

## 23rd Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Friday, May 31 , 2013
Activity site	Kesennuma-shi and Osaki-shi, Miyagi
Participants	16 (6 men, 4 women, 6 administration office staff)

### ● Activity Details



On this occasion, our volunteer activities comprised contributing to the emotional care of senior citizens in the earthquake-affected region. We invited all members (about 100 people) of the association of senior citizens' clubs in Motoyoshi in Kesennuma City on a day trip to the Naruko Onsen spa where they enjoyed hot springs ("onsen") baths and meals.

On the day of the trip, we headed off for the spa with the senior citizens in three chartered buses, enjoying chatting with them about many things until we arrived at Naruko Onsen.



After settling in to our hotel, the seniors enjoyed the luxury of taking an onsen bath while we volunteers looked after them. Next, we all enjoyed having lunch in a large atmospheric hall. As we dined we watched a performance of traditional Japanese dance, and had enormous fun taking turns to sing karaoke songs. We volunteers also helped the activities along by talking to the seniors around us, fetching drinks when needed, and organizing the karaoke singing.

On the bus going home, the seniors even wanted to do karaoke again! We arrived back at the finishing point and gave the seniors presents as souvenirs. All events of the day meant that we all had lingering farewells as the seniors profusely thanked us for everything.

Most of us volunteers were taking part in this type of activities for the first time, and so we were especially touched by the happy faces and vivacious good spirits of the seniors despite their suffering from the earthquake. It really brought home to us the great significance of doing these volunteer activities.