

Earthquake updates (JWCU)
As of 1:30 p.m. March 24, 2011
(since the last information)

<JWCU Executives Are Now in Tohoku>

- As reported yesterday, JWCU executives are now in Tohoku region. 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.

<More Material and Financial Support Are Under Way>

- More trucks are leaving for Tohoku from the head office and various regional offices. Since there are urgent needs for foods, we are focusing on delivering instant foods, vegetables and seasoning.
- The gas shortage is still severe (they may have to wait for hours to pump the gas at a station), and our members in Niigata Prefecture are currently focusing on securing and delivering gas.
- The JWCU relief fund is set up to provide necessary goods/supplies and other support. For our international relief fund, please see http://english.roukyou.gr.jp/JWCU2011Earthquake_Relief_Fund.pdf.

<Changing Needs: From Emergency to Long-Term Support>

- Goods and supplies have been arriving in the affected areas, and people are starting to move forward to rebuild their lives. While there are still needs for foods and supplies to survive each day and we will continue to respond to their material needs, different kinds of support are emerging. These needs exist not only in Tohoku region but also many other regions, including Tokyo and surrounding areas, where evacuees are staying. The following are a few examples.
- Physical Support
 - As reported yesterday, 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. Several members of JWCU have offered trucks, and we are currently arranging people with trucks.
 - As of March 24th, 1 member in Tokyo is to stay in Miyagi Prefecture for a week, and another member is to stay for a month in April to provide physical support.

We are arranging more people to spend some time in the affected areas to provide physical support.

- Emotional Support

- A youth support station in Iwate Prefecture approached one of our member cooperatives (also a youth support station in Miyagi Prefecture) to provide counseling and emotional care for the youth in the coastal area of Iwate Prefecture. We are expecting similar requests from other areas.

- Support for Job Attainment and Income Security

- Some of our members (and many other people) have lost their jobs, homes and/or belongings. Others have evacuated to a different city and do not know when they can go back to their homes or move into temporary housing. Under these extremely difficult circumstances, however, they still need to make living. JWCUC is determined to support these members in securing jobs and income to reconstruct their lives.

- As an organization of job creation, JWCUC is also determined to create and secure jobs for as many people as possible.