

6th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Friday, August 19, 2011
Activity site	Ishinomaki-shi, Miyagi
Participants	25 (17 men, 6 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



In this activity, we removed mud from small settlements in the Ozaki district adjacent the Nagazuraura fishing port in Oppa Bay.

Segments of the road we took on our bus ride to the volunteer site had become submerged under water from the earthquake and tsunami, and there were mounds of gravel prepared for emergency repairs. This road had sections that were slippery in the rain, and we had a number of tense moments when we felt the pavement shudder as our bus drove over it. Due in part to a bridge that had sustained some damage, travel on this road was restricted and this reminded us of just how enormously living conditions in the area had been disrupted.



The weather was changeable and we had to take our raincoats on and off as light rain gave way to clouds with intermittent sunshine. On the upside, we found other volunteers were at the site as well to work together with us in the poor weather and summer heat.

Just as our day was coming to a close, we were hit by an intense earthquake measuring just under 5.0 on the Japanese seismic scale. This made us realize how the local people were forced to live under these repeated aftershocks, and at the same time we felt a need to continue volunteering and contributing whatever we could to the recovery effort.