



# Great East Japan Earthquake:

## Activities Report of FGC, Foundation for Global Children

On March 11, 2011 we experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and soon thereafter on March 17, The Foundation for Global Children (FGC) initiated support actions to the disaster area.

### March 2011

Immediately after the Great Earthquake in March the disaster areas entered in to a survival mode. They experienced a severe shortage of supplies and The Foundation for Global Children moved in. The FGC teams worked diligently to deliver basic needs to the people affected by this disaster to include food (rice, buns, rice crackers, and sweet bean paste), supplements, water, shoes, and jackets for warmth. Also, the FGC teams delivered electric generators, gas canisters, and over 100 walkie-talkies to the Ham Radio Operators in the affected area at the request of the JARL, Japan Amateur Radio League.



In the earliest stages of this disaster we collected information regarding who needed assistance, and what the true needs were for those people stricken by the disaster. Many people and corporations came together to lend a helping hand. The people of Oiso Town, along with the staff and students of SEISA schools from various areas around Japan did a fine job assembling together to deliver five cargo trucks of the much needed supplies. These supplies were sent to SEISA Sendai and Koriyama Learning Center on March 17, 21, 23, 28, and 31.

Immediately upon delivery these supplies were distributed to the people in need in the disaster area. The evacuation center was without power and the supplies were quite welcomed. The electric generators were very much appreciated as was the food and water supplies. The elderly who were living with tremendous anxiety were especially delighted to have comfort foods such as the bean paste buns which really helped to put their minds at ease during this difficult time.





### **April 2011**

In April, we experienced a second disaster and many people were affected in the Fukushima area. With rumors of an accident at the TEPCO nuclear power station in Fukushima, we learned that the delivery trucks were not able to make the daily deliveries to the local businesses. We quickly moved to understand the needs for the Fukushima area and its people and it is at this point SEISA made the decision to seek a long-term support plan for the Fukushima area as well.

To begin, we focused on these areas:

- A. Education: The children were in urgent need for a stabilized learning environment
- B. Medical: Just days after the Great Earthquake many people began to show signs of psychological distress

The “Educational Environment Support Group” led by Mr. Yasuo Miyazawa, Chairman of SEISA Group and Founder of FGC, The Foundation for Global Children went to Minami Soma City and Soma City to engage in support activities there. Many children lost their textbooks during the disasters and SEISA provided these same children with restoration supplies and 50 sets of textbooks for all subjects from elementary to high school.



Support meeting with Mr. Sakurai, the Mayor of Minami Soma City.

A “Medical Support Group” was created to study the current status and to understand any extraction issues for the evacuation center and medical institutions after the great earthquake. This group was made up of leaders from The Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo (Associate Professor Kami Research Group, IMSUT); and with medical institutions such as Kamogawa, Yokohama, Amagasaki, and SEISA Group.

For example, in Minami Soma City, very near the nuclear power station, medical institutions were not accepting patients, however because of the communication from IMSUT, the “Medical Support Group” and the desire of the hospital staff; these institutions again began accepting patients by the end of April.



### **May 2011**

The “Educational Environment Support Group” decided on the following actions:

- A. Participate in the “Soma City Follower Team” which was organized to have a role in providing children with psychological care
- B. Network-building for child support

The “Soma City Follower Team” consists of five clinical psychotherapists and one health nurse

dispatched from Soma City and the SEISA Group. The team goal is to seamlessly provide psychological care to the kindergarten, elementary, and junior high students in an effort to mitigate any identifiable psychological damage that might hinder their growth and learning. The staff will implement care for students, parents and the staff at the prefectural high school as well.

The staff will take a proactive stance unlike traditional counseling services where they will not stand by and wait for the people to request therapy, but will look carefully for any changes in the children.

The “Medical Support Group” held briefing sessions on assignment from Soma City for the residents of each of the districts in the city (Kuroki, Hatuno, Tamano, and Ohno) to understand more accurately about radiation. The session clearly warned of a disorder caused by influences other than radiation to people who are not acting in accordance to the rhythm of everyday life since the nuclear accident.

On 18-19 May 2011, the Group also conducted medical examinations and health consultations for residents of each of the districts in Iitate Village (Hiso, Warabidaira, and Nagadoro). 300 out of 700 residents in these three administrative districts participated in the event. In addition to blood testing, these examinations included approximately a one hour medical interview for each person in an effort to improve the rhythm of everyday life by listening carefully to the current status of each patient.

After the medical examinations, coffee presented by Sgt. Raymond Brooks, a flute player in US Forces military band was served to the people by the FGC staff. Many people said they enjoyed the coffee very much and were feeling happy as their anxiety was lessened by the consultation. The group also carried out the consultation to about 300 people in Soma City on May 25-26. There is a plan to conduct further medical examinations and health consultations in other areas in the future.





Iidate Village



Soma City

These pictures illustrate the scene in Iidate Village and Soma City during the medical examinations and health consultations. Every consultation took about one hour for each person with anxiety from invisible fear of radiation. They seemed to have got so much relieved to have the correct knowledge and understanding of radiation.



Mr. Miyazawa (Founder, SEISA / FGC) presents Coffee from Sgt Raymond Brook to Mr. Sugano (Village Mayor, Iidate).



## Foundation for Global Children

<http://www.fgc.or.jp/english/index.html>

Office: Seisa Group 1805-2 Kokuho Hongo Oiso-cho, Kanagawa 259-0111

TEL: +81-463-71-6046 FAX: +81-463-60-3507