

外大東北復興支援隊

TUFS for Tohoku



【About us】

'Team for Tohoku' was formed by four students of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies on 21 in April . They (born and brought up in Tohoku) were in the face of the earthquake and tsunami on 11 in March and had been seeking for the way of helping those who have been and still are suffering in Tohoku. Now it's unclear how long it will take to recover from the catastrophe, but clearly what is needed for the recovery is long-term support. We'll take an approach reflecting of the specificity of our university and we'll keep up-dating the information about our latest activities.

Now there are some 40 members in our group and have been participating in volunteer work mainly in Ishinomaki-City (which locates in Miyagi) with the help of other volunteer groups. Professor Funada (who is the guardian of our group) has also formed other group to help those who have infants are in need of support.

【From the president of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies】

What we were able to discover in the struggle of aftermath of 'Tsunami' and 'The accident of Nuclear Plant in Fukushima' is one thing: the fundamental meaning of the phrase 'Gathering for the shared purpose'. I think that we sometimes forget to keep this meaning in mind without meaning to though it is indispensable to taking one step out from difficult situations. I also bear one phrase in mind as my motto written by Susan Sontag, "*How our privileges are located on the same map as their suffering.*"

Open the map in your mind and feel sincerely the 'pain' that people in Tohoku have. I thank Team for Tohoku and hope that they will keep making efforts to help the region recover from the disaster. I, at the same time, would like the other students of this university to do one thing; seek for what they can do now. We should not erase from the memory the experience that those in Tohoku have had as time passes by.

【From the representative of Team for Tohoku】

The earthquake on 11 in March. The house in Fukushima, where my family live, was got involved in the damage by the earthquake. In fact, I was in Iwaki City to spend holidays with family on 11 in March and had disastrous experiences. In that situation, however, I had been seeking for what I could do for Tohoku and formed this group 'Team for Tohoku' with a couple of students who also had been looking for something they could do for Tohoku. Let's try everything we can do as students to get over this disaster.



【Report of the activity】

Our team has started mainly two activities.

- ① A couple of members of our team go to Ishinomaki-City every weekend constantly so as to meet needs of those who are in Tohoku. More specifically, we run a place called 'community café' with the help of some other volunteer groups with a view to serving a kind of place where people there can feel relaxed talking over the tea or something. Also we supply Watanabe Hiroaki, who has been running a mobile library in region Tohoku for a lot of books. Now more and more people began to come to the place. We also have the plan of teaching children in Tohoku and it includes the intention of not merely teaching them but also taking care of them as mentally as possible.

②We has been supporting the project of which our guardian has taken charge. In May, in the process of the project, our team brought necessities to five families that moved out from Fukushima to Kanagawa. In June, we set off the volunteer work of taking care of children in place of parents in or around the shelter in Kawasaki City while they have to go out.



【Donation】

As we wrote above, we have the aim of devote ourselves to volunteer work in the long term. In fact, our team is only composed of university students. Now it's the truth that we have the difficulty in raising fund and we are in the face of the lack of funds to continue our activities. So it would be so pleasant if somebody could support our activities from the financial point. When you are in favor of our activities and willing to give us a hand, please send an e-mail to the address followed: tufs.tohoku2011@gmail.com

Thank you for reading this news letter to the end.

【How to join us】

How about joining us, Team for Tohoku? There is lots of things you can do as a member even if it's difficult for you to go to Tohoku. If you are willing to join us, please send an e-mail to the address followed: tufs.tohoku2011@gmail.com .

We are waiting for you!!

NEWS LETTER; First Edition 20/06/2011

Editors; Kengo Yoshimura, Yawara Suzuki, Rlo Kobayakawa, Souta Tmai, Risako Wada, Taichi Soga

E-mail; tufs.tohoku2011@gmail.com

Page address; <http://www.tufs.ac.jp/st/club/tufsfortohoku/index.html>