

4th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Monday, August 8 through Tuesday, August 9, 2011
Activity site	Ofunato-shi, Iwate
Participants	16 (12 men, 2 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we went to a seafood processing company near the fishing port of Ofunato to wash pallets for handling fresh fish and clean the company building.

The work itself was light in contrast to the foul smells and the swarms of flies, abnormal even for the peak of summer, that kept distracting us. This was a keen reminder of the very difficult and different conditions from Tokyo that the people in the affected areas were still enduring, five months after the catastrophe.

On the second day, we split into two groups to perform our chores.



The first group went to dig mud out of gutters near JR Ofunato Station. To be sure, there were no traces of the station itself as the tsunami had swept it away, and so we performed our chores in plain view of the devastation. The second group rejoined the first to help after carrying supplies to a community hall.

The mud we scooped was lifted out of the gutters in sandbags. The sandbags we piled high may not have amounted to a hill of beans when looked at with a sense of perspective, but we felt satisfied nonetheless for having at least contributed something to the recovery effort.

The Disaster Volunteer Center of Ofunato City that looked after us was also active in transporting materials and volunteers to and from the site of the recovery efforts. The center was staffed with many individual volunteers who helped provide a flexible, welcome and pleasant atmosphere for our activities.