

PEACE BOAT GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS

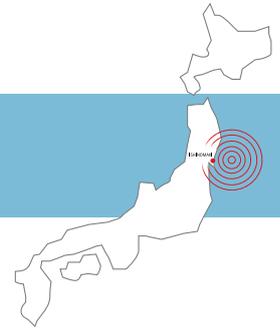


Photo: Dee Green & Tracey Taylor, 37 Frames Photography



- An NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
- Peace Boat US 501c3 registered non-profit organisation

GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI



On March 11, 2011, Japan experienced an unprecedented disaster. At 2:46pm, a magnitude 9 earthquake struck at a depth of 24km, triggering a catastrophic tsunami which laid waste to swathes of the Japanese coast. 433 sq km of land were inundated by a wave that reached 30 metres in height, sweeping across cities, villages and farmland. In what is considered to be Japan's worst humanitarian disaster since WWII, over 20,000 people were killed or registered missing, and around 500,000 more were displaced. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was severely damaged during the disaster, prompting a state of nuclear emergency caused by the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

The task of rebuilding is monumental and it cannot possibly be handled by the survivors alone. It is crucial that homes be rebuilt and that local industries are restarted, in order to restore livelihoods. This is a humanitarian crisis that stretches beyond borders and demands local, national and international help.

Photo: Yoshinori Ueno





MISSION STATEMENT

Peace Boat's mission is to provide immediate emergency relief and support for the long term social and economic recovery of the Tohoku region, focusing on the city of Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture and its environs. Peace Boat works in consultation and partnership with the local communities, responding to their situation and needs, enabling and empowering them in the recovery process. Peace Boat has committed to work on the relief and recovery efforts for at least two years.

Peace Boat works through the deployment of well-trained volunteers. Peace Boat believes that the extra hands of volunteers can support the physical regeneration of Tohoku, and that the human solidarity they provide is a vital factor in comprehensive recovery efforts.

PEACE BOAT IN TOHOKU

Within a week of the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake, Peace Boat had established a presence in Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit towns in Tohoku. Peace Boat began emergency programs to deal with the unprecedented disaster, deploying hundreds of volunteers to provide hot meals, distribute relief goods and clear mud.

In Ishinomaki, Peace Boat continues to work in close collaboration with the local community, the authorities and other NPOs active in the region. Specifically, Peace Boat partners with the local, prefectural and national governments; the Social Welfare Council of Ishinomaki; the Ishinomaki Disaster Recovery Assistance Council (IDRAC); the Mayor's Office; and the Japan Self Defense Force.



Kouzan, Ishinomaki
Photo: Yoshinori Ueno



Map of the epicenter of the March 11 earthquake

PEACE BOAT IN DISASTER RELIEF

Founded in 1983, Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat began its disaster relief work following the Kobe earthquake of 1995, and since then has provided disaster relief support in Japan and around the world. Following the Great East Japan earthquake, Peace Boat set up the Peace Boat Relief Volunteer Center PBV, to focus on emergency relief and long term support for the people of Tohoku.

PEACE BOAT: FIVE MONTHS IN ISHINOMAKI

In the period between March 17 - August 31, 2011 Peace Boat's work in Ishinomaki and the surrounding areas has achieved the following results:

VOLUNTEERS

6,695 volunteers, including 643 international volunteers from 48 countries, donated 34,251 days of labour (worth more than four million USD)

HOT MEAL PROVISION

101,483 balanced, hot meals provided in 26 districts of Ishinomaki including evacuation shelters and other areas where people were living in their damaged homes or cars.

RELIEF GOODS

1,780 tons of relief goods delivered to date, including an average of 10 tons per day in the first weeks of operation.

TSUNAMI MUD AND SMALL DEBRIS CLEARANCE



Photo: © Yoshinori Ueno

Peace Boat's volunteers:

- Cleared 1,200 homes, buildings, shops and small businesses of tsunami mud and debris
- Cleared 50 other public buildings, including schools, clinics and retirement homes
- Cleared 65 km of streets and sewers
- Took part in the clearance of 17,000 tons of rotting fish in Ishinomaki

In addition, Peace Boat has undertaken the following community-building activities:

- Helped plan Children's Festival celebration as a founding member of the Ishinomaki Disaster Recovery Assistance Council
- Organized and operated a youth soccer clinic
- Launched the 1,000 Person Bath Project with JIM-NET, a project which provides bathing facilities for the people of Ishinomaki
- Supported the Kawabiraki festival celebrations

Peace Boat provided support in 60 evacuation shelters.

Peace Boat provided 3 temporary bathing facilities, which were used by 5,353 people.

Peace Boat volunteers disinfected and dried 7846 futons and blankets in 59 evacuation centres.



Photo: © 37 Frames Photography



Photo: © 37 Frames Photography

SAVED BY A TREE

Mrs. Abe of Ishinomaki says it was an ancient persimmon tree she inherited by her grandfather that saved her family and their home when a two-metre tsunami roared through town on March 11. Nine cars were caught in its branches, avoiding collision with the house. Tragically, only one of those cars' passengers survived.

A group of Peace Boat volunteers helped Mrs. Abe remove the black tsunami sludge from the house and from the soil surrounding the tree, and within weeks, the tree had started to bloom. It continues to stand as a symbol of hope and rebirth and the strength Mrs. Abe says she needs to carry on. "This persimmon tree protects our family," Mrs. Abe says. "It is like a guardian spirit." After the catastrophe, Mrs. Abe found the body of a primary school student in what was left of her greenhouse - a heart-wrenching moment she will never forget.



Mrs. Abe and Peace Boat volunteers

ONGOING PROJECTS (MID TERM)



Peace Boat will continue to respond to community needs as they change and evolve, implementing new projects accordingly. As of July 1, 2011, the following projects had been initiated and are ongoing:

CENTRAL KITCHEN PROJECT – ISHINOMAKI

Peace Boat helped refurbish and equip the largest izakaya restaurant in Ishinomaki to cook hot food for some of the 20,000 displaced people. Once food provision is no longer needed, the owners will be able to restart their business with reduced additional investment.

SHELTER SELF-SUFFICIENT KITCHENS SUPPORT SCHEME

Peace Boat has set up self-sufficient kitchen sets in evacuation shelters in Miyagi Prefecture, aiming to improve the physical and psychological health of evacuees.

Tsunami MUD & SMALL DEBRIS CLEARANCE

Many buildings have suffered severe water damage, with deposits of several centimeters of sludge and debris. Peace Boat dispatches volunteers to handle these tasks. This project aims to allow people to return to their homes where they are habitable, and set up their businesses as soon as possible.

ONAGAWA TEMPORARY HOUSING START-UP PACKS

For people who lost everything in the tsunami, the government is providing temporary housing. Peace Boat has committed to providing the essential daily items, such as futons and cutlery, for 1,500 families moving out of shelters and into the new accommodation.

FISHERIES SUPPORT

The fishing industry, which provides a livelihood for the majority of the population of this coastal area, was virtually wiped out by the tsunami. Peace Boat volunteers are salvaging and cleaning fishing equipment and clearing the port so that the primary industry of the region can begin again.

THE REOPENING OF THE MORIYA FRUITS SHOP



The Moriya Fruits shop

On April 13, Moriya Fruits shop, a family business founded in 1931, became the first shop in Ishinomaki to reopen after the disaster. It took 45 volunteers weeks to remove the mud and debris from the building and make the shop operable again. The biggest transformation, however, was seen in the owner. After the tsunami destroyed the shop he had inherited from his parents, he could see no future for himself. He described himself as 'despondent' at the losses he had suffered and the enormity of the task in front of him.

That all changed once the Peace Boat volunteers got to work. 'Seeing the efforts the volunteers put into the clean-up operations acted as an impetus for us,' the owner recalls. 'We wanted to re-open our shop, and do it fast! With the road to recovery being so long, it seems that many people are succumbing to despondency now... therefore we felt it was doubly important to re-open our shop as soon as possible! Peace Boat hopes this story will inspire and motivate others in the community who might otherwise give in to despair.'

ONGOING PROJECTS (LONG TERM)

Projects supporting the long term recovery of Tohoku are currently being discussed by Peace Boat and our local partners. These projects have two main focuses:

COMMUNITY REGENERATION

Peace Boat has been responding to the needs of the local community to encourage regeneration. For example, Peace Boat, at the request of the Parents' and Teachers' Association (PTA) and citizens' groups of Minamisoma, Fukushima prefecture, took 49 students on board the Peace Boat this summer to ensure that their evacuation from the town, situated only 25km from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, was an actively positive experience. Peace Boat plans to undertake a variety of projects such as this as long-term community rehabilitation becomes a greater priority.

PEACE BOAT'S LONG TERM VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

It is a terrible but unavoidable fact that Japan is constantly under threat from natural disasters. In the aftermath of the March 11 tragedies, Peace Boat believes it is of absolute importance that the lessons learned in this disaster are used to strengthen and improve the existing disaster management framework. Therefore, the Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Training Center will be established in early October, and aims to train thousands of people every year in disaster relief, safety and first aid. The aim is to both continue the pace of the current relief efforts and to ensure that in the event of future disasters, there are individuals who can lead teams of relief volunteers.

PEACE BOAT AND CSR (CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY)

The triple disasters of March 11 have ushered in a new era in CSR in Japan. Many businesses are playing a significant role following the disaster, through funding recovery initiatives or sending employees to take part in the relief efforts.

As of August 31, Peace Boat had received groups of volunteers from 45 different corporate groups, and of the 6,695 volunteers who came to Tohoku with Peace Boat, 1,460 were from corporate groups. Corporate groups who have sent volunteers include the BCCJ and ACCJ, IBM, AP Bank and PwC IAS. For a full list of supporters please see our website <http://peaceboat.org/relief/about/supporters>



The ACCJ volunteers in Tohoku



Sakuma Ikuko, Tsunami survivor

'THEY GAVE ME THE COURAGE AND DRIVE NOT TO GIVE UP'

Ms Sakuma Ikuko is the 7th generation of her family to own the Shinchinrou Izakaya in Ishinomaki, which has been open since 1855. However, Ms Sakuma's experiences in the tsunami made her reluctant to return to her business. She has vivid memories of the tsunami waves and the terrible screams of people swept along by them. Ms Sakuma rescued one person, who was miraculously able to climb into the third floor of the building, where Ms Sakuma used the curtains from the restaurant as a makeshift blanket for the survivor. Even now, Ms Sakuma has nightmares about the disaster. "A darkness was beginning to consume me and I didn't think I could make it through.." she said, 'but then, I saw the young Peace Boat volunteers, with their boundless energy, partaking in sludge and debris removal. They gave me courage and the drive not to give up. That is what Peace Boat gave me.'



Photo: © 37 Frames Photography



The BCCJ volunteers in Tohoku

PEACE BOAT IN THE MEDIA

Peace Boat's relief efforts have received significant coverage in both the domestic and international media, including the BBC, the Asahi Shimbun, AERA, and the Economist.

For more information, please visit :

<http://peaceboat.jp/relief/gallery/> (English) or
<http://webaddress.com/> (Japanese).

For more information, please visit:

<http://peaceboat.jp/relief/gallery/> (English) or
<http://pbv.or.jp/> (Japanese).

PEACE BOAT DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER SYSTEM

Peace Boat's relief efforts centre on the deployment of volunteers. Peace Boat provides these volunteers with the training and coordination to undertake projects in Ishinomaki safely and efficiently, with sensitivity towards local residents and their needs.

Peace Boat believes that the deployment of volunteers helps advance both the physical regeneration of the disaster areas and the psychological recovery of survivors.

THE MEANING AND IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS

volunteers have been crucial in the following ways:

- **SCALE OF WORK**

Volunteers have made a tremendous difference in the number and speed of tasks which have been accomplished.

- **TYPE OF WORK**

Human work has been crucial as most work could not have been done by machines. For example, the tsunami mud includes precious momentos of peoples' former lives, such as photograph albums, family documents and toys, and can only be cleared by hand.

- **ENCOURAGEMENT AND SOLIDARITY**

Survivors have been encouraged by the constant presence and hard work of volunteer teams. The volunteers are ordinary people, young and old, Japanese and non-Japanese. Their presence shows that the rest of the country and the rest of the world is standing in solidarity with the survivors through this difficult time.

- **HEALING FROM TRAUMA**

Putting a traumatic experience into words is a crucial part of the recovery process for survivors. However many people who have been through this disaster feel unable to talk to their friends and neighbours, as everyone who lived through the disaster has suffered. The volunteers (although they do not seek to "counsel" the survivors) have become an important part of the psychological recovery of the survivors, as they provide a safe, neutral and natural audience for people to talk about their experiences as they work alongside each other.

- **OUTREACH - SHARING THE REALITY**

The testimonies of volunteers who have returned from the disaster areas, whether by blog, social media or word-of-mouth, have helped shape a greater understanding in Japan and beyond of the needs and realities on the ground.

As we grow to understand more about the benefit of the volunteers' presence, we are determined to continue volunteer dispatch to work on the tasks requested by the community.

Recruitment: To volunteer with Peace Boat on the relief efforts please visit <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/volunteer/> for the latest information.

THE PEACE BOAT SYSTEM

Based on 28 years of experience of volunteer operations, Peace Boat believes that volunteers should be well-trained, self-sufficient and able to work with sensitivity, safety and maximum effectiveness, Peace Boat has developed and refined a system for the recruitment, training and deployment of volunteers as follows*:

1) ORIENTATION

All potential volunteers attend an orientation in which they are briefed on the reality of the disaster area, safety and on the volunteer conditions and tasks. Volunteers are divided into small groups, and "Group Leaders" are appointed.

2) TRAINING

Those volunteers assigned as "Group Leaders" undergo a further intensive training session, covering first aid, risk assessment and management and leadership.

3) DEPLOYMENT

Volunteers work in closely supervised small groups on clear tasks in the disaster zone which meet the needs and desired outcomes of the local people. Tasks are assigned on a daily basis, with the strengths of the group being considered during assignment.

4) RETURN

Peace Boat operates a one-week dispatch system to protect the mental and physical health of the volunteers. Follow-up events are held in Tokyo which past volunteers are encouraged to return for a further stint if they can, and/or to recruit others to volunteer.

5) DEVELOPMENT

Peace Boat is working to provide training in "Volunteer Leadership" for those who have been in the field, thus developing a body of well-trained leaders ready to respond to changing needs in this, or other, disaster.

**Note: This process may be modified for corporate or other group volunteers*



Volunteers at work

PEACE BOAT'S HISTORY IN DISASTER RELIEF

ABOUT PEACE BOAT

Founded in 1983, Peace Boat is an international non-governmental and non-profit organization with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The organization works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment through global educational programs, cooperative projects and advocacy activities on global peace voyages. Our associate organization Peace Boat US is a 501(c)3 registered organization based in New York, and we have representatives in Europe, Latin America, South Asia and the Middle East. In 2008, Peace Boat Director and Co-Founder Yoshioka Tatsuya was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

PEACE BOAT'S EXPERIENCE IN DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS

As part of our wider peace building activities, Peace Boat has carried out emergency relief operations for the past 15 years, delivering emergency assistance and raising funds, as well as coordinating the dispatch of experienced logisticians, interpreters and volunteer teams to affected areas all over the world. Peace Boat's first disaster relief efforts took place in 1995, following the Great Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe, Japan when teams of volunteers provided assistance for months supporting community access to food, water and other basic supplies as well as humanitarian support. Since then, Peace Boat has organized emergency relief support in disaster affected locations around the world, including in Turkey (Aug. 1999), Taiwan (Sept. 1999), Algeria (May. 2003), Mid-Niigata, Japan (Nov. 2004), Sri Lanka (Dec. 2004), Pakistan (Oct. 2005), in the US (Hurricane Katrina, Oct. 2005), Indonesia (Jun. 2006) and Korea (Aug. 2007).



SUPPORT PEACE BOAT'S EFFORTS

DONATE: Donations can be made directly to Japan, or through Paypal via Peace Boat US: Donate online or see bank/post office transfer information at <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/donate/>

VOLUNTEER: Peace Boat is recruiting volunteers to assist with the relief work. Opportunities are also available for international volunteers who do not speak Japanese. Please see <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/volunteer/> for more information.



Peace Boat Partners



For a full and up to date list of our partners and corporate sponsors, please visit our website at <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/about/supporters/>

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