

IT'S NOT JUST MUD

www.itsnotjustmud.org



Disaster Relief Tohoku
Nonprofit Organization

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Dear INJMer,

June 2012 was a milestone for both INJM and for me personally. It marked a year of work in Tohoku.

Has it already been a year? It's gone pretty quickly. And yet... has it only been a year? I feel like I've been here for years. Ishinomaki has gone from a town living in the very obvious aftermath of a disaster into something.. more complicated. There is no longer a Self Defense Force presence, there are working street lights, most high traffic areas have been cleaned up nicely. The problems and needs are much less obvious.

And that is why it's so important to still be here. **Because** the problems are less obvious. A quick glance at Ishinomaki (and many towns in Tohoku) might reveal that there are now shops in most areas, everyone has a place to live and that everything is business as normal. It won't show the communities which have been torn apart by the random assignment of temporary homes, nor will it show the new makeshift communities (or lack of) that are developing (or not). It's the same for the people who have the possibility of moving back into their old homes, but lack the funds to pay the extremely high fees of contractors needed to repair their homes. The fishermen and small businesses who are refusing to "lose to the tsunami" have come a long way, and already achieved an incredible amount without proper business premises, tools or staff, but none of that is visible from a trip to Sendai (unfortunately for some people Sendai = all of Tohoku).

These people are the ones we will be focusing on supporting this next year. INJM will continue its work in Ishinomaki, but also in various other places such as Minamisanriku and beyond. We are going to be busier than ever!

I hope that you will continue to support us as we move into our second year of operation, and in turn, help us help those who need it. Because when all the cleanup is done and dusted, there's still a mountain of work to do.

Or, to put it another way: It's not just mud.

Jamie

INJM NEWS

Kyushu Relief Operation

INJM is sending a team of experienced personnel to Kyushu in response to the severe flooding in the region. Update information will be posted here: <http://itsnotjustmud.com/kyushu-relief/>

INJM HQ

This October 2012 INJM will be handing back its HQ to the new owners of the house. After 13 months of volunteer work from this house, we are happy to fix it up and welcome the new residents! Thank you Oide-san for allowing us to use this house for so long.. we are forever indebted to your kindness and the trust you put in us. ... in related news, we will be soon moving into a new HQ! It not final yet, but watch our website for more details!



INJM HQ in Oct 2011



Events

We have some pretty cool events coming up this summer. Jess, Hai and Hippy will be organizing two BBQs on July 16th and July 21st near Tokyo. We also have an organized trip to climb Mt. Fuji! Check out our website or Facebook page for more details and join us as we celebrate our first anniversary!

Hai and Jess's last charity BBQ in Tokyo. Don't miss the next one!

Donations

People from all over the world have been amazing in their support of INJM and its activities (details in the donation section). Since February 2012 we have received over 3.97 million JPY in donations from various events and institutions. A big thank you to all our donors.. you are all wonderful and make a huge difference to INJM's continuing efforts!

Volunteering

We are welcoming volunteers who wish to work long term/do summer internships with us (more than 3 weeks). Volunteering doesn't get better/easier than this.. if you are interested please look up <http://itsnotjustmud.com/volunteer/longterm/> and apply soon!

INJM thanks our longterm and regular volunteers for their hard work... and we wish them all the best for their new adventures!



PROJECT UPDATES

We have been busy... very busy.. the last few months. Back in February 2012 INJM was running about 7 projects, and now that number has increased to 15 not counting smaller intermittent projects. Moreover, the scale of each of these projects has increased as well. Its been possible to organize, plan and implement all of this work thanks to the tireless efforts of our senior staff, Yannick Hiryczuk and Choco Chiba, and our many permanent members and long term volunteers. Thank you all!

Here is an overview of our organizational statistics (*as of July 4th 2012*):

PROJECT TYPE	SINCE FEBRUARY 2012 (VOLUNTEER-HOURS)	SINCE OCTOBER 2011 (VOLUNTEER-HOURS)
Home Salvage & Reconstruction	2790	7710
Debris Removal & General Construction	2809	5708
Industry Support	1654	1756
Community Support	2069	2915
Outreach/Community liaison/ Planning	3372	9336

Tsuna Cafe

INJM's community focused project has been in operation since March 2012 and we are very proud of the results its showing. **Tsuna Cafe** aims at fostering communication and creating new bonds between people displaced by the tsunami and living in temporary housing facilities.

The project has already been launched in 4 places in and near Ishinomaki, and we have organized over 14 events sending over a 100 volunteers to talk and interact with residents. Presently, INJM is concentrating on establishing contact with far and difficult to reach temporary housing communities and we are planning to start more **Tsuna-Cafes** there.

The project is conceived with three main components which will be scheduled based on the needs of the community and suitably modified as our intermediary objectives are achieved:

- Tea & Conversation
- Community Cooking
- Creating Gardens

Check out www.itsnotjustmud.com/projects/community/tsuna-cafe for more details!



Supporting *Tsuna-Cafe*:

You can support *Tsuna-Cafe* in several ways:

- **Donate: *Tsuna Cafe* materials are bought locally!** Your donations help the project **and** the local economy.
- If you are an artist, masseuse, musician etc and wish to volunteer your time, please contact us at info@itsnotjustmud.com We would love to organize interesting events for the residents of temporary housing
- If you enjoy conversation and love to interact with people, come volunteer with us!
<http://volunteer.itsnotjustmud.com>

Spending Locally - Invest in Tohoku's Economy

The 3/11 disaster caused extensive damage to both homes and businesses. A lot of effort is going into rehabilitating people who have lost homes, but gradually the focus is also shifting to recovering and supporting local businesses. A simple way to do this is to buy articles from local vendors. INJM strives to purchase as many articles from local businesses for its operations, as possible. Some example figures are given below, along with the people who we typically use to provide these articles/ services.

INJM's typical monthly bill:

Project-Support Costs

- Transportation – ¥190,000 / month
- Tools & maintenance – ¥35,000 / month

Volunteer-Support Costs

- Food – ¥125000 / month
- Gas (heating, cooking) – ¥34000 / month
- Volunteer house maintenance – ¥26000 / month
- Water – ¥20000 / month
- Electricity – ¥15000 / month

If you wish to support this initiative, please donate towards our operations! www.itsnotjustmud.com/donate You can be assured that the funds will go towards the recovery projects, and wherever possible the money will be invested in the local economy. **All of the businesses listed below were affected by the Tsunami, some of them having their premises totally destroyed.**

Local shops and services used by INJM:

(Right) Bread from **Pao Bakery** located in central Ishinomaki (we generally buy at least ¥20000 (USD200) worth of bread a month!)



(Left) The electrician we use lives around the corner from us in Sakaeda, **Mr Masahiko Nambu**



(Left) Fresh Vegetables from **Abe Green Grocers** in Kazuma
Building materials (Plywood, Insulation, Plasterboard, Wood) from **Nakagawa Mokuzai** in Higashi-Matsushima

Car repairs/maintenance and shaken done by **Car Project Endou** Kadonowaki

LP Gas is provided by **Abeki Gas**, located in Nakazato previously in Watanoha, their office was washed away)

Administrative services (hankos, business cards, flyer printing) are provided by **Insatsukan** in Kazuma

Other breakfast stuff (butter, spices, honey, jam etc) from **Ishinomaki Kazai**, who also donate milk free of charge!

Look up <http://itsnotjustmud.com/projects/local-industry/spending-locally> for more

New Collaborations

INJM has always supported and encouraged working with other NPOs and organizations. In the last 3 months we have started new collaborations with groups like Playground Of Hope, Habitat for Humanity and Plus Neo. Below is a brief description of what we do with each of these organizations:

Playground of Hope: Builds children's playgrounds. INJM provides volunteers, construction expertise and local logistics. We are also highly skilled at making large bubbles for the opening ceremony of the playgrounds.. the kids love it! So far we have helped set up 3 playgrounds in Ishinomaki and Kesenuma.

Volunteer-Hours coordinated: 354

<http://playgroundofhope.org>



Habitat for Humanity: Habitat Japan has undertaken several reconstruction projects concerning community centers in Higashi-Matsushima. We often send volunteers to help with their projects like gutting houses, putting up floors and walls etc.

Volunteer-Hours coordinated: 282

<http://www.habitatjp.org>

Plus Neo: Based in Higashimatsushima, Plus Neo undertakes recovery work similar to INJM's model. We have started working on some projects and it is likely this connection will grow stronger in the future and result in a lot of useful relief work.

<http://eco-koubou.net/plusneo.html>



Funding Update

Donations

Since February 2012, we have received substantial amounts of materials and funds in donations.

Vehicles:

Kei-truck - Thank you Matsumura-san!

7-person Toyota - On loan/shared use from IDRO-Japan. Thanks guys!

5-person Toyota Raum - Donation from Carmen and Michael Leon (pic right), thank you!



General Donations:

We have received over 3.97 million JPY in general donations since February 2012. It is amazing to have such support from all over the world! Here is a brief list of major donations from individuals/corporations:

Hayama International School: 96813 JPY
200000 JPY for Funakoshi projects

Taipei International School: 104403 JPY

Japan British Society of Kansai: 50000 JPY

Cirque de Soleil: 319310 JPY

Fuji Kindergarten: 100000 JPY

Towards Playground of Hope project

Tokyo International School: 1.5 million JPY

Ultra Marathon by Scott Williams: 2438 USD

Fukusaki Bake Sale : 150000 JPY

Red Dragon Concert: 86100 JPY

"Rhyming Gaijin": 130000 JPY

Swim for Tohoku - Glenn Blakeborough: 95771 JPY

Keep Togethers Charity Gig: 400000 JPY



Grants

INJM was recently approved for a grant of 2.46 million yen from the Mitsubishi Corporation Disaster Relief Foundation. The grant will be spent over the next 10 months in support of the local fishing industry.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, INJM received the Akaihane Fund in January 2012. The second phase of the funding will be handed out in February 2012 and we will be applying for further funds in the future. The focus of the Akaihane Fund is on operational costs, purchasing home reconstruction materials and related project costs.

Changing Nature of Volunteering

...a message from the INJM directors

Long-term vs. Short-term volunteers: Some of you have been following INJM's work over the past 12 months, and have come up several times to volunteer and even lead teams. It is then also likely that you would have noticed the changing environment in the tsunami-damaged areas and consequently, the nature of INJM's work.

To set the record straight, there are still large swathes of areas untouched since the tsunami hit. There is still a need for debris to be cleared, houses to be cleaned etc. However, it is getting harder to find and engage these places due to various reasons. Often the owners of the places have not yet decided what they wish to do, or cannot be contacted, or the area is simply too difficult to access. In other cases, the work that could be done by unskilled volunteers has been done (debris clearing for example), and now they need someone with construction or other similar skills to finish the job. At the same time, it is also getting more important to focus efforts on community development and ensuring the emotional and psychological well-being of the people affected by the disaster.

Given this scenario, it is more useful to have volunteers who stay longer, get trained and are more involved in the evolution of projects. It is also great to have volunteers who have special skills; not necessarily in construction, but also in social aspects like communication specialists, masseurs etc.

We really do appreciate that people want to help, and given the right conditions it is possible to find work suitable for large unskilled groups. However, it is likely that such opportunities will become scarce with time.

INJM Merchandise

Thanks to popular demand, your favorite Tohoku-based NPO (..thats us..) will be printing T-shirts, caps, mugs etc. Check out our website for more details and you can place your orders there as well. **All profits will be channeled back into our projects.** To give you a general idea, here is what some of the stuff will look like...



Financial Update

	Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Income/ (Loss)
February 2012	639,357	727,061	-87,704
March 2012	1,812,050	691,218	1,120,832
April 2012	1,238,753	639,108	599,645
May 2012	284,441	1,089,694	-805,253

All amounts are in Japanese Yen

For further details please see: www.itsnotjustmud.com/about/financials

Photo Of The Month(s)



INJM's Choco Chiba, field testing one of the children's playgrounds we helped build in collaboration with Playground of Hope

It's Not Just Mud
 Disaster Relief - Nonprofit Organization
 74-5 Azasakaeda
 Watanoha 986-2135
 Ishinomaki, Japan



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