

外大東北復興支援隊

TUFS for Tohoku



Several languages for cheering up the local people

【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.

【Report on our activities】

①Events on FUKUSHIMA(20th June 2011 at TUFS)

Do we see matters of nuclear power stations in Fukushima as just 'matters of Fukushima'? To face this matter, we had talk and live event with Yoshihiko Kadoma and Fumihiro Nanamiya, singer-songwriters from Namiemachi Fukushima, where is evacuation zone within 20 km from Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant. Komatsu from Namiemachi and Tanabe from Kooriyama were in charge of this event. Both of two were very friendly and simply talked about the situation faced by people in Fukushima and their true inner feelings as people of Fukushima. Sometimes joking, their cheerful and positive talking drew attention from not only audience but also us, members of TUFS for Tohoku, The lyrics and voice s containing a lot of feelings they had when they communicated with affected people were very moving. That is good opportunity we rethink what we should do and what we can do.

(Mizuho Tanabe, senior of Arabian major)



②Community Café (in Ishinomaki)

We have talked with local people and played with local children through helping to deliver foods and afternoon tea in community café which NPO JEN run some places in Ishinomaki where they offer place for delivering foods, keeping goods, and information exchange. With decreasing needs of delivering foods and many people feeling hard to clear up their homes, we are going to deliver tea and help to clear up their homes and pull up weeds and so on.

Also, Mr. Watanabe of WataChildren, who cooperate with us as usual, as in charge of volunteer for kids in Ishinomaki expands various activities like mobile library and we donated about 60 books for his mobile library.

(Risako Wada, senior of Germany major)

③Rehabilitation work of Miura hotel

We start to help recover the Miura Inn, which stands near the Ishinomaki port. It's also damaged by Tsunami and needed rehabilitation. Mr. Miura, the landlord of this inn, usually tackles hard works with his wife, and volunteers coming from all over the country help them and so do we. We've already got rid of plenty of mud and now started to board the new floor of each room. *"When can this inn reopen next?"* *"Does this city get recovered like before?"* *"Do all people really come back here?"* We'll worry about these things in the nearest future, but at the moment we just concentrate on the rehabilitation in the hope that this inn attracts many people again like before. We face the long way of recovery and rehabilitation.

(Ryomei Yamaguchi, freshman at Master course)

④Visiting another town, "Onagawa"

With the navigation of local man, we had an opportunity to visit Onagawa. This town was damaged by huge Tsunami and still covered with broken buildings and materials for fishery. Facing this painful view, the local man navigating us suddenly became quiet and only said "There were many hotels around here, but now that we have none of them..." Four months have already passed since that terrible catastrophe, but I found that there are still many places where we have to give hand.

(Rio Kobayakawa, junior of Vietnam major)

[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!!

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