

21st Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Friday, November 16 through Saturday, November 17, 2012
Activity site	Rikuzentakata-shi, Iwate, and Tome-shi, Miyagi
Participants	16 (11 men, 3 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we cleared mud out of street gutters in the middle of the city of Rikuzentakata.

The worksite was not far from the city gymnasium, so a great deal of progress had already been made in clearing away the debris. The gutters, however, were another matter. They had remained untouched since the catastrophe struck, and as a result the mud in them had become rock solid. This in turn had caused the gutter covers to expand. The volunteer group was in faced the tough task of doing the work while dealing with these problems.



The work involved pretty hard manual labor. First we would lift open a gutter cover, extract the mud we found, divide it into one of five types, and then replace the cover. Once we had finished our own assigned sections, we decided to move on to another section rather than stop. There was quite a great feeling of accomplishment among all the volunteers when we saw that the site now looked so clean.

On the second day, we invited about 170 children from the disaster zone to the gymnasium in the nearby city of Tome for a basketball clinic in the morning. In the afternoon, the children watched a game between the JX Sunflowers and the Hitachi Hi-Tech Cougars.

At the basketball clinic, the volunteers also took part in the fun, joining in warm-up exercises, such as running, stretching and footwork, and playing the basketball role of defenders against their young opponents.

While the volunteers had been really fatigued from the grueling work of clearing out mud on the first day, they now discovered that the smiles on the children's faces blew their tiredness completely away.