

WFP Japan  
**Report of Relief Aid Activity in Miyagi**  
April 3-5, 2011

WFP Japan Headquarters sent four members who live in Tokyo and Kanagawa (Mrs. Etsuko Okawa, Mrs. Naomi Tani, Mrs. Akino Yamamoto and Mrs. Akiko Fukushima) to Miyagi Prefecture, one of the worst disaster areas of the big earthquake and tsunami, in order to help clean the WFP Miyagi chapter office, from April 3-5, 2011.

Members of Miyagi were exhausted from uncomfortable life after the disaster, and they were overjoyed to welcome powerful supporters.

Office just after the earthquake



Meeting room



Kitchen

Message to inform safety to family members

Members' homes just after the earthquake and tsunami



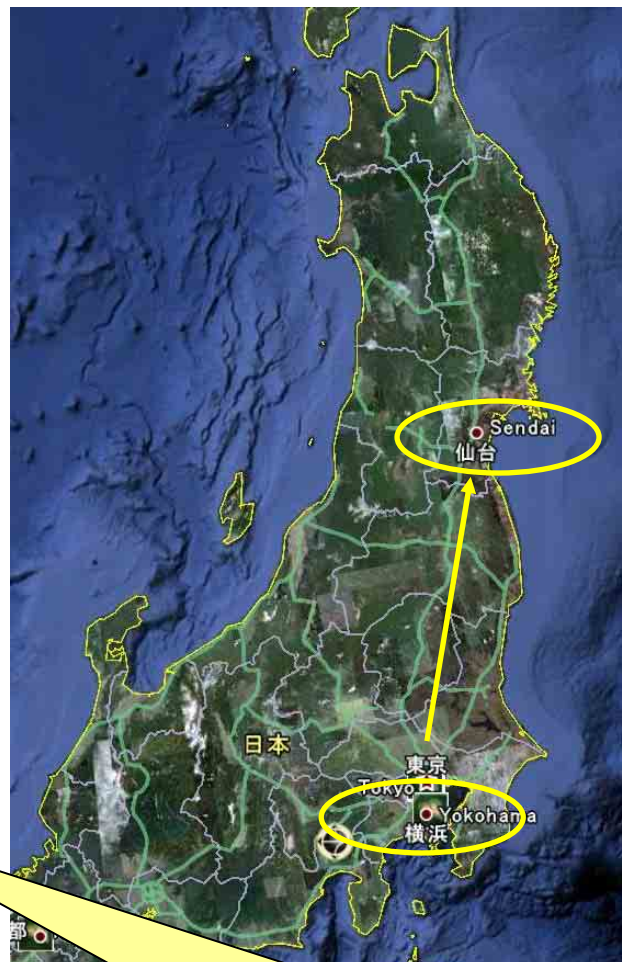
Someone's car carried by tsunami





On April 3, four members got on an express bus, the only transportation to Miyagi, and left Tokyo Station at 8:20am. Some parts of the freeway were uneven, but there was no problem to travel. The bus arrived at Sendai Station at 1:15pm and they headed for the WFWP Miyagi office in Aoba-ku, Sendai City.

They started cleaning from 2:00pm. It was the 23rd day since the disaster, so most of broken glass and furniture had already been cleaned up. But, the rooms except a meeting room were still messed up.



4 members cleaned and organized the storage area, office entrance, kitchen and lavatory. In order to encourage a new start, they threw away many old documents and equipments. That refreshed the office nicely.



Office entrance: copy machine was broken.



...and had a break.



Kitchen: cupboard is no longer in use



On April 4, Miyagi chapter held the first meeting since the disaster and welcomed supporters from Tokyo warmly. Fortunately, the homes of 8 members who gathered on this day were damaged but still standing. The tsunami did not reach their houses, but the earthquake had scattered everything. They are busy cleaning up their houses every day.

They shared the stories of the disaster. On March 11, the Miyagi chapter was holding a farewell party for a branch director who was going to move to another city and 13 members gathered at the office located on the top floor (14th) of the building. When the earthquake came, the building rocked like a Cup and Saucer Ride. One light fell from the ceiling and

broke. The shake had continued for long time, so they had screamed, "Stop! No more!" during the shake. When it stopped, the building manager came and ordered them to go out of the building. They walked down the stairs with cushions over their heads, and got out of the building safely. No one injured. They met some people in wheel chairs on the stairs and helped them down. Others in the building also came to help. After that, some members found shelter at an electric power company in the building next door, and others went to evacuation centers first and then back home.

Electricity and water service recovered soon in parts of Sendai, but there was no gas in the office yet. One of the Miyagi members brought *nikujaga* (a meat-potato dish) for this meeting. She cooked it on a heater because there was no gas which took more time to cook than usual.

All Miyagi members started to share their present situations. One member said that she cooked rice with green-tea in PET bottles because there was no water. Another member said that her family members could not change clothes for many days because she could not wash clothes. It seemed they had a time of relaxation through laughing and sharing. All Miyagi members truly appreciated the work of supporters from Tokyo.

Miyagi office will move to the lower floor in near future.

Members of WFWP Miyagi chapter



On April 5, the four visited the coastal area worst-hit by the tsunami by a taxi. People could not enter there because trucks had priority to carry materials for reconstruction into the areas. However, a taxi driver told the guard that our members were media, and got approval to go in for a short time.



Roadside Scenery in Wakabayashi-ward, Sendai



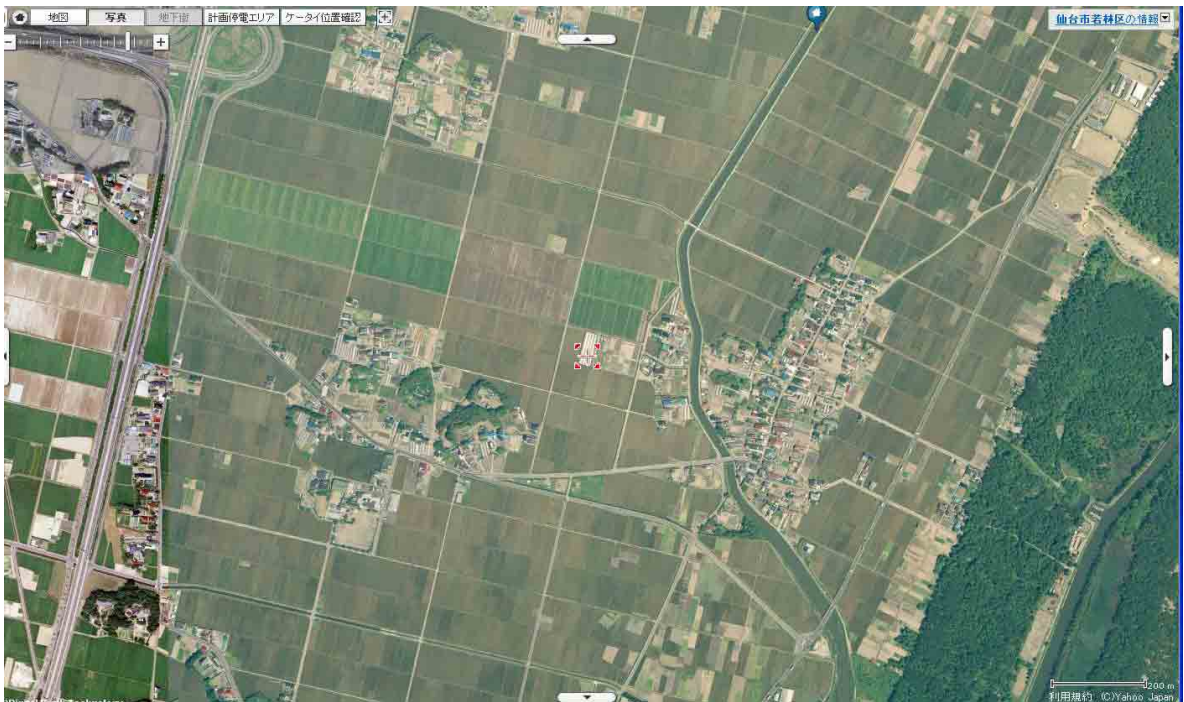
Roadside Scenery in Wakabayashi-ward, Sendai





# Wakabayashi-ward, Sendai City, Miyagi

## Before the Tsunami



## After the Tsunami

