



March 15, 2011

Dear all

Thank you very much for your support and prayers from all over the world.

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11th killed 3,200 people, and over 15,000 people are still missing. The earthquake disrupted lifeline and 600,000 people have evacuated worrying about the safety of missing their family and relatives.

As broadcasted worldwide, the earthquake also caused explosion by the nuclear meltdown at Fukushima No. 1 power station of Tokyo Electric Power Company. Many people are concerning about its effect.

The Japan YMCA has formed a special task force to respond to the needs of the disaster areas. The top is Mr. Shigeru Shimada, the general secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, and its venue is the National Council of YMCAs of Japan. We already finished checking the safety of all YMCAs in Japan, and all YMCA staffs are fine as far as we know. As for Sendai YMCA and Morioka YMCA in the most affected area, their buildings did not have serious damage by earthquake. They provide the space and information for refugees. Tochigi, Tokyo, Yokohama, Chiba YMCA and the National Council of YMCAs of Japan in Kanto area got slight damage on their buildings, but they have started their daily program partly. YMCAs in other areas started donation campaign to support the people affected by earthquake and tsunami.

Japan YMCAs have supported the people affected by the disaster such as Great Kanto earthquake, Great Hanshin earthquake, and Chuetsuoki earthquake, using our network and knowledge under the spirit of Jesus Christ's love and service. In addition to the emergency support, we will do our best to support especially children, the elder, the challenged people, foreign resident who are vulnerable in the disaster in the middle-long term. We will cooperate with other civil society groups, government, NGOs, and churches. We will send experienced directors to the affected area and they will explore the possible support that YMCA will be able to provide.

We would like to ask your support to overcome this disaster and to recover as soon as possible. We appreciate your support through the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs.

Though we have received the proposal of support for human resources and goods, we will not be able to receive them now because of the difficult situation in the affected area. We have received many e-mails so far, and it takes time to reply back. We are sorry for the late reply.

Thank you for your cooperation and prayer for the victims and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Shigeru Shimada'.

Shigeru Shimada, General Secretary
The National Council of YMCAs of Japan

財団法人 日本YMCA同盟