

## 11th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, November 17 through Friday, November 18, 2011
Activity site	Rikuzentakata-shi, Iwate
Participants	27 (20 men, 5 women, 2 administration office staff)

### ● Activity Details



On the first day, we went to a salmon hatchery in the town of Yahagi of Rikuzentakata City to help build net rings.

Net rings are 30 tubes made of a black mesh-like material strung together in bundles. These bundles of mesh tubing are used as a gravel substitute for lining the waterbed of salmon hatcheries. The tubes provide the salmon eggs a resting place before they hatch. The allotted task on the day we volunteered was to take string and tie together almost 750 of these net rings.



After finishing this task, we were driven in a bus to the center of Rikuzentakata City to see for ourselves the areas that had been damaged in the catastrophe. There, we all bowed our heads in a moment of silence to offer our condolences and wish for an early recovery.

On the second day, we responded to a request from the Disaster Volunteer Center of Rikuzentakata City and went to offer our help in a vegetable field belonging to a private home in the Yonesaki district of town.

The husband and wife of this home were very considerate to us volunteers and our work. They not only offered us the use of the toilet facilities in their home, but gave us apples they had grown by themselves for our refreshment. We were at once grateful and a little embarrassed upon finishing work when the couple thanked us gushingly for having done “such a remarkable and beautiful job cleaning up.”

Rikuzentakata City in November already felt much chillier than Tokyo, and we could readily imagine the weather getting bitterly cold with the approach of winter. The chill in the air made us reflect on how the disaster victims might face even harsher living conditions, and to think about what things we could do to help.