

Support team efforts (2)

Longstanding radio “informative support” efforts

The unprecedented level of damage has brought about the realization that Japan must “build a new country.” Just like the Great Hanshin Earthquake, those affected by the Eastern Japan’s Earthquake must fight their way down a long and difficult path.

We hope that we could continue to offer support and at least keep those affected by the earthquake in our thoughts. There is an immeasurable distance between the victims of disaster and those who have only seen and heard of it through the media. There must be a good way to keep it fresh in people’s memories. That’s why we decided to make a shift towards “informative support” and spreading the word.

● Contents of the longstanding radio “informative support” efforts

1. Cooperation and program networking with FM radio stations at the disaster sites
2. Handing out over 500 emergency radios at the disaster sites
3. Meetings and opinions exchanges related to disaster prevention



The radios that were handed out at the disaster sites



The volunteer group “Sekirei” in Ofunato City upon receiving the radios and being briefed

Cooperation with radio stations at the disaster sites

In order to offer support through a network of information, we made visits to radio stations in the affected areas. We got consent to cooperate with three different stations: Miyako Disaster FM (in Miyako City), FM One (in Hanamaki City) and Ofunato Disaster FM (in Ofunato City). As a link to informative support, we started to broadcast the Miyako Disaster FM’s program through JBS on the 25th of April, 2011 and send the voices of those in the disaster area to the rest of the country.

●Miyako Disaster FM

This station had been planned to be set up for live broadcasts of National High School Championship Events, but due to the earthquake it was quickly set up and turned into a temporary FM station, and it began broadcasting disaster-based status reports. This action was regarded so highly that they received an honorary award from the German radio station “Regenbogen.” Two of the broadcasters went to Germany as representatives and attended award ceremony. It is being managed by the Miyako Community Broadcasting Society. It is also possible to hear the program through the Ustream.



Broadcasting started during InTouch’s first visit to the disaster area on the 22nd of March.



Inside the studio on our visit in May



Posters for the station could be seen at refuge shelters and public facilities.

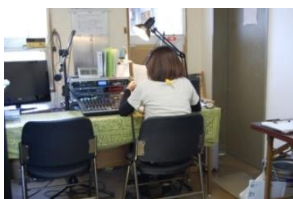
●FM One

The radio station situated in Hanamaki City, the inland area of the Iwate Prefecture. It broadcast disaster-related information and news to the greater area for a short period after the earthquake struck.



About a month later it returned to its regular schedule but continued to broadcast disaster-related information and news in support of the disaster areas.

●Ofunato Disaster FM



The studio was set up inside the Ofunato City Hall which escaped the tsunami by being situated on higher ground. Disaster victims act as the broadcasters.

Support team efforts (2)

Longstanding radio “informative support” efforts May 17th – 19th, 2011

Delivering emergency radios

Whenever a disaster strikes, ways of getting information are limited. Those that have difficulty in getting information, including the visually impaired, will find themselves greatly unsatisfied with the lack of information during a disaster.

InTouch dispatched their support team for the third time from the 17th to the 19th of May. Emergency radios, which are a source of vital information for the visually impaired, were donated by Kanefuji Industries Corporation (President Kinya Goto) and URO Electronics Ind. Co., Ltd (President Yoshiteru Uro), and were handed out through the FM stations and other organizations.



The emergency radios were distributed by InTouch. They automatically relay emergency broadcasts at full volume, even if the power is switched off.

●Emergency radio donators



President Kinya Goto
Kanefuji Industries
Corporation



President Yoshiteru Uro
URO Electronics Ind. Co.,
Ltd

●Emergency radio recipients

Location	Recipients	Number of Radios
Miyako	Miyako Disaster FM	140
	Miyako City Social Welfare Conference	5
	Miyako Society of Verbal Translation	10
Ofunato	Ofunato Disaster FM	50
	Sekirei	50
Rikuzentakata	Disaster response head office	100
	Rikuzentakata Disaster FM	100
Hanamaki	FM One	20



Mr. Shoji Sato
Miyako Disaster FM



(Right) Mr. Daisuke Takahashi
(Left) Mr. Ken Sato
Ofunato Disaster FM



Mr. Akihiko Ochiai
FM One

State of the damaged areas two months after the earthquake



Efforts to remove the rubble at the Kuwagasaki area in Miyako City was progressing.



A refuge shelter with partitions at the Taro area of Miyako City. Tsunami destroyed the area though it had the most enormous embankment in the world.



The temporary town office in Rikuzentakata City



Temporary housing in Rikuzentakata City

Support team efforts (2)

Longstanding radio “informative support” efforts Sep. 27th – 29th, 2011

Meetings and opinions exchanges regarding disaster prevention

From the 27th to the 29th of September we visited broadcasting stations and city halls in Hanamaki, Ofunato and Miyako to deliver emergency radios and auto-starting components, and hold meetings regarding disaster management and prevention.

●Hanamaki City



A meeting with the broadcaster from FM One



A meeting at the Hanamaki City Hall

●Ofunato City



Delivering an auto-starting component at Ofunato Disaster FM

●Miyako City



Delivering an auto-starting component at Miyako Disaster FM



Explaining the emergency radios (infront, white) and an auto-starting component (behind, black).

Support team efforts (3)

Training of volunteer transliterators, the cornerstone to “informative support”

In order to provide lasting support for the visually impaired victims, InTouch (JBS) built a network with volunteer groups who are active in the disaster areas. JBS provided its transliterating and audio editing know-how by holding training workshops in Ofunato and Miyako cities as well as in Yamada-machi. We have brought in even better methods of informative support by improving the transliteration skills of the volunteers in the disaster areas through workshops, as well as cooperating with local broadcasting stations and delivering emergency radios.

Volunteer Groups in the Disaster Areas

●Sekirei (Ofunato City)



Founded in 1988. In charge of the “Voice Library” which loans out audio books for the visually impaired. They also produce and publish “Voice Magazine.” Keiko Fujimura, the head of the group, is pictured second from the left.

●Miyako Society of Verbal Translation (Miyako City)



Founded in 1993. This group transliterates a local newspaper and a community magazine, as well as the “Koho Miyako” newsletter which the local government issues. There are visually impaired members of staff so they are able to bring in transliterations from their perspective. Masayo Ueno, the head of the group, is pictured to the left.

●Yamada-machi Volunteer Readers (Yamada-machi)



Founded in 1988. They transliterate the “Koho Yamada” newsletter, record it to cassette and send it to the visually impaired. In 2011 they won a commendation from the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. Keiko Sasaki, the group’s representative, is pictured third from the right.

We held various training workshops for volunteer groups who were active in the disaster areas on October, December 2011 and February 2012.

●Training Workshop Schedule

Date: October 28th, 2011
Group Name: Sekirei
Workshop Title: Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired
Location: Ofunato City Welfare Center
Sponsors: Ofunato City, Ofunato City Social Welfare Conference, The Tohkai Shimpo Newspaper

Date: October 29th, 2011
Group Name: Miyako Society of Verbal Translation
Workshop Title: Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired 1
Location: Miyako City Welfare Center
Sponsors: Miyako City Social Welfare Conference, Miyako Community Broadcasting Society

Date: December 11th, 2011
Group Name: Miyako Society of Verbal Translation
Workshop Title: Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired 2
Location: Miyako City Library
Sponsors: Miyako City Social Welfare Conference, Miyako Community Broadcasting Society



Date: February 25th, 2012
Group Name: Yamada-machi Volunteer Readers
Workshop Title: Training of Volunteer Translitterators -Transliteration, Recording and Editing-
Location: Yamada-machi Central Community Center, Audio Visual Room
Sponsor: Yamada-machi Public Library

Date: February 26th, 2012
Group Name: Miyako Society of Verbal Translation
Workshop Title: Up-skill course for volunteers
Location: Miyako City Welfare Center
Sponsors: Miyako City Social Welfare Conference, Miyako Community Broadcasting Society