

March 17, 2011

Dear CISV friends all over the world,

After the earthquake hit Tohoku (North East) region of Japan on March 11, 2011, we have been receiving a lot of messages of sympathies and warm encouragement from all over the world.

We truly appreciate your love and care for us.

I apologize for not sending this letter sooner but here I would like to communicate a few things with you and please see the attached letter from the National Risk Manager of CISV Japan for more details.

The major area damaged by the earthquakes and the tsunami was in Tohoku, which is more than 300km north of Tokyo. The land shook strongly even in Tokyo and all the trains stopped for about a half day so there were thousands of people stranded somewhere in and around Tokyo on that day. We still have big and small aftershocks from time to time and there are some impacts. But basically people in Tokyo have a normal life and the people in the western and southern parts of Japan, as well as in Hokkaido, suffered almost no direct impact.

We have a bunch of CISVers in Tohoku region (Sendai, Ishinomaki, etc.). We are still trying to contact them, but electricity and the phone lines have been shut down in that area. So it's not easy to reach them but it doesn't mean that they have not survived. In fact, we receive a call or a mobile e-mail from some of them everyday and we haven't been informed of any loss of life among CISVers as of now.

Also, as reported through the media, the tsunami hit nuclear power plants on the Pacific coast of the area and caused particularly severe damage to the facilities of the Fukushima No.1 Power Plant which is located 220 km east-northeast of Tokyo. As a result, some of the nuclear reactors failed to stop operating safely. Residents living in the vicinity of the power plants were forced to evacuate but it has been announced that if we keep a distance of more than 30km from the damaged power plants there would be no danger to our health. We are following this warning and will calmly watch how the situation develops.

We plan to host 1 Village, 1 Summer Camp and 2 Youth Meetings in July - August this year. I would say at least the programs in Tokai (SU), Kansai (VL) and Kyushu (YM) have not been seriously affected as of now. As regards the Youth Meeting in Kanto, since the area is closer to Tohoku, we will need some time to further investigate. We will update the invited NAs accordingly.

We have set up a Message Board on the website at <http://cisvjp.bbs.fc2.com>. We would be grateful if you post messages there.

Though we are not able to respond to all your e-mails or messages, we have read them and have been encouraged so much. We truly appreciate that we are not alone and that we have a big CISV family in the world.

Love and Peace,

Yuriko Noda (Yuriboh)  
Trustee, CISV Japan

Date: March 16, 2011

From: Yoichi Taira, National Risk Manager, CISV Japan

Subject: The Great Earthquakes in Japan

We have received sympathies and warm encouragement from all over the world and we sincerely appreciate your care and support. We Japanese both severely affected and not affected fortunately will work hard for the recovery of the country.

On March 11, 2011 at 14:46 local time, an intense and massive earthquake occurred off the Pacific coast of Tohoku (or North East) region and it triggered the greatest Tsunami in the recorded history so the Pacific coast of Tohoku region and Northern Kanto area have experienced unexampled damage ever.

Japan is often considered as a relatively small country so some people might believe that the whole nation was suffered, but in fact there are much differences from place to place. So based on the information reported in the media locally, here we would like to illustrate the situation of the damage and its impact caused by the earthquake for your better understanding and sound decisions in the future.

It is reported that the magnitude of the earthquake was 9.0 and it was one of the greatest earthquakes we have ever experienced in the world. The focal point was 130km east of Oshika Peninsula, which is 60km east of Sendai City, which is 360km north-northeast of Tokyo and the depth was 32km. It was so called plate-type earthquake which caused an earthquake when the strain energy cumulated in the crustal plate boundary was released. This time the crustal plates between the boundaries moved in a large area of 200km from east to west and 500km from south to north within 30 minutes and it caused a number of earthquakes. Therefore, unexampled height of Tsunami of over 10 meters was generated and it crashed into more than 10km further inland and even 20-meter-high buildings were caught by Tsunami in some places. It was so massive that so many people, houses and buildings were swept away. As of the morning of March 15, almost 2,500 people were confirmed dead and more than 1,700 people are missing. According to the result compiled, 6,300 houses and building were fully collapsed out of 72,000 damaged. The most affected area was Miyagi Prefecture in Tohoku region and other northern prefectures in Tohoku such as Iwate or Aomori or southern prefecture Fukushima were suffered as well. Some of the buildings were reported that there were damages due to the vibration or the landslides but the damage caused by the Tsunami was greater than that by the earthquake itself. Many of the people who were able to evacuate narrowly lost their

homes and more than 450,000 people are staying in 2,500 shelters.

CISV Japan has a lot of members in Miyagi prefecture. But telephone lines, electricity and roads are still not well recovered so we haven't fully confirmed the safety of all of the members in that area. However, we haven't received any major incidents of the members and their families of CISV Japan. We will keep collecting the information.

In other part of Japan especially where we plan to host International programs do not have a major damage. We will closely look the impact in the future.

Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Yoichi Taira

National Risk Manager

CISV Japan