

# Great East Japan Earthquake Relief Efforts

## Activities by International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)

IYEO has been continuously and actively engaged in relief efforts since the Great East Japan Earthquake hit on March 11, 2011.

Total donations collected from individuals, different groups and organizations thus far is JPY15,075,415 as of August 30, 2012. These funds have been used for immediate relief activities to purchase necessary goods to be sent to the victims of the disaster, as well as to provide financial support to the IYEO members whose houses were severely damaged.

Messages and condolences sent to the Japanese people through the IYEO and SWYAA network have also been uploaded on the IYEO website:  
<http://www.iyeo.or.jp/en/index.html>



Relief efforts done by respective SWYAA's can be found on the SWYAA website:  
<http://www.swyaa.org/ReliefActivities/IYEO/index.html>

## Activities by the IYEO Members in the Affected Areas

### IYEO Iwate

One of the outstanding projects by IYEO Iwate members is the "IYEO Café Project." It is aimed at providing a relaxing space for the afflicted people in the evacuation centers: to provide them a place to sit and chat together to ease their minds.

Since June 2011, 26 café projects took place at 31 places such as provisional housing and spaces etc. in Tanohata Village, Kamaishi City, Otsuchi Cho, Rikuzentakata City etc. Approximately 2,500 cups of coffee and various sweets were provided from around the world



such as the Embassy of Dominican Republic and Alumni Association of ASEAN countries as well as IYEO.

IYEO Iwate also organized a volunteering tour as an optional tour for Social Contribution Activities as part of the SIGA (SSEAYP International General Assembly) held in Japan last April. 40 participants joined from ASEAN and Japan to take part in the bus tour to witness afflicted areas, experience oyster aqua farming, join the IYEO Café Project etc. in Iwate Prefecture.

On June 10, 2012, "Shakunage Matsuri (rhododendron flower festival)" was organized by the volunteer committee members in Tanohata Village to cheer up the victims living in this village. IYEO Iwate contributed to this event by providing a place to try some sweets and wearing national costumes from various countries. These costumes were rented out by the ex-PYs.

### IYEO Miyagi

IYEO Miyagi continually donates relief supplies to the hospital, where a member of IYEO Miyagi works responding to the needs of afflicted people. In March 2012, 33 computers were donated to this hospital as a collaboration project of IYEO and PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers Co., Ltd.)

Following the July and August 2011 "Onsen (hot spring) Tours" for the staff from the hospital in Ishinomaki City and their families took place in March 2012. This was organized with the IYEO

Yamagata. Onsen host in Yonezawa City of Yamagata Prefecture welcomed them with a warm heart and so the participants enjoyed relaxing and reenergizing.



### Fune-to-Tsubasa-no-Kai Fukushima (IYEO Fukushima)

The International Understanding Educational Support Project was held from October 26 to 31, 2011. This was aimed to provide a venue for students in the Fukushima Prefecture to experience various cultures and values. They joined together with foreign guests gathered with the support of the NPO NICE (Neverending International work Camps Exchange) as well as those residing in Fukushima Prefecture to organize the event for the afflicted children in two primary schools in the prefecture. Also discussion on the East Japan Great Earthquake at the Fukushima University students and self-catering camp was organized. Students learnt that there are many differences as well as similarities in lifestyle and culture through interacting with the foreign guests.

International students at the Fukushima University joined the discussion program and had English discussion. After sharing their feeling about this disaster, they talked about what they can/should do to reconstruct Fukushima and summarized in a poster.



Members of IYEO and the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake are very grateful for your kind support and donation.

If you would like to contribute to IYEO's effort for relief activities in the devastated areas, please contact us at the following email address. Thank you very much.

Email address: [iyeobokin@iyeo.or.jp](mailto:iyeobokin@iyeo.or.jp)

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