

14th Volunteer Activities Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Thursday, March 22 through Friday, March 23, 2012
Activity site	Rikuzentakata-shi, Iwate
Participants	29 (23 men, 4 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we sorted and cleared out the debris from the vacant lots of private homes in the Yonesaki district.

As large pieces of debris and the cornerstones of buildings had already been removed using heavy machinery, participants sorted and removed smaller pieces of rubble.

In the future, the aim is to turn these lots where houses once stood into fields. To achieve this, in addition to removing rubble from the surface we dug down to a depth of 30 cm and used a sieve to remove small pieces of debris.



On the second day, in line with a request from the Kesen-machi fishing cooperative, we removed dirt from the gutters at Osabe fishing port.

The gutters were closed with extremely heavy lids, requiring some effort to lift open. In some cases, the dirt was completely caked on, making them difficult to remove. The going was tough; first we had to use a crowbar to break down the dirt into manageable chunks before scooping it away with a shovel.

As weather would simply return the dirt back into the gutters if it was left piled up beside them, we moved the dirt away from the gutters and then raked it down.

Thanks to the teamwork demonstrated by all the participants, we were able to clear gutters over a larger-than-expected area, providing a sense of accomplishment.