

10th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, September 22, 2011
Activity site	Minamisanriku-cho, Motoyoshi-gun, Miyagi
Participants	12 (10 men, 0 woman, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



We went to a site next to the Shizugawa Nature Center, not far from the Hadenya fishing port in the Togura district of Minamisanriku Town to clear away the rubble.

Our team was smaller than planned, due to Typhoon No. 15 that had led to suspended service on many railway lines including the Tokaido Shinkansen Line and consequently some volunteers being forced to abandon their participation.

Damage caused by the tsunami, including overturned and abandoned cars and homes left half destroyed, was still in plain view in many parts of this area. This scenery before our very eyes was both a heartbreaking reminder of the local people's suffering and also a rallying call for redoubling our resolve to volunteer. However, much to our dismay, gradually intensifying rains from the typhoon the day before threatened to disrupt roads and forced us to finish our work early.



We regret that the poor weather stood in the way of our serving the community as much as we really wanted to. But we were also profoundly impressed to find out that the team leader we were assigned had merely been subsisting as a volunteer, living and sleeping in his own car. The experience made us think deeply about what we could do in response to this unprecedented disaster, and strengthened our determination to keep volunteering.