

Earthquake updates (JWCU)
As of 1:30 p.m. March 23, 2011
(since the last information)

<Thank You Very Much for the Messages! Kind Words from Our Global Friends and Colleagues>

In the time of this horrifying disaster, we are receiving dozens of kind messages from our global friends and colleagues. We truly appreciate your support. Your messages are great encouragement for all of us!

We are introducing the messages in our nationwide member newsletters. The first group will be introduced in the March 25th issue.

<Message from Our Members in Onagawa City (Miyagi Prefecture)>

Our member of “Bihoro” in Onagawa City (1 of the most affected areas) called JWCU head office this morning. The cell phone system is still problematic, but we were able to speak with him for about 15 seconds.

His message was, “We’ll do whatever we can. We’ll go all the way!”

As reported yesterday, our members at Bihoro have already started working on reconstruction of the City.



Bihoro office & its members

<JWCU Executives are Heading to Tohoku>

- On March 23rd, JWCU President Yuzo NAGATO and 3 other executives left Tokyo for the affected areas. On March 24th and 25th, they will visit several cities where our members were most affected. On March 26th, a meeting will be held in Tohoku regional office to discuss mid- to long-term plans for support and reconstruction efforts.

<Material Support>

- JWCU head office and regional offices are receiving goods and supplies from our members throughout the country, and trucks are leaving for Tohoku region. At this point, there are urgent needs for foods and gas, so the delivery is focusing on those supplies. The needs for supplies are expected to last for a long time, and coordination of the efforts is very important.



Boxes of foods are loaded on a truck,
heading to Tohoku

<Manpower Support>

- People in affected areas are now needing more people who could help residents remove debris and clean the damaged houses. However, those helping hands need to come with necessary vehicles (e.g. trucks) to do the work.
- Our team members in Hokkaido will leave on March 27th to deliver supplies in Noda Village (Iwate Prefecture). They will stay for a few days and help the residents take their furniture and goods out of their houses.
- Several member cooperatives have already offered to send teams to the affected areas for a week. JWCU head office is also planning to coordinate teams to provide physical support in the affected areas.
- Japanese fiscal year ends in March, and the year-end administrative work is waiting even in the affected areas. Therefore, not only physical assistance but administrative support is needed.

<Financial Support>

- The JWCU relief fund was set up today to obtain necessary goods/supplies and to provide support for our members in the affected areas. However, because this account does not accept international remittance, we will use our regular account to receive the international donations and transfer them to the relief fund account. The detailed information will be available on our web site (<http://english.roukyou.gr.jp/index.html>) shortly.
- Financial assistance is critical for long-term support and reconstruction efforts. Therefore, we will put more energy on obtaining financial support from now on.