



April 3, 2011

Dear CISV friends all over the world,

Three weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. Indeed this has been one of the biggest disasters in our life and for our country. We still have a lot of things to do in order to restore normal life to everyone. But we believe we can overcome these challenges and create a better land and country on the devastated areas with the support and encouragement from people all over the world.

First of all, we are delighted that we are able to confirm that every single CISV member out of 125 members in the Tohoku area is safe and sound. Some of them lost their homes and are still in a difficult situation but it's great that we didn't have any loss of life among CISV members.

Secondly, we have to inform that CISV Japan has decided that the YOUTH MEETING in KANTO (Y-2011-19 scheduled on August 2 to 16, 2011) will be cancelled. The main reasons are an unstable situation of the electricity supply and the other infrastructures. Also, the people of Kanto need more time and effort to restore their normal life and it is difficult for them to prepare hosting a programme this year.

Originally we planned to make a decision on this matter on April 9 but we now believe an earlier decision is better for all concerned. In our desire to proceed with the meeting as scheduled, we considered other possibilities including relocation of the campsite or moving the date to December but we concluded that it would not be feasible to host a programme this year. We sincerely apologize to the invited NAs and we will exert our best effort to prepare for hosting a village in Kanto next year.

On the other hand, other programmes will be held as planned, namely SUMMER CAMP in TOKAI, VILLAGE in KANSAI and YOUTH MEETING in KYUSHU. We received many inquiries about these programmes. But here we would like to ensure that the disasters didn't have a direct impact and the risk of further impact is minimal. Please read the attachment from National Risk Manager for more details.

Lastly I would like to introduce some of our relief activities. Our Junior Branch took an initiative to collect public donation for the people in Tohoku area. More than 10 juniors asked for public donation in front of a train station in Tokyo and raised thousands of dollars for 2 days to send to the Japanese Red Cross Society. They will continue these efforts in



other parts of Japan as well. Some juniors and other members of CISV are thinking of launching a project (possibly MOSAIC) to help the people in the stricken area. Also we are thinking of doing some activities in RTF (APRW/JASPARC) and AIM/IJBC as well.

We were hit by the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami, but we will rise from the ground and work harder to make a better country and a better world. I was helping Juniors to ask for donations and I have already seen the favorable response in people's mind and attitude. People are united more than ever and we value and appreciate the power of CISV and Peace Education more than ever.

Thank you again for your continuous support and understanding.

With CISV spirit,

Yuriko Noda (Yuriboh)
Trustee, CISV Japan

Situation concerning CISV Japan

April 3, 2011

Dear Friends:

IO/IEC/IRMC asked the following questions to CISV Japan to better explain the present situation. Here are our responses to the questions.

Sincerely,

Yoichi Taira, NA Risk Manager, CISV Japan

1. Is the situation having an impact on the Host Chapters?

Kanto Chapter has members residing in the heavily damaged areas such as Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. The impact on Tokyo, where the Kanto office is located, was fortunately minimal and no large scale damage was visible except for a few cases right after the quake. However, there were many other direct and indirect impacts on the Kanto chapter, including shortage of electric power, below-normal public transportation frequency, and limited supply of some lines of food and goods, for the present moment. The situation is getting better everyday. However, the power supply shortage may last long. Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) said there might be a major power shortage in the summer when the temperature gets high. Japanese electric power supply is provided by seven local power companies, each of which services one of the ten geographically divided territories. Although there are electric power transfer facilities to supply excess power to the adjacent power companies, the capacity of transferring the power is limited. This mechanism, fortunately and unfortunately, localizes the power shortage inside its territory. The Kanto area including Tokyo is serviced by TEPCO, which owns the Fukushima Daiichi (1st) Nuclear Power Plant at the location outside of the TEPCO's service area. Probably the largest concerns coming from the CISVers are related to this power plant incident. I will discuss this matter later in a separate paragraph in more detail.

All other three chapters, Tokai, Kansai, and Kyushu received no direct and little indirect impact from the quake. The life in these areas is as normal as before. Therefore, those chapters will carry out the programs as planned.

2. What do you perceive to be the risks?

The risk level is perfectly normal for Tokai, Kansai, and Kyushu Chapters. There can be a concern about using airports in Tokyo area such as Narita and Haneda airports since there is a possibility that the entry point to Japan is one of these airports. Even at the present moment, there is no precautionary measure in place and the flights are being serviced as normal as before. One may think that the relative proximity of Narita airport to the nuclear power plant in question

is a serious risk. This is not true. I do not see any concern regarding the current condition. However, the possible problem is the risk when a very unlikely serious incident occurs at the power plant at the worst case scenario, in which the nuclear reactor gets uncontrolled, destroys the reactor container and scatters a large amount of radioactive fuel waste. The present situation does not show any possibility of this kind of catastrophic event at present. The situation of the power plant should be more stable and predictable in summer time. As explained in UK embassy's message in the reference 1, we will have enough time to take countermeasures in case the worst case scenario happens.

With regards to the Kanto Chapter, whose office locates in Tokyo, we may need to elaborate the situation. If one visits the Kanto area, one may have to consider the possible risks. The electric power shortage can be the source of problem. We see some electric power shortage now. There have been news reports on some radioactive contaminations in air, water, vegetables, and milk. However, the situation is getting much better everyday in Kanto area including Tokyo, Yokohama and the two airports. Atmosphere, water, and foods are safe and people are going on with daily life as usual in this area even now. For travelers, there should be absolutely no problem in staying in this area particularly for several days even now. I expect that the situation is much better in summer.

We always have to be prepared for the cases where things do not go as expected. The thing we need to consider is what risk we will have when the worst case scenario occurs at the power plant. This doesn't happen instantly without warning. We have plenty of time to take countermeasure even if such an unlikely event happens. Please note that most of the precautions seen in the public announcements are about the measure when you are at the close vicinity of the plant or when the unlikely worst case (e.g. the nuclear reactor explosion) happens. One may consult advices from UK embassy and US embassy in Japan. (References 1 and 2)

If the Kanto chapter should cancel the program by any reason, it must be because of many factors related to the impact from the quake but not related to the power plant problem.

3. Do you think there is a possibility that any of the Programmes will be cancelled and if yes, what timetable do you suggest for making further decisions? It would be very helpful if you could explain this for each of the Programmes you are hosting.

The programmes hosted by the Tokai, Kansai, Kyushu chapters will be handled just as normal. That is, no cancellation is expected due to reasons related to this earthquake.

The Kanto Chapter made a difficult decision recently. The Kanto Chapter has cancelled the Kanto Youth Meeting planned for this summer considering various factors related to the direct and indirect impacts from the 3-11 earthquake.

Additional Explanation on Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Incident

The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is located 220 km north-northeast from Tokyo along the Pacific seashore. On March 11, the heavy earthquake and succeeding huge tsunami attacked the power plant. In a couple of days, the nuclear reactors overheated, three buildings containing the reactors were blown and some amount of radioactive materials leaked out from the reactors. Despite the visuals in the news reports, the nuclear vessels are unharmed and are containing the nuclear fuel inside. Although four reactor facilities need continuous cooling until everything is cooled down, the reactors are now stable and no further catastrophic events, such as the reactor explosion, are not likely to happen. However, the amount of the leaked out radioactivity is considered to comparable to that of the Three Mile Island incident although the amount is much less than the Chernobyl Disaster where the reactor container exploded. As the result of the incident, Japanese government ordered the people to leave the area in the 20 km radius circle from the Daiichi plant and advised voluntary evacuation to people in the 30 km radius circle. (US Embassy recommends staying out of 80 km as a precautionary measure.) Radioactive contaminant has been detected in close areas and even in Tokyo. However, due to the nature of the radioactive iodine isotope material, the amount of the radioactivity is cut in half every 8 days. This means the amount of radioactive iodine decreases by 1/1000 in 80 days at every point if no additional radioactive material comes from the reactors.

We really appreciate the people at the nuclear plant site to solve the problem. The people are working hard to contain the radioactive material to prevent it from leaking out the environment although we need to watch the progress further.

Although some material has already leaked out to the environment, the radioactive impact to Tokyo area is considered to be minimal and hopefully to disappear rather soon. For the western areas in Japan, which include Tokai, Kansai and Kyushu Chapters, the impact is considered to be nothing or negligibly small. This is due to many factors including the distance, the wind direction tendency, and the ocean current direction. As for the wind, the westerly wind blows almost always over Japanese islands and therefore the air flows from the west to the east. This prevents the contaminated air to travel to the west even if there is a leak out. There is also a seasonal wind blow tendency, from the south in summer, from north-west in winter, and this tendency prevents the air to diffuse into the western part. Ocean current always flows from the west to the east along south shore of Japanese islands in the part west of Kanto (see figure below). This also helps to keep marine products away from the contamination, and away from the western part.

There might have been many sensational news reports about nuclear incident as very dangerous. Probably most of these were too much exaggerated. The situation is now settling. For example, although the US Embassy in Tokyo is distributing iodine (KI) medicine to US citizens, they also say

that the distribution is for precaution only and taking KI medicine is just harmful and not advisable. They also say that Tokyo tap water is safe for drinking now [3].

References

[1] Nuclear situation in Japan: Frequently asked questions (March 17,2011) by UK Embassy Tokyo:

<http://ukinjapan.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=569114782#>

[2] American Citizen Service Travel Warning Japan March 31, 2011

<http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-20110331-travel-warning.html>

[3] American Citizen Service Update on Tokyo Water

<http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110325-74.html>

