

## 7th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, August 25 through Friday, August 26, 2011
Activity site	Ishinomaki-shi, and Shichigahama-machi, Miyagi-gun, Miyagi
Participants	22 (20 men, 0 woman, 2 administration office staff)

### ● Activity Details



On the first day, our group responded to a request from the Oshika Volunteer Center of Ishinomaki City to help sort oyster shells.

We were greeted by a mountain of oyster shells upon driving along prefectural route 41 that stretches along the Oshika Peninsula and arriving at our activity site at Tanigawahama. We were given the task of separating the round bottom half of the shell that used to house the oyster from the flat top of the shell. This was to collect the round shells, which the fishermen in the area string together for the aquaculture of sea squirts, a marine invertebrate and local delicacy that likes to lay its eggs on oyster shells.



There, we were also told that it takes three long years to grow the sea squirts before they are ready to market. All of us were both impressed by the patience the people of Oshika Peninsula had in making this time-consuming aquaculture an important part of their livelihood, and glad to be of help in reviving this local business.

On the second day, we responded to a request from the Disaster Volunteer Center of the town of Shichigahama to go and help clear out the pine forests along the shoreline of Shobutahama.

Our work here involved removing the jungle of pine branches and trunks that had been knocked to the ground. Three individual volunteers joined our team to participate in this labor intensive work.

At a self-evaluation meeting after we finished this activity, team members expressed their enthusiasm by saying that it was regrettable that the time spent traveling cut down on the amount of work they could actually perform and that they would like to continue volunteering for assistance.