



# The Great East Japan Earthquake

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## The records of KUJI

2011.3.11-2012.3.11

Kuji City

Kuji Emergency Operation Headquarters

Kuji Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Headquarters

Kuji International Association



# The Great East Japan Earthquake

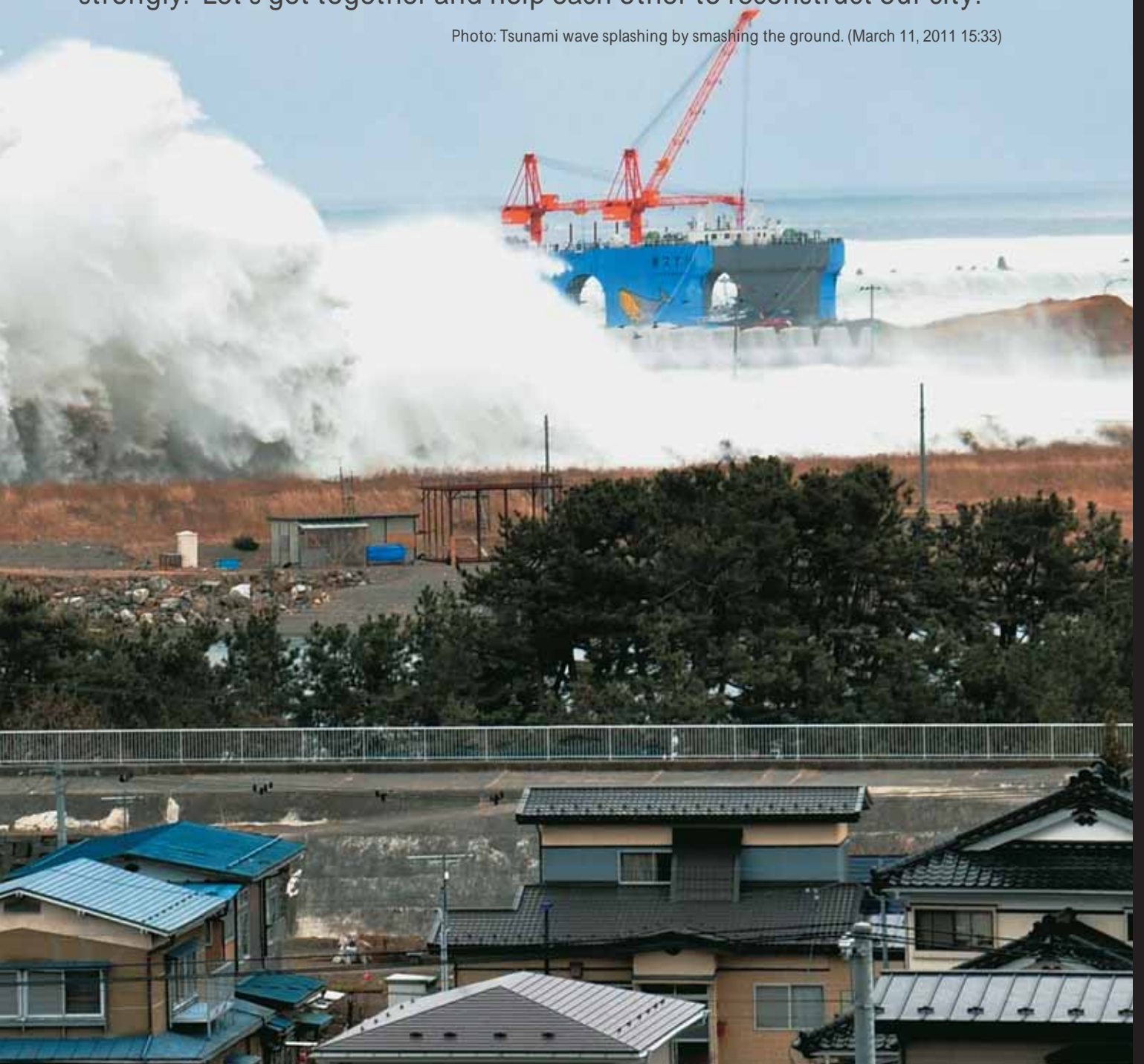
The records of KUJI





The Great East Japan Earthquake hit Japan on March 11, 2011. One of the largest Earthquakes in the world (magnitude 9.0) caused a massive tsunami and it took numerous properties and precious human lives from this city. It was a hugely damaging natural disaster which we must not forget even after a hundred years. This documentary booklet is not made to scare you but to prepare you for possible future natural disaster. We hope this booklet will help you to know about and remember the serious damages of the city and also the people who are moving forward strongly. Let's get together and help each other to reconstruct our city!

Photo: Tsunami wave splashing by smashing the ground. (March 11, 2011 15:33)





# The massive tsunami attacking Kuji

A magnitude 9.0 (Mw) undersea mega thrust earthquake off the coast of Japan occurred at 14:46 JST (05:46 UTC) on Friday, March 11, 2011. A lower 5 on the Japanese intensity scale was observed in Kuji. We lost electricity and the water supply failed throughout the city right after the earthquake. At 14:49, a major tsunami warning was issued. 40 minutes later, a massive tsunami attacked the coastal areas of Kuji. Tsunami waves went back and forth several times and each time they attacked our city, fishing ports, factories and houses. The disastrous scene was something we could not believe and also, it was something we did not want to believe.



15:32 The first tsunami wave getting faster and stronger toward the shore.



15:32 The tsunami wave became like a huge wall stretching from side to side across the sea.



15:34 The first tsunami wave overtopped a sea wall and we could see the second wave coming right after the first wave.



15:36 The attack of the second wave. The sea surface rose higher than the first wave.



17:32 Kuji River The tsunami ran up this river and it almost overflowed.

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The prodigy of nature



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The disastrous scene

- 半崎 1
- 久慈湊 2
- 諏訪下 3
- 玉の脇 4
- 久喜 5

- 1 / Hanzaki area: Remains of Kuji National Oil Stockpiling Base Office. Although all the oil kept in a huge underground rock cavern tank were safe, the office facility on the ground was totally destroyed.
- 2 / Kuji-Minato area: Many houses were damaged or destroyed.
- 3 / Suwashita area: Fishing boats washed up on a sea wall by the tsunami. The area along the sea was all covered with debris.
- 4 / Tamanowaki area: Destroyed fishing port facility. A lot of fishing boats and fishing tools were taken away by the tsunami.
- 5 / Kuki area: The tsunami overtopped a 12 meter high sea wall and attacked the community.



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# Growing anxiety and life thrown into confusion



Many people suspected an unusual danger after the massive earthquake and they evacuated quickly. Although they had already evacuated to safe places, they were anxious and terrified by the threat of a massive tsunami. We lost electricity and water, and we had very little fuel and food. Our everyday life had changed completely and the life of all people was thrown into chaos.



1・2 / People evacuated to the Konpira shrine in Kuji-Minato area. They evacuated quickly with minimum belongings right after the earthquake. Everyone looked very worried and stiff because of fear. (Photos: March 11, 2011)

3 / The maximum number of evacuees of the city was 2,916 people. Almost 1,000 people evacuated to "Fukushi no Mura composite welfare facilities". (Photo: March 11, 2011)



1 / All the water and preserved food such as cup noodles were out of stock at every super market. Other goods such as dry cells and medical supplies were barely there but very few. (Photo: March 16, 2011)

2 / We spent dark and cold nights until we got electricity back. We felt the importance of electricity keenly. (Photo: March 12, 2011)

3 / People were panicked because of a shortage of fuel. The cars of people lined up for getting fuel caused a traffic jam. (Photo: March 17, 2011)

4 / The water supply failed throughout the city. People lined up to get water from the Japan Self-Defense Force. (Photo: March 12, 2011)



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The anxiety and confusion



# Supporting each other, our ties are strong



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The situation in Kuki turned out hard and difficult after the earthquake, but we didn't give up. We naturally supported each other to ease each others anxiety and to move on. We felt the precious spirit of helping each other at seaside areas covered with debris, evacuation centers, everywhere. We realized that our ties are strong.

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The strong ties

1 / Volunteer fire corps looking for missing people. They supported closing water gates, leading citizens evacuation and their own living areas full of their sense of mission and local patriotism. (Photo: March 19, 2011)

2 / Women making supper for evacuees at Kuki Community Center. (Photo: March 17)

3 · 4 / Emergency volunteer people sending messages to cheer the victims of the tsunami. (Photo: March 21, 2011)

5 · 6 / Emergency Volunteer people helping clean up the city for the victims of the tsunami. (Photos: March 19&24, 2011)

7 / High school students asking for donations for supporting the victims of the tsunami. A lot of people contributed to the donation. (Photo: March 21, 2011)



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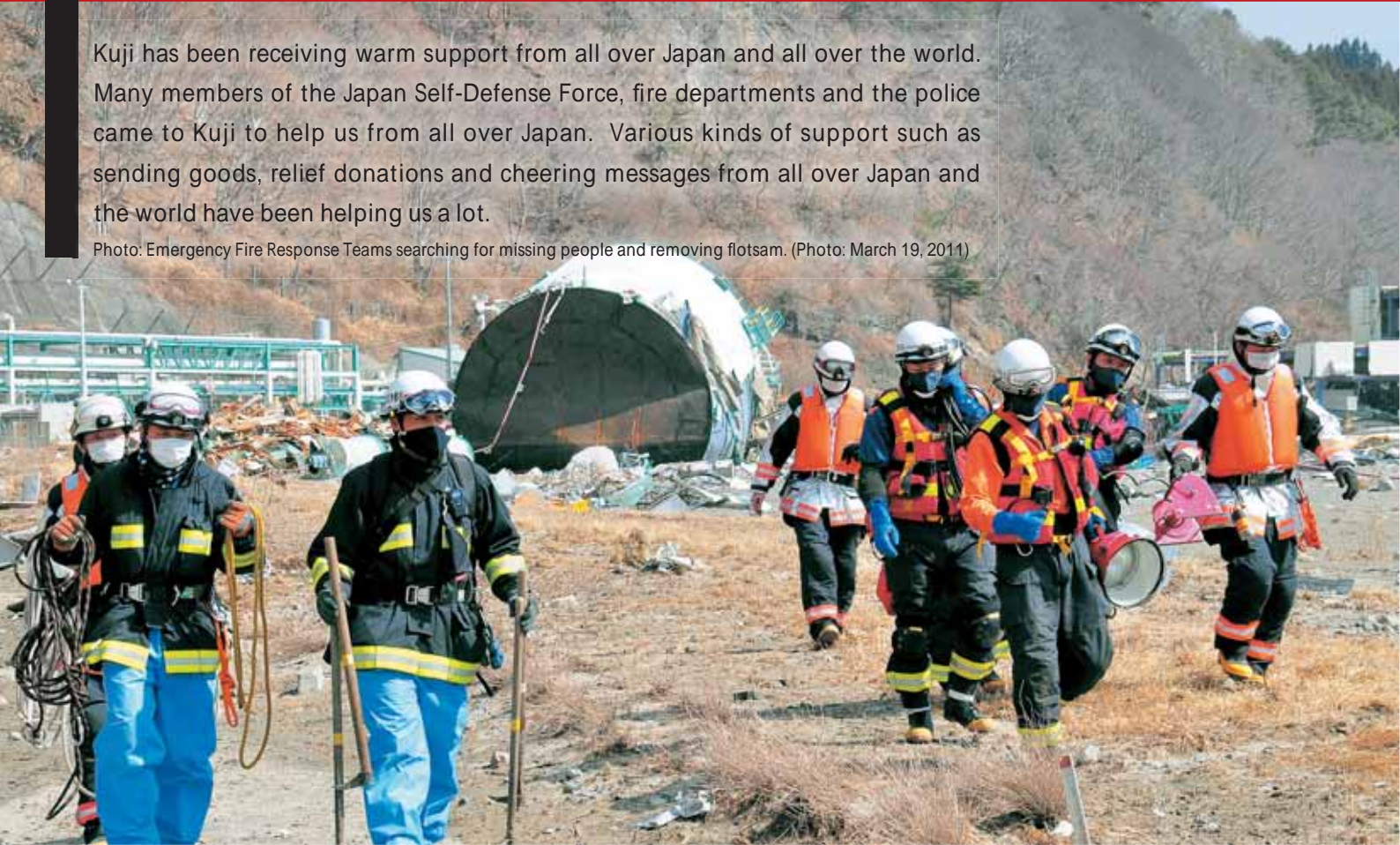
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# Warm support from all over Japan, all

Kuji has been receiving warm support from all over Japan and all over the world. Many members of the Japan Self-Defense Force, fire departments and the police came to Kuji to help us from all over Japan. Various kinds of support such as sending goods, relief donations and cheering messages from all over Japan and the world have been helping us a lot.

Photo: Emergency Fire Response Teams searching for missing people and removing flotsam. (Photo: March 19, 2011)



The Japan Self-Defense Force members providing warm meal service. They also helped deliver relief goods that arrived in Kuji to neighboring municipalities. (Photo: March 17, 2011)



A lot of relief goods delivered from all over Japan. (Photo: March 16, 2011)



Electricity company sta working on recovering electricity. (Photo: March 19, 2011)



Emergency Fire Response Teams working hard day and night to find missing people. (Photo: March 19, 2011)



Assistant English Teachers of Kuji helping clean up the city and a neighboring municipality voluntarily (Photo: March 24, 2011)



Fire trucks gathered to help Kuji and neighboring municipalities from all over Japan. (Photo: March 14, 2011)





An ichthyology Ph.D., "Sakana-kun" visited elementary schools in Kuji to cheer children in Kuji. (Photo: March 13-14, 2011)



Some municipalities connected to Kuji through bull fight association presented relief donations to Kuji. (Photo: June 12, 2011)



Students of Gakushuin University came to Kuji to help clean up the city. (Photo: July 18-22, 2011)



The NHK Symphony Orchestra concert was held to cheer up the people of Kuji. (Photo: August 9, 2011)



Futagoyama, a sumo master from Kuji brought sumo wrestlers to cheer up the people of Kuji. (Photo: August 15-22, 2011)



A well-known woman announcer, Ms. Christel Takigawa visited an elementary school in Kuji to encourage students. (Photo: September 13, 2011)



## The fruit of goodwill The relief fishing boats from Hakodate, Hokkaido.

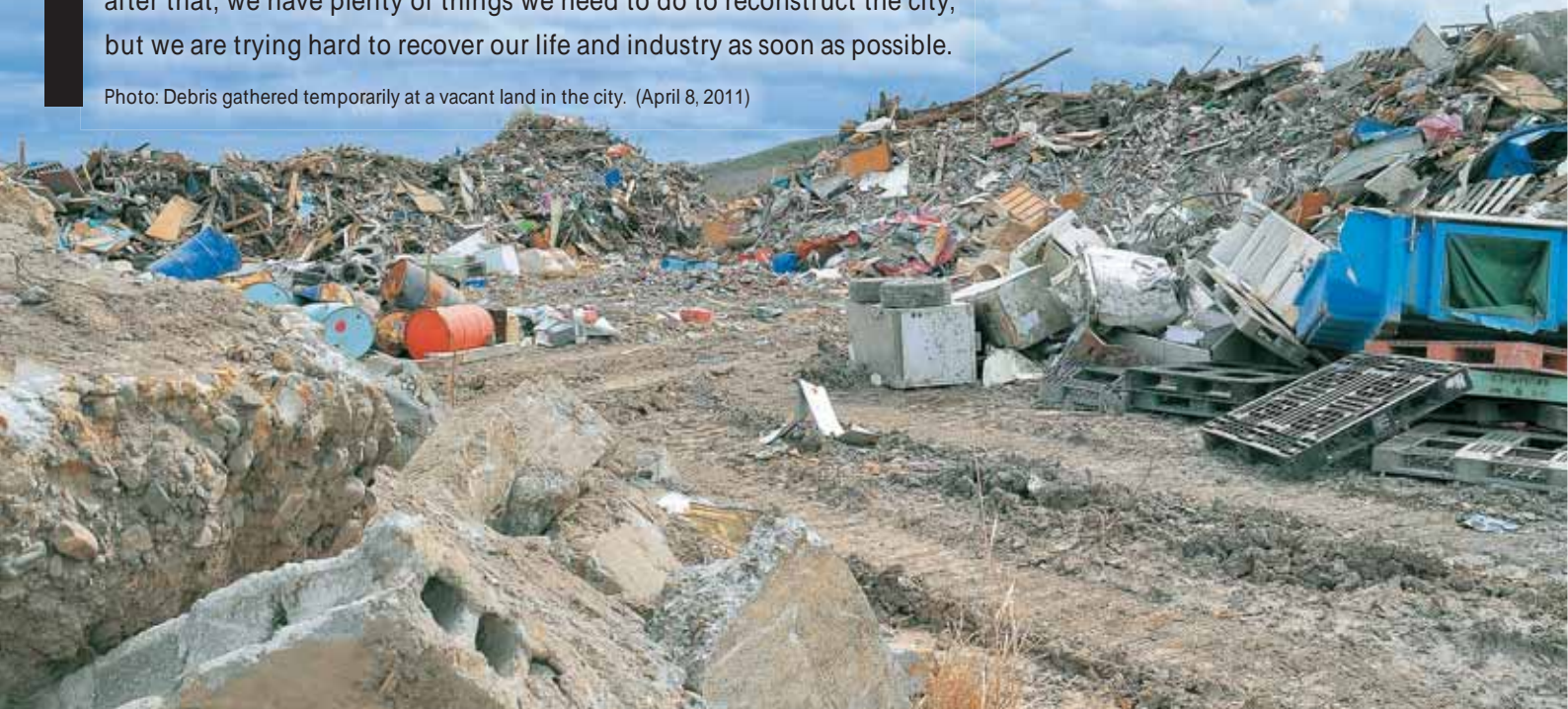
Hakodate Fisheries Cooperative and Hakodate City presented 228 free fishing boats to Kuji. The fruit of their goodwill gave strength back to fishermen in Kuji. (Photo: June 5-8, 2011)



# Steps to recovery and the reconstruction

We have been receiving a lot of support and this support encourages us to move forward for the recovery and reconstruction of Kuji. First, we removed all debris covering the land of all coastline areas in Kuji. Still after that, we have plenty of things we need to do to reconstruct the city, but we are trying hard to recover our life and industry as soon as possible.

Photo: Debris gathered temporarily at a vacant land in the city. (April 8, 2011)



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1 / Damages caused by the massive earthquake and tsunami were found not only on the land but also in the sea. We needed to remove a lot of rubble sunk in the sea to recover the functions of the harbor and fishing ports. (Photo: May 20, 211)

2 / Building temporary housing in the former Osanai Junior High School site. Other temporary housing was also built in the former Kuji Fisheries High School site. (Photo: April 21, 2011)

3 / The coastal areas suffered crushing damages by the tsunami. Temporary recovery work has been done fast by construction people right after debris was removed. (Photo: April 8, 2011) Now, we have some temporary work places around fishing ports.

4 / Kuji City drew up the Reconstruction Plans for the city after having a lot of meetings with the residents. The Kuji Reconstruction Plan was settled on July 22nd, 2011, which was faster than other municipalities. (Photo: July 6-15, 2011)

5 / The Central Peg Placing Ceremony to start constructing a new road "Sanriku Coastal Road". This new road will be one of the symbols of our reconstruction. (Photo: February 19, 2012)



# tion of the city



Kuji-Minato area



Tamanowaki area



Kosode area



Kuki area



The coastal areas in Kuji right after the massive earthquake Disastarous scenes full of debris

The coastal areas in Kuji one month after the massive earthquake Debris was quickly removed





# Strive as one for the reconstruction of the city

People of Kuji who gathered at Tamanowaki Fishing Port wishing for the quick reconstruction of the city. Children and adults are all one with their wish. We strive as one for the reconstruction of the city with the spirit of "ALL KUJI". (Photo: December 18, 2011)



The Great East Japan Earthquake was a hugely damaging natural disaster which we must not forget, even after a hundred years. We will rebuild this city no matter what happens. Although the massive earthquake and tsunami took a lot of things from us and left sorrow and bitterness in its wake, we will never stop moving forward.

The volunteer fire corps of Kuji marching with strength through the city at the New Year's parade of fire brigades, showing their strong will for protecting the people of Kuji. They have shown their united strength when the Great East Japan Earthquake hit Japan.





## The Kuji Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Ceremony

The Kuji Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Ceremony was held at the Kuji Fishery Cooperative Building. Each attendee prayed for the victims of the tsunami and showed determination to keep moving forward together for the quick reconstruction of the city despite all bitterness and sadness.

March 11, 2012

Determination and prayer

One year after the Great East Japan Earthquake

March 11, 2012



## A candle lighting event

A candle lighting event to pray for the victims of the tsunami and also for the quick reconstruction of the city was held on March 11, 2012 exactly one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake. People lit 3,800 handmade candles which were made by elementary school students, junior high school students and volunteers.





Fishermen bestirred themselves and restart fishing. The shipboard was filled with their passion and determination for the recovery of the city.



# WE NEVER GIVE UP, WE

Unfading strong will and sense of mission of the volunteer fire corps. They saved a lot of people from the tsunami. They will continue protecting people's safety, full of local patriotism.







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1 / People opened a fishery market even under the difficult circumstances. (From May 5, 2011)

2 / The refrigerating plant of Kuji Fishery Cooperative quickly restarted their work in May, 2011.

3 / Woman divers keep performing their

traditional diving skills.

4 / An aquarium "Moguranpia", which was completely destroyed by the tsunami started their work again at a different place in the city.

5 / Fishermen looking for abalone.

6 / People attending a tsunami evacuation drill after the earthquake.

No matter what, we've got to do it — we stood up for quick recovery of the city despite the huge damage of the earthquake. This strength of people has carried Kuji City over the obstacles such as damage caused by natural disasters several times in the past. We do not give up. We do not give in even to a massive earthquake. Let's get together and keep moving forward.



# KEEP MOVING FORWARD

Kuji Autumn Festival - The biggest annual event of the city. People attended the festival with their full power and wished for the quick recovery of the city.





# [Document] Situation of damage in Kuji

(As of January 31, 2012)

## Inundated areas



## State of damage in numbers

### 1. Human loss

Dead	Missing	Serious injury	Slight injury
4	2	2	8

### 2. Damages of residential/non-residential building

Area	Completely destroyed	Mostly destroyed	Partially destroyed	Damaged	Total
Total	355 ( 65 )	89 ( 32 )	410 ( 180 )	394 ( 291 )	1,248 ( 568 )

Numbers shown above are for all buildings. Numbers shown in parentheses are for residences only.

### 3. Damage cost

Category	General description	Damage cost
Commerce and industry section	57 stores, 49 factories	14,952,670,000 yen
Fisheries section	8 public facilities, 217 non-government facilities, 575 fishing boats, etc.	8,942,820,000 yen
Residential and non-residential buildings	1,248 buildings	4,214,380,000 yen
Fishing port facilities	13 facilities	1,064,500,000 yen
Tourist facilities	8 facilities	898,980,000 yen
Forest industry section	4 places	413,000,000 yen
Civil engineering facilities	15 roads, 3 sewers, 3 parks, etc.	254,130,000 yen
Agricultural facilities	2 facilities, farm animals, 4 farmlands	149,470,000 yen
Fire defense facility	Fire station destroyed, electric poles with loudspeakers for official disaster radio destroyed, etc.	74,300,000 yen
Medical/health facilities	14 water works, 2 sanitary facilities	73,810,000 yen
Communication facilities/equipment	7 facilities	26,260,000 yen
Social education, Culture, athletic facilities	2 facilities	19,360,000 yen
Crime prevention, transport, sanitary facilities	40 facilities	5,260,000 yen
Social welfare facilities	3 facilities	610,000 yen
Schools	6 schools	600,000 yen
Total		31,090,150,000 yen

## Height of tsunami and inundated areas

### Height of tsunami

Wave height	Run-up height	River run-up
8.6m	27m (max)	4km

### Inundated areas

3.67 square meters



The underground aquarium was completely destroyed including its office facility on the ground.

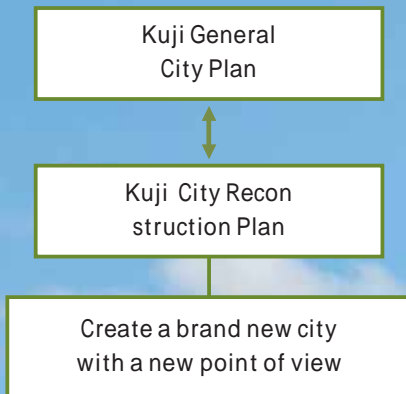


Shipbuilding factory also had serious damages.



# Kuji Reconstruction Plans

## Reconstruction Planning Chart



Projects	Policy
<b>Project1</b> Resettlement	1 Enrich livelihood support 2 Create job opportunities and support people getting jobs 3 Help businesses to revive 4 Encourage local industries 5 Enrich health and sanitation benefits, medical care and social welfare
<b>Project2</b> Recover fisheries	1 Reconstruct fishery facilities 2 Maintain fishing boats and fishing gears 3 Encourage aquaculture 4 Maintain fishing ports 5 Encourage agriculture and forestry
<b>Project3</b> Increase number of visitors	1 Encourage communication between producers and consumers 2 Encourage inviting hands-on educational tours in Kuji 3 Encourage tourism industry
<b>Project4</b> Improve disaster prevention level of the city	1 Maintain roads 2 Maintain bay-mouth breakwaters 3 Maintain breakwaters and seawalls 4 Maintain river dikes 5 Maintain disaster prevention facilities 6 Maintain Kuji Port 7 Maintain road networks 8 Improve living environment of the city 9 Enrich education for disaster prevention
<b>Project5</b> Encourage activities related to renewable energy	1 Encourage utilizing renewable energy 2 Encourage promotional projects for renewable energy 3 Cooperate with research institute

“The Kuji City Reconstruction Plan” was established on July 22, 2011. This plan will guide the people of Kuji to a goal of future vision of Kuji City. Kuji City set up the slogan “Create a brand new city with a new point of view” to upgrade the city. The planning

period is for 10 years (from 2011 to 2021). Kuji City encourages various projects such as enhancing disaster prevention systems and facilities, fisheries and supporting the rebuilding of businesses and civil lives with this reconstruct plan.



# SPECIAL THANKS F



## FRANKLIN CITY ( Indiana, U.S.A. )

Franklin City and Kuji City became sister cities in 1960. Franklin City formed the Kuji Relief Fund with Johnson County Community Foundation right after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Also, Franklin College gave us messages and a thousand cranes to cheer us up.



Messages and a thousand cranes from Franklin College wishing the quick recovery of Kuji City.



Assistant Language Teachers of Kuji who are graduates of Franklin College. They helped clean up Kuji City and a neighboring village voluntarily.



## KLAIPEDA CITY ( Republic of Lithuania )

Klaipeda City and Kuji City became sister cities in 1989. Klaipeda City organized a campaign "A Thousand Kranes" to support Kuji City right after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Klaipeda City kindly made a special album featuring the campaign and sent it exclusively to Kuji.



People of Klaipeda attending a campaign "A Thousand Kranes"



# OR YOUR SUPPORT



## The Exhibition "History of Our Sister Cities Exchange"

On January 28 (Sat.), 2012, Kuji International Association organized an exhibition "History of Our Sister Cities Exchange" to disseminate the history of friendship between Kuji and our sister cities and related organizations by showing their support for the Great East Japan Earthquake. Kuji City received gifts from Franklin College (U.S.A.) and students of Aleksotas



(Lithuania). Those gifts were given to cheer people of Kuji up. At the event, we offered those gifts to people who made a donation for the Kuji Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Fund. Every donor liked and appreciated the gifts from our friends in the U. S. and Lithuania.



Beautiful message cards we received from our sister cities and related organizations. All of these messages encouraged people of Kuji a lot. People who visited this event were moved by these messages.



Messages of appreciation from people of Kuji to our friends in the United States and Lithuania. At the event, we set up a place for writing messages of appreciation to our sister cities.



Kuji City has been inviting graduates of Franklin College as assistant language teachers (ALT) of the city. Our ALTs attended this event to teach English to people of Kuji, wishing for internationalization of Kuji City.

### Indiana, U.S.A.

- Franklin City
- Franklin College
- Johnson County Community Foundation
- Japan-America Society of Indiana

### Republic of Lithuania

- Klaipeda City
- Children of Aleksotas
- Embassy of Japan

And of course, Kuji city also appreciates  
all the support from all over the world!



# WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SUPPORT

We will never forget all the support you gave Kuji when we were in a tough time after the massive earthquake. We deeply appreciate all the support from our sister cities and all over the world. The strong ties of our friendship never fade, no matter how many years pass. Kuji City values the strong ties of friendship between our sister cities and would like to extend them further more.

References for any international relation matters:

General Affairs Section  
Department of General Affairs  
Kuji City Hall

ADDRESS: 1-1 Kawasaki-cho, Kuji-city, Iwate 028-08030 Japan  
TEL: +81 194 52 2112 FAX: +81 194 52 3653 EMAIL: [sou3@city.kuji.iwate.jp](mailto:sou3@city.kuji.iwate.jp)