



# CIVIC FORCE

## NEWS LETTER Vol.15

(July, 2018)



Mabi Memorial Hospital in Mabi Town, Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture, flooded by torrential rains. Informed that some patients were stranded in the hospital, we sent a rescue team of doctors, nurses, rescue dogs, and pilots. (Photo taken on July 8)

### **【Western Japan Floods】 Rescued All Patients Stranded in a Hospital**

The views televised from high above the disaster areas – buildings and cars inundated with muddy water, mountainsides brutally scraped off and drifting timber scattered all around – told us that another huge disaster struck Japan.

Record-breaking heavy rains, which were described as “once in decades,” caused enormous damages especially in the western areas of Japan. The rains were triggered by a rain front that had been stationary since July 6, 2018. Death toll exceeded 100 in 13 prefectures as of July 9, and many people are still missing. As more people are still fleeing to evacuation shelters every day, we cannot yet assess the full extent of the damage.

Civic Force started collecting information just after the disaster broke out. We formed a disaster relief team with our partners, Asia Pacific Alliance Japan (A-PAD Japan) and Peace Winds Japan (PWJ). On July 7, as aerial survey became possible, we surveyed the flooded areas around Hiroshima and Okayama prefectures from a helicopter. On July 8, we sent a rescue team including doctors, nurses, rescue dogs and pilots to a hospital in Mabi Town in Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture. Our team successfully rescued all the patients stranded in the hospital by helicopters and boats. In addition, we have started patrolling and delivering relief supplies to the shelters.

In this newsletter, we will provide an early report on our emergency support for the serious disaster in western Japan. We will also report on our support activities for the Northern Kyushu Torrential Rain and Kumamoto Earthquake, and share the messages from the scholarship students and graduates of Dream Support Project.

#### **Donate Now !!**

■ Bank name:  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation  
Branch name: Aoyama  
Account number: (savings account) 6977180

■ Bank name: Japan Post Bank  
Account number: 00140-6-361805  
Account name: Civic Force  
\*Please state “Donation for the people affected by the Western Japan Floods” in the space for correspondence.  
\*We would appreciate your understanding that 15% of your donation will be spent on the operating expenses for our support activities.

■ Access the URL below for the donation via credit cards or electronic money:  
[https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/pag\\_e1.php?bokin\\_type=donation](https://bokinchan2.com/civicforce/donation/bokin/pag_e1.php?bokin_type=donation)

Date of issue: July 2017

Publisher: Civic Force  
Tomigaya Ogawa Bldg.2F, 2-41-12 Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-0063 Japan  
TEL : +81-3-5790-9366  
e-mail : [info@civic-force.org](mailto:info@civic-force.org)

# Supporting Disaster-Affected Areas

The following articles describe the emergency responses, the aid activities, and the reconstruction efforts that Civic Force has provided in various disaster-affected areas in Japan.

## Western Japan Floods

### “Patients’ Lives were in Danger if Rescue was Delayed”

“Please evacuate the patients as soon as possible!”  
 On July 8, two days after the torrential rain disaster occurred in western Japan, our disaster relief team (Civic Force/A-PAD Japan/PWJ), which had been on standby since the outbreak, received information that patients were stranded in Mabi Memorial Hospital in Mabi Town, Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture. The team immediately rushed to the hospital in an amphibious vehicle and rescued all 50 or so patients with inflatable boats, two helicopters and a Self-Defense Forces’ boat.

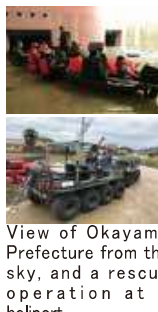
Eight critically ill patients who needed urgent medical care were airlifted from the rooftop by rescue helicopters, accompanied by nurses, to Okayama University Hospital and other hospitals. These rescue operations were carried out in collaboration with medical staff from HuMA (Humanitarian Medical Assistance) and DMAT (Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team), and the Self-Defense Force personnel. Dr. Mototaka Inaba, who has extensive experience in disaster relief, joined the team and took part in transporting the patients and handing over their care to the medical facilities.

Dr. Inaba said, “Half of the patients were bedridden, and some of them might have died if rescue was delayed. I am relieved that we managed to rescue all the patients with two helicopters rushing back and forth” . Staff of the receiving hospitals as well as the patients themselves also expressed their relief that the rescue was carried out just in time to save the patients’ lives.

### Visiting Medical Care Service Started : Providing Food, Underwear and Relief Supplies to Prevent Heat Stroke

In Mabi Town, we have started providing a visiting medical care service at the evacuation centers. Also, we have been asking the evacuees if there are any goods they need. On July 9, we delivered relief supplies such as underwear and socks to Okada Elementary School and three other evacuation sites. In addition, we are working together with enterprises so that we can procure and deliver the needed supplies as soon as possible, including the goods to prevent heat stroke.

Moreover, we are preparing for the reconstruction support activities, which are projected to be a long-term effort, in cooperation with our partners which have started investigating the status of the affected areas such as Hiroshima and the Kansai region.



View of Okayama Prefecture from the sky, and a rescue operation at a heliport