



Press Release

4 March, 2014

Assistance from 174 countries and regions for the Great East Japan Earthquake was effectively used: an updated study report revealed

International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ) today released an English version of the report “Comprehensive Review of Assistance from Overseas for the Great East Japan Earthquake,” online.

The first study, which examined the types and volumes of assistance from overseas, was published in Japanese in March 2013. One year after the first report, a second study was undertaken to examine how financial assistance from overseas has been utilized in the affected areas and issues that were identified when receiving assistance. The results of the first and the second study were combined into one complete report.

The first half of the study revealed that governments, individuals and groups of 174 countries and regions¹, and international organizations, made financial contributions of approximately 164 billion yen² for relief and reconstruction over a one-year term between March 11, 2011 and March 31, 2012. The second half of the study focused on the channel and utilization of the financial assistance. The study revealed that about 40% of the total number of cases and three-fourths of the total assistance amount were provided through Japanese Red Cross Society. For other cases, the assistance was provided through NGOs or directly provided to the affected local governments. The study concluded that assistance from overseas was utilized effectively and such assistance was highly appreciated by those affected by this disaster. The report also introduces detail activities of assistance from overseas, current situation in the affected areas, and many articles on victims’ feeling toward assistance from overseas. The Japanese version of the report was released on February 14, 2014.

Note 1: The number of countries and regions excludes cases where 1) assistance was not confirmed as accepted even if it was pledged; 2) the information did not identify the country from which the assistance originated; and 3) assistance was provided outside of the target period.

Note 2: This value may require an upward revision to around 60 billion yen. Possible margins of error include: downward revision due to a small range of overlap, and large-size upward revisions due to information that the study failed to cover and information that was excluded due to the potential for overlap. The figure does not include the monetary value of in-kind contributions (material and human resources cooperation).

<Background>

Comprehensive data on the assistances from governments, international institutions, private entities, and individuals from overseas for the Great East Japan Earthquake does not exist as of today. We believe that consolidating the overall view of the assistance from overseas and then feeding the results back to the world is the responsibility of Japan as a member of the international community. “Comprehensive Review of Assistance from Overseas for the Great East Japan Earthquake” was undertaken by concerned volunteers from the following organizations, chaired by Kazuo TAKAHASHI, former professor at International Christian University, the Japanese Red Cross Society, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), Japan Platform (JPF), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). IDCJ served as the secretariat and conducted the survey and analysis.

The full report in Japanese and English are available at: <http://www.idcj.or.jp/top.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mimi Sheikh or Mana Takasugi of IDCJ.

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<About IDCJ>

IDCJ was founded in 1971 as Japan's first think tank specializing in the field of development and cooperation. Backed by the three principles; Interdisciplinary/Integrated Approach, Combining Theory and Practice, and Neutrality, IDCJ has been pursuing vanguard activities for improving the "quality" of international cooperation and to enhance overall socio-economic development.

Established:	15 February, 1971
Fund:	1,355,647,281 yen (as of 31 March, 2013)
President:	Masaoki TAKEUCHI
Major Activities:	Policy-Making and Planning Study, Evaluation, Training, Promoting Social Responsibility Activities, In-House Research, and International Exchange.
Staff:	89 (as of 31 January, 2014. Of which 80 belong to IDCJ, Inc.)