

JPF's New Program in Support of Reconstruction for Disaster Affected Communities
**The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response:
 Fukushima Support Program 2021**

JPF decided to continue our assistance beyond the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. We are starting a new program to help solve the three remaining issues in Fukushima.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support for Japan Platform (JPF). JPF decided to mobilize on March 11, 2011, the very day the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, and has since supported recovery and reconstruction efforts while always working closely with the local people.

For Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, we completed our support program in fiscal year 2016. At the time, infrastructure had been largely restored, and the support framework had been fully transitioned to local communities and entities. We could confirm that the reconstruction efforts were now led locally by the municipal governments, local social welfare councils, and local organizations.

Fukushima Prefecture, on the other hand, is still facing complex and long-term issues. In November 2015 we launched our policy to strengthen support for Fukushima and have been making efforts to improve the reconstruction framework there by continuing the Living Together Fund until fiscal year 2019. Through this fund, we supported local NGOs together with organizations engaging in regional cooperation and intermediary support.

JPF Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response: Fukushima Support Program

We will continue to support Fukushima to solve the three remaining issues there as identified by external experts in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response program evaluation*1.

Three Remaining Issues in Fukushima

- 1 Support for Disaster-Affected People and Evacuees Within and Outside of Fukushima Prefecture**
- 2 Reduction of Radiation Exposure Risk**
- 3 Building a Framework for Locally Led Reconstruction**

Activity Areas

- Fukushima Prefecture -

- Tokyo Metropolitan Area -

AAR Japan Responding to Issue 1

Japan Platform Responding to Issues 2&3

Focusing on areas that still require support due to the effects of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, JPF will support Open Science*2 initiatives during the entire year of 2021 so that people affected by the disaster and their supporters can share a common awareness of issues and promote reconstruction efforts through the power of citizens.

JPF is committed to mobilizing the power of citizens so that people can live in good health and with a sense of hope in the long stretch of the post-disaster phase of their lives. We ask for your continued warm support.

January 2021

Takeharu Takahashi
 Secretary General, Japan Platform

Donating to JPF's Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response: Fukushima Support Program

Japan Platform's (JPF) activities are supported by your generous donations.

Information for donating by bank transfer

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 Swift code : BOTKJPJT
 Account Type : Saving
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*MUFG Bank, Ltd., has kindly agreed to waive the fees for transfers to this account from ATMs at the MUFG Bank head office and branches. Additionally, Japanese Bankers Association has taken measures to waive handling fees for transfers to this account from other banks if the transfer is made from bank counters. (Excludes transfers from ATMs.)
 *If you would like to receive a receipt, please register your address through the receipt request page at the JPF website.
 *If you wish to donate by credit card, postal transfer, or PayPal, please visit this page:
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Monthly Supporter Program

Japan is a country prone to large-scale natural disasters. You never know when a disaster may strike the area where you or your loved ones live. JPF's Monthly Supporters make monthly donations to help us strengthen our organizational and financial capacity and provide prompt humanitarian and disaster relief. Your continued support during non-disaster times will enable us to be prepared for emergency initial assessments when a disaster strikes.

Please sign up online to become a monthly supporter. Search "JPF Monthly Supporter" or visit:



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Japan Platform (JPF)

[Tokyo Office]
 Kojimachi GN Yasuda Bldg. 4F, 3-6-5 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083
 Phone: 03-6261-4750 FAX: 03-6261-4753
 Phone: 03-6261-4425 (Domestic Programs)

[Tohoku Office]
 Kadokawa Bldg. 511, 2-7-30, Chuo, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-0021
 Phone: 022-399-7997

Japan Platform Search **www.japanplatform.org**

f Japan Platform @japanplatform Twitter (Domestic Programs): @jpf_kokunai

Solving the "Three Remaining Issues in Fukushima"

**Japan Platform
 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response:
 Fukushima Support Program 2021**



Citizens themselves are measuring the radiation levels of seawater and fish from off the coast of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. This is a quite laborious task that involves the collection of samples at various points and depths. The seawater and fish are measured separately by type and part, and the information is made public. Oceanographic survey ©Tarachine

*1: JPF Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response Program Evaluation Report (March 2020) http://tohoku.japanplatform.org/docs/JPF_evaluation_202003.pdf

*2: "[Open Science] is a movement to transform scientific research into an activity that is more open to citizens (who are non-specialists). [...] It aims to expand traditional methods of scientific communication so that we can build up scientific and educational theories that allow for the realization of the types of scientific research that more people including the general public cooperate with it, are involved in it, and trust it." Michinori Hatayama, Katsuya Yamori, Ana Maria Cruz, Muneta Yokomatsu, Masamitsu Onishi, Genta Nakano, and Emmanuel Garnier, "Present and Future Research in Disaster Reduction Systems (4)," Kyoto University Disaster Prevention Research Institute Annals Vol. 63 A (2020):124.

Solving the “Three Remaining Issues in Fukushima”

1 Support for Disaster-Affected People and Evacuees Within and Outside of Fukushima Prefecture

Activities that target those who have fallen between the cracks due to the termination of public assistance and the withdrawal of private support initiatives.



The number of evacuees still at the mercy of the evacuation orders following the nuclear power plant accident is about 7,200 within Fukushima Prefecture and about 29,000 outside the prefecture scattered across the country, of which about 20,000 have evacuated to the Kanto region (as of 13 January 2021, according to the Reconstruction Agency).

In order for people to live healthy and hopeful lives wherever they have evacuated, it is essential to continue supporting the creation of spaces where people can share their complicated feelings that they have had for a long time as well as any health concerns they may have. These spaces can also allow for people to overcome the divisions among themselves due to differences in thinking about radiation.

Even when we look internationally, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been displaced from their homes but have not crossed national borders is overwhelmingly larger than that of refugees, who tend to garner more attention. Yet there has been little progress when it comes to international discussions on the issue of IDPs.

The Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR), started providing support to evacuees in temporary housing in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures, conducting massage, active listening, and community interaction activities. AAR has offered a total of about 990 such activities to date and will continue these activities in three areas within Fukushima Prefecture. For evacuees who have decided on long-term evacuation or permanent relocation to the Tokyo metropolitan area, AAR will host exchange events and study sessions to encourage them to make connections through mutual support in their new communities.

We will also summarize the experiences and knowledge we have gained from our support provision to date, share them widely, and use them to make recommendations in preparation for a combined natural disaster and nuclear accident that may occur again in the future.



AAR staff engaging in active listening and teaching health exercises ©AAR



[AAR] Mr. Shinichiro Ohara, Local Coordinator

More and more people are moving out of temporary housing with post-disaster reconstruction public housing being built, and about 80% of the evacuation orders due to the nuclear power plant accident have been lifted. For those who were affected by this disaster, even though environments in which people live have not improved, people who were once referred to as evacuees are no longer called as such. All of these shifts have made their plight and the issues they must face ever more invisible. AAR will build on the connections we have made through our activities over the years and continue to provide support that can help disaster survivors connect with each other and assist people who have moved to new places integrate into their new communities.

2 Reduction of Radiation Exposure Risk

Activities that address the concerns about the ongoing disaster of radioactive contamination among local residents and workers taking care of the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident



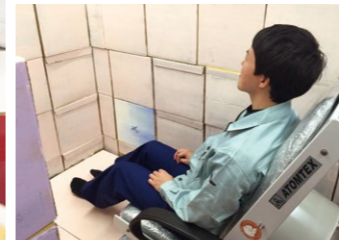
The advantage of measuring radiation – which cannot be seen, smelled, or felt – is not only about being able to understand the current condition and to avoid danger. It also allows people to scientifically confirm the actual situation and to exercise their autonomy in deciding where and how to live, which is an invaluable human right. In fact, JPF has seen many disaster-affected people regain their mental health through a radiation measurement project.

In response to this issue, we will continue the radiation measurement project through our contract with the Iwaki Citizens' Radiation Measurement Center, which is also known as Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima and more commonly referred to as Tarachine (a word that means mother and appears in old Japanese poetry). Tarachine is a non-profit organization in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, that has had successful outcomes in the Living Together Fund project from January 2017 to March 2020. The mothers working at Tarachine have taken on the difficult task of measuring radioactivity, in which only specialists had been involved previously, with the sole wish to protect children from radiation exposure. The measurement data produced by these mothers using reliable technology are released to the public in real time.

As a new activity, we will also start to monitor the health of workers taking care of the aftermath of the nuclear accident. Additionally, in recent years, there have been many torrential rain disasters, and Fukushima sustained severe damages from a typhoon in 2019. As residents desire to reconfirm the safety of their communities through measurement knowing some contaminated soil has moved due to the heavy rains, we will also establish a disaster measurement system to meet these needs.



Tarachine staff taking measurements in a lab with radiation measurement equipment ©Tarachine



Sitting on a whole body counter to measure radiation levels in the human body ©Tarachine



[Tarachine] Ms. Kaori Suzuki, Director

After the nuclear power plant accident, I was in a state of great anxiety, not knowing how I should live from now on. By measuring the radiation, we can recognize the situation we are in and respond to it. Through this project, we have been able to continue the important work of protecting the health of our children with our own hands. I feel that JPF's support plays an important role in helping those of us who experienced this disaster become independent and think about our own future.

3 Building a Framework for Locally Led Reconstruction

Developing human resources among local groups so that they can become more self-reliant, and creating a framework for civic organizations to complement each other's activities



Among the radioactive materials spread by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, there are some nuclides whose measurement process is complicated and requires a high level of knowledge. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop capable human resources in order to obtain accurate measurement results in the months and years to come.

Our objective is to increase the number of measurement technicians by taking the technologies acquired so far, compiling them into teaching materials (textbooks and videos), and offering online classes and training to those who wish to acquire the techniques. As with the radiation measurement activity itself, this activity will also be undertaken by Tarachine, the Iwaki Citizens' Radiation Measurement Center through our contract with them.

There is also a need to build a framework for the community to look after the mental and emotional well-being of their residents affected by the disaster. Since the disaster, there has been a growing movement to create spaces for information sharing and learning through collaboration between mental health experts active in the prefecture and lay supporters. Their main goal has been to “look after the hearts and lives of our neighbors in the community.”

To support this growing momentum, we have contracted with the Fukushima Cooperative Reconstruction Center (FCRC) to carry out activities to build support frameworks through local cooperation.



Study session on measurement and calculation methods led by an expert ©Tarachine



Members of the Supporters' Cooperation Team ©FCRC



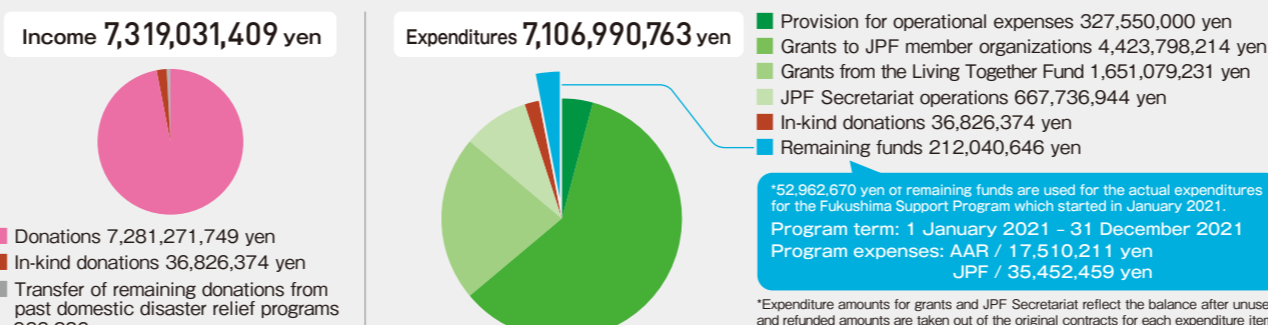
[JPF] Maki Saito, Program Coordinator

Ten years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011, and the challenge now is about how the local communities can continue to cope with the long-term effects of the disaster. Using our experience in supporting those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and others in need, both within and outside of Japan, JPF aims to help build a framework in Fukushima that can respond to the large complex issues that remain there through mobilizing the power of local people and other citizens. We will also report on and widely share the achievements and challenges for the future, as well as how we can understand the situation in Fukushima from an international perspective.

Program History

11 Mar. 2011	May 2011	Nov. 2015	Mar. 2017	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program launch decided within 3 hours of earthquake Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tohoku Office established in Sendai Living Together Fund grant begins 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Iwate & Miyagi Prefectures completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Together Fund completed
<p>Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response Fukushima Support Program begins</p> <p>Emphasis on Support for Fukushima begins</p>					

Income & Expenditure Report (11 March 2011 - 31 December 2020)



Media Conference (14 February 2019)

8 Years Since Then, Fukushima's Now and Future: Sharing the Lessons of Internal Displacement with the World

Aiming to communicate the current situation and lessons learned from Fukushima, we shared insights and challenges from our respective professional perspectives. Included were discussions on internal displacement and domestic evacuation from an international perspective and the actions among mothers where commonalities can be seen across the world. 11 media representatives from six countries including of course Japan but also France, the Netherlands, Australia, Hong Kong, and Spain contributed to the publication of 12 articles for the overseas audience.



At the media conference venue ©JPF

<https://www.japanplatform.org/info/2019/03/301722.html>

Please Support the Fukushima Support Program

As there have been frequent disasters in recent years, problems similar to what happened in Fukushima could occur anywhere in Japan. In order to protect people's health and safety, we need the cooperation and understanding of many among the civil society. We are grateful for your warm support to date and ask that you continue to assist us in our efforts.