

We would like to recommend the following points to those International NGOs which are already in Japan or planning to come to Japan for the relief operation. The points are based on the present situation in Japan, including some unchanging & peculiar ones, and some changeable ones reflecting the ongoing situation.

1) Currently we are observing the unusual prolonged emergency and semi-emergency period due to the fuel shortage in the first 12 days, the large scale of damage and affected areas, and radiation levels in Fukushima. A large number of people from Fukushima have experienced repeated evacuations and are still relocating to other Prefectures including Tokyo.

2) In Japan, humanitarian & welfare activities are coordinated by the Prefectural Social Welfare Councils (SWC), as well as Municipality SWCs at city/ward/town/village. After a huge disaster, a local SWC is supposed to establish a Disaster Volunteer Center (DVC) at Prefecture and Municipality levels. At present, Pref. DVCs in Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Chiba have been established, while many city/ward/town/village SWCs have not been able to do so, due to their multilayer damages. Under this situation, a large number of individual volunteers are still requested to wait until the situation allows accepting them. Some Japanese NGOs, which are well organized and self-sustainable (food, accommodation, and communication etc.), have started their activities.

The International NGOs which are requested to wait for the time being are strongly advised to inform and consult with a Pref. DVC prior to the commencement of their activities (communication to be made in Japanese language). The Pref. DVC may advise the NGOs about needs, local DVCs and etc.

During the operation, please do keep in close contact with the municipality DVCs, and do inform the same DVCs about the completion of the operation well ahead of time for the smooth take over.

Contact list of Prefecture Disaster Volunteer Centers

Prefecture	Telephone	Fax	e-mail
Iwate	019-637-9711	019-637-4255	vc-1@iwate-shakyo.or.jp
Miyagi	090-6853-1863	022-217-9388	g101@miyagi-sfk.net
Fukushima	024-522-6540	024-522-6546	vc@fukushimakenshakyo.or.jp

3) Many SWCs/DVCs are still struggling to establish themselves and sustain their activities. NGOs should realize the importance and present situation of local DVCs, and are advised to support them in any possible ways, as many of their basic resources had been lost.

4) We observe the concentration of NGOs and relief materials in Miyagi Pref. in comparison to Iwate Pref., Fukushima Pref., and other Prefectures. There is a general tendency to avoid Fukushima Pref. due to the fear of nuclear radiation, while many people are struggling hard to help the victims.

5) A huge number of individual volunteers working in the affected areas will be soon available in Japan; therefore, it is recommended for the International NGOs to consider deploying a small number of staff members.

For further information, please contact:

Japan Platform (JPF), Otemachi Bldg, 266, 1-6-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004 Japan,
TEL:03-5223-8891 FAX:03-3240-6090,

Mail: info@japanplatform.org, URL: <http://www.japanplatform.org/E/index.html>