

# 4RECOVERY

## JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF INITIATIVE

*Our thoughts in Europe are with you!*



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ヘリコプタは神様です

"Helicopters are Gods" (see left) was the title of a report on the Japanese HEMS system 4RESCUE published a number of issues ago. This has once again and more clearly than ever before been proven during the aftermath of the earthquake in Japan on March 11 this year.

4RESCUE asked Mr. Wataru Nishikawa, Director of HEM-Net, for a view on the disaster from the "inside". Despite the difficult situation of his nation, W. Nishikawa agreed to write this exclusive report.

We would like to extend our appreciation and ask you all to support the ongoing aid effort in Japan by donating financial help. On the opposite page you can see an initiative of a number of well-respected international aid institutions. Please, help them help the people of Japan.

### Mega Disaster in North-East Japan

It is now nearly two months since the big disaster of North-East Japan. The affected area covers approximately 500 km north-south and 70 km west-east along the coast of Japan, and the area flooded by the tsunami is 400 sq. km. Over 30,000 people are estimated to be killed and 335,000 people lost their home.

Still we have many problems including the nuclear threat from Fukushima and other nuclear power plants in the region.

Today in Japan, we have 71 helicopters of fire departments across the country. Of these, 48 helicopters were dispatched to the disaster area in the first five days after the magnitude-9 earthquake. They rescued and transported more than 1,200 victims from damaged or destroyed areas to safety sites.

Additionally, the Japanese Coast Guard sent twenty helicopters to the disaster area and rescued 294 people in the first week.

The Police Department too, sent more than 11 helicopters to the disaster area.

The Japanese Self Defense Forces including Army, Navy and Air Force deployed about 100,000 personnel, 176 helicopters, 319 airplanes and 59 ships. During the first three days, they rescued 10,100 people, and 9,300 people in the following three days.



Doctor-Heli

In the 2010 fiscal year (April 2010 to March 2011) the 26 Doctor-Heli programs and bases flew a total of 9,452 missions and treated 9,182 patients at the accident sites. We expect an additional five bases for 2011. From the 26 Doctor-Heli bases operative in Japan today, 18 helicopters with doctors and nurses on board went to the disaster area. They took care and evacuated about 250 patients in the first 4 days.

Adding to the above public helicopters, many private helicopters flew transports of emergency materials including water, food, and other daily necessities. We had no accidents in the above rescue operation.

But only a few hours after the earthquake, the big tsunami wave washed away many helicopters and light airplanes from hangars at Sendai Airport, and surprisingly about 18 F-2B fighters at Matsushima Air Defense Base were also destroyed by big and high sea stream of the tsunami.

西川 渉

*Nishikawa, Wataru, Director of HEM-Net, Japan*

