibility to respond to the trust and solidarity shown toward it by the international community, and as a member of the world, to live up to its bond with the world, by overcoming the earthquake and tsunami, and continuing proactively with ODA¹ and other contributions to international efforts.

Note1: ODA: Official Development Assistance

Section 1

Support Reaching Affected Areas from Countries Around the World

Immediately after the earthquake, many countries in the world began extending a hand of support to the affected areas. In the two months following the earthquake, emergency aid and medical support teams from 23 countries and regions overseas visited the affected areas. The teams that came to Japan not only cooperated with Japanese police, firefighters, and military to conduct efforts that included search and rescue, provision of medical treatment, removal of rubble, but also worked to overcome language barriers and interact with local residents, giving them much courage and encouragement.

Particularly, the rapid, large-scale support provided by the United States displayed the solid bond and deep trust between the two countries. Late at night on the day of the earthquake, President Obama told Prime Minister Kan that the U.S. was ready to provide all possible assistance. The U.S. Forces immediately launched operations to aid the affected areas, which included large-scale aid activities such as searching for missing people, transporting relief goods, and providing power supply/water supply trucks. These activities were dubbed “Operation Tomodachi”



Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda expresses his gratitude for support from the international community and his determination for Japan's recovery, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(“Operation Friend”), and at its peak involved approximately 25,000 personnel, 24 ships, and 189 aircraft. The hearts of the Japanese people have been deeply touched by the dedicated support of the U.S.

The support, solidarity, and words of encouragement from locations around the world have reached victims in Japan in a variety of forms. Republic of Korea (ROK) dispatched rescue dog teams on the day after the earthquake, and two days later, additional members were sent, amounting to 107 members overall. They engaged

in a rescue operation in Sendai City. On the day before the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit was held in Japan in May, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and the President of the ROK Lee Myung-bak offered flowers at the affected area in Miyagi Prefecture, then with Prime Minister Kan visited an evacuation center in Fukushima Prefecture to offer sympathy to the victims. The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand loaned, free of charge, two generators and peripheral equipment to Tokyo Electric Power, which was suffering from insufficient power supply capacity. Blankets, nonperishable food, and many other goods even arrived from the geographically distant countries of Central and South America.



Volunteers from ASEAN countries provide meals in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture



U.S. military helicopters head off to deliver supplies to affected areas, as part of America's "Operation Tomodachi (Friends)" (Photo: U.S. Navy Photo)



Students hold a meeting to express their condolences and sense of solidarity toward the disaster victims (Pakistan)

In addition, meetings and charity events to support victims were held in Europe and other locations around the world to collect monetary donations.

Japan's recovery has not only been assisted by the developed world, but has received much warm support from many developing countries as well.

A Japanese aid organization that provides assistance for school lunches in the West African nation of Sierra Leone received a donation of \$500 collected by students at local schools. Although the students themselves had a difficult time getting one sufficient meal a day, they sold vegetables and mangos—their own food—to earn money to donate. Donations poured into Japanese embassies and consulates around the world, from many citizens of those countries who took from the income they needed for their own support, with the message that they wanted to help the victims in Japan.

Many of those messages expressed gratitude toward Japan, for assistance they received when they themselves were victims, or for Japan's support for the development of their countries. Cemil Cicek, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey at that time, which sent a rescue team and provided blankets and other goods, said "We share the pain of our friends in Japan, and confident that Japan will be able to heal its wounds in a short time. We are prepared to contribute to that healing in any way possible. We have not forgotten that Japan and the Japanese people extended a hand of support after the earthquake that we suffered in 1999."

In addition, a group of Muslims from a variety of countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East living in Kanagawa Prefecture procured food and relief supplies, found a means of transportation, and made the

rounds, particularly focusing on small, isolated evacuation centers in Kesennuma City, Rikuzentakata City, Ofunato City, and the Town of Minamisanriku, cooperating with Japanese volunteers to provide emergency meals of curry for thousands of people eight different times. They spoke of their motivation as follows. "On December 26, 2004, a major earthquake occurred just off the coast of Sumatra. An enormous tsunami struck Sri Lanka, home to some of us, taking the lives of over 50,000 people. The first ones to come and help us at that time were the people of Japan. It was the same when disasters occurred in Pakistan and Indonesia. It was also the people of Japan who constructed schools and hospitals, and built harbors and bridges, in our countries. Seeing the heartbreaking suffering of the Japanese people caused by this great disaster, we discussed what we could do to help. We decided to take hot food to people enduring the cold at evacuation centers. The people of Japan are all our brothers and sisters. Our desire to pay our debt of gratitude and to do something—anything at all—to help the victims of the disaster moved us to action."



A relief team from Sri Lanka provides recovery assistance with the NGO Peace Boat in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. Here they present a gift of Sri Lankan tea to affected people.

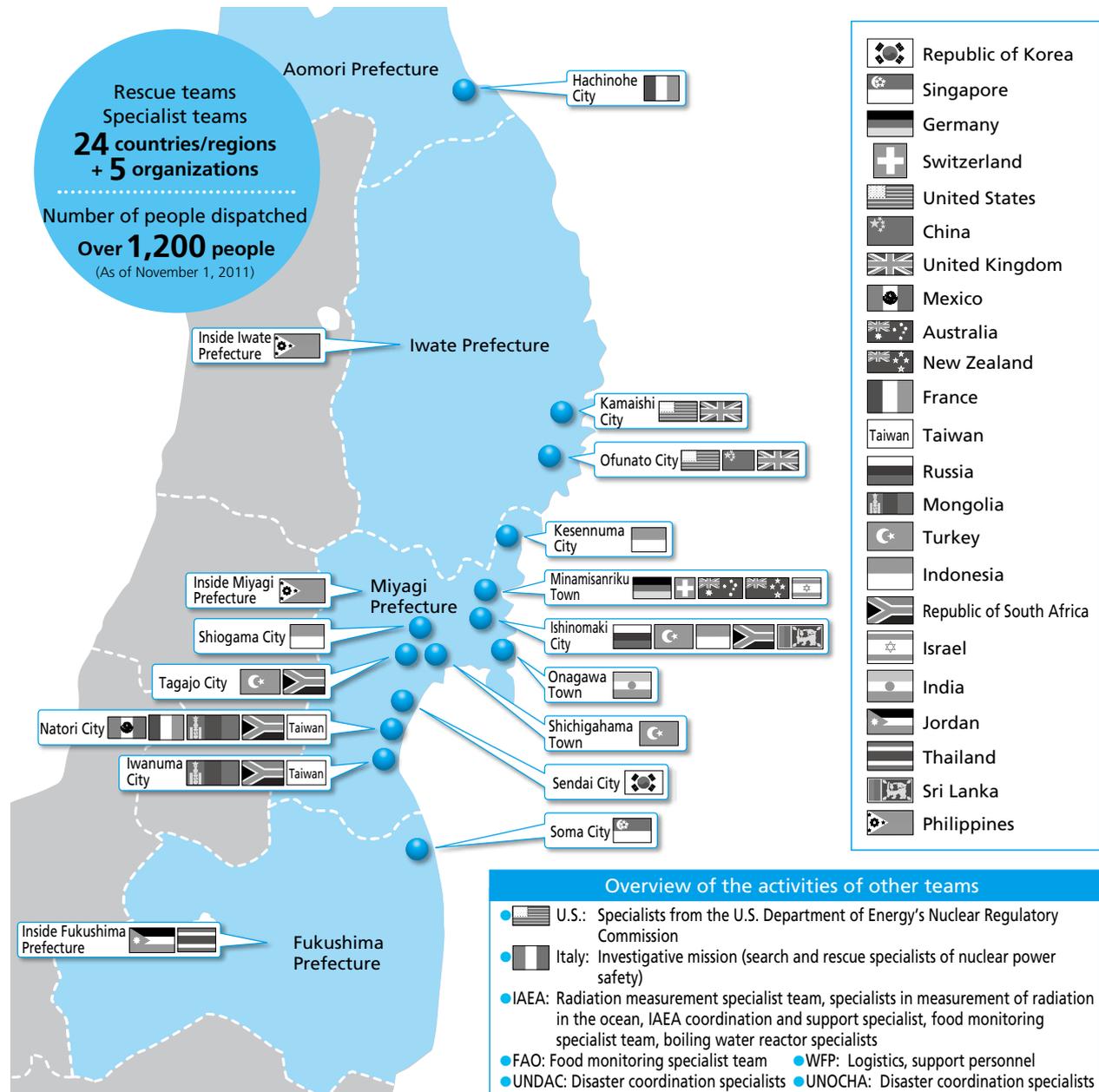


Notes of encouragement from students in the Japanese Studies Department at Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Vietnam)



An Israeli medical team provides medical care to residents of affected areas in Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture

The location of assistance activities of rescue teams and specialist teams from foreign countries, regions, and international organizations (as of September 2011)



IAEA: International Atomic Energy Association FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization WFP: World Food Program
 UNDAC: United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Section 2

Why Does the World Help Japan?

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan has received offers of support from 163 nations and regions, including many developing countries. In addition to contributing significantly to economic growth and the reduction of poverty in developing countries through ODA, Japan has also been proactive in efforts to solve a variety of problems on the global scale, such as issues related to food supply and climate change. In addition, Japan has built friendly relationships with individual countries through technical cooperation and grassroots exchange such as overseas volunteer activities. It can be assumed that behind the support and encouragement received after the earthquake is a feeling of trust and gratitude toward Japan that has been fostered through many years of interaction with each country at a variety of levels and the accumulation of international cooperation.

Since its launch in 1954, Japan has provided \$300 billion of ODA to approximately 190 countries and regions. In particular, with the conviction that human resource development is the foundation of nation-building, Japan has provided proactive support for the development of the human resources that will carry the burden of development in developing countries, by sending approximately 100,000 experts and over 30,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and by hosting over 400,000 trainees.

When providing aid, a large number of Japanese personnel take assignments at the site in developing countries, draw out knowledge and wisdom in cooperation with the local people, and work together while sharing



At an exhibit in Hibiya Park, Actress Norika Fujiwara and Minister for Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gemba view pictures drawn by elementary school students from the affected areas and pictures sent by children around the world to give encouragement

the struggles. Through that process, in addition to transferring Japan's excellent technology, knowledge, and experience to the people of developing countries, friendship and mutual understanding between the people of partner countries is deepened through interaction between individuals. With its foundation of human resource development support from Japan has increased the number of its friends around the world, and has played a significant role in the building of solidly cordial relationships based on a relationship of trust at the grassroots level.

For example, Mongolia, which has a high degree of interaction with Japan (as can be seen in the world of sumo wrestling), was faced with a severe crisis due to a transition to a market economy in the 1990s. To support independent efforts to reduce poverty through sustained economic



A vigil in the city of Callao. The tsunami from the Great East Japan Earthquake reached Callao, causing damage in some areas. (Peru)



Residents gathered as a rally to encourage Japan, dressed in red and white clothing reminiscent of the Japanese flag (Serbia)

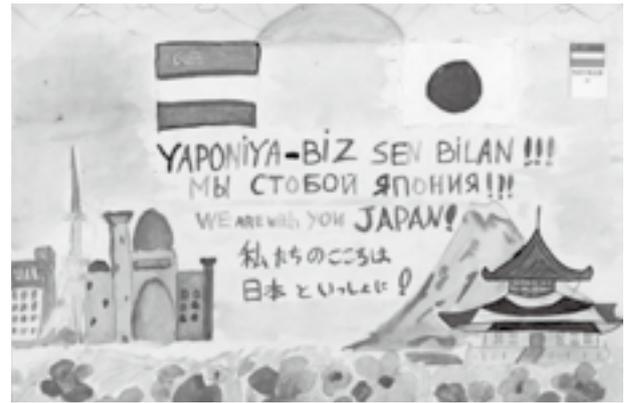
growth in Mongolia, Japan provided support for institution-building and human resource development to promote a market economy, as well as support for rural development, etc., thereby building a relationship of trust with local residents through human resource development, etc.

On the day after the earthquake, the Mongolian government called a special cabinet meeting and decided to send an emergency rescue team, relief supplies, and a donation of \$1 million. In addition, all civil servants in the nation responded to a request from the government and decided to donate one day's worth of their monthly salary. It can be assumed that behind this support is the relationship of trust between Japan and Mongolia that has grown on a daily basis through economic and cultural exchange, as well as through ODA.

Japanese ODA was used to construct a seawall around the entire approximately 6 km of coastline of Malé Island, the capital of the Maldives, taking into consideration the unique characteristics of the small island nation. This seawall protected the island and its residents from the 3-meter-high tsunami that struck after the Sumatra Earthquake. After the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, the government of the Maldives decided to provide 600,000 cans of tuna, a valuable source of foreign currency revenue, to the affected areas in Japan, free of charge. The heartfelt gratitude of the people of the Maldives for a variety of support given by Japan over the past 40 years was evident in this gesture.

A variety of relief supplies arrived in Japan from ASEAN member states as well. In a Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting held in Indonesia on April 9, representatives from each ASEAN member state affirmed that the support from ASEAN for this earthquake was provided in the spirit of gratitude to Japan for its generous support, which has substantially contributed to the development of each ASEAN member state.

In addition, when a large-scale disaster has occurred overseas, Japan has dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief Team, provided emergency relief goods, and given emergency grant aid. For example, after the earthquake and tsunami in Sumatra in 2004, Japan provided Indonesia



A picture drawn by children in Uzbekistan to encourage people in the affected areas

with a variety of support, including dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Team, composed of a rescue team, a medical team, and military personnel, etc., providing tents, sleeping mats, blankets, generators, and other emergency relief goods, and giving grand aid. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, not only monetary donations, but also approximately 10,000 blankets as well as canned emergency food and other food items were sent from Indonesia. On June 18, Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife visited Kesennuma City, one of the affected areas, to offer their sympathy. They expressed their gratitude for the support that Indonesia received from Japan in the past when the country suffered from natural disasters.

Behind Japan's more than half century of proactive contribution to the development of developing countries is the recognition that efforts to resolve issues that threaten on a global scale are a duty of major countries, and the simultaneous understanding that the peace and stability of the international community is vital to Japan's best interests. The support provided by the international community after the earthquake shows that Japan has truly secured its stability and prosperity through a relationship of interdependence, and that the building of a solidly cordial relationship with foreign countries and proactively contributing to the international community ultimately benefit Japan itself.



Messages of encouragement for the victims, written on an origami crane (Russia)



Citizens of Calcutta light candles at a vigil (India)