

Why are partnerships important ?

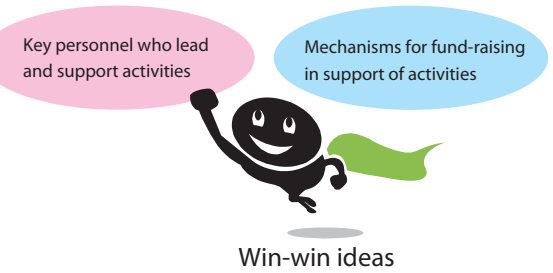
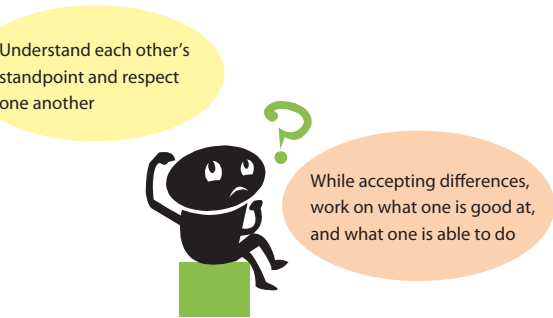
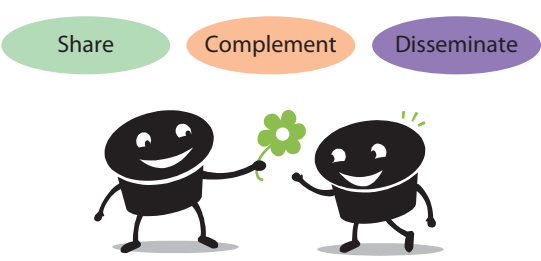
In the case of the Great East Japan Earthquake, ‘circles of assistance’ (aid activities) for disaster-hit areas originated in Japan, and such activities spread throughout the world. Via partnerships between diverse actors, information held by various parties is shared, the know-how, resources and personnel of each party is pooled, and different parties involved can complement each other. This has enabled us to begin moving down the road to recovery.

How are partnerships formed ?

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, various partnerships were created which aimed at achievement of the shared goal of recovery. Local residents, outside contributors, and others in different positions, by following the precepts of "Understand each other’s standpoint and respect one another" and "Accept differences while working on what one is good at, and what one is able to do", have been able to create relationships of trust, which has allowed them to collaborate well together in the reconstruction process.

How can partnerships be continuously developed and improved ?

Good partnerships have mechanisms and/or ‘gimmicks’ which attract people and fund. Those are win-win ideas which derive positive ripple effects - not only between partners, but also for outside parties. Amidst the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, in each region or area, key people have emerged to lead activities. Even as already-existing mechanisms and international actions have been utilized skillfully, there is a focus on innovations for continuing, so that important activities can be carried out with relative ease.



Building Better Partnerships

"Learning from the Great East Japan Earthquake to create more Sustainable Societies"

Based on Japan’s Experiences

At 2:46 PM on March 11, 2011, a major earthquake and tsunami centered on the Tohoku (northeastern) region of Japan inflicted severe damage to the region - causing the death or disappearance of approximately 20,000 people, as well as the complete or partial destruction of over 350,000 buildings.



The tsunami damage situation



Japanese traditional toys covered in sediment



People transporting relief supplies in a labor-intensive manner



Rescue and recovery operations in affected areas



From Japan, which was hurt by the Great East Japan Earthquake, to the people of the world:

“Thank you for your warm encouragement and assistance.”

Heartening words of encouragement and varied forms of assistance from around the world have reached the affected areas and Japan overall. Such kindness has become a major boost for reconstruction efforts, and is encouraging all of Japan.

People to People

Assistance from numerous nations worldwide:

- * Rescue/expert teams from 24 countries/ regions, plus 5 organizations
- * Relief supplies from 63 countries
- * Monetary donations from 93 countries
- * Assistance from NGOs, enterprises and individuals in various nations



Food assistance from areas affected by the 2004 earthquake of Sumatra

Messages from children around the world



Composed from material published on the Japanese Foreign Ministry home page

Based on the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, We promote building effective partnerships to create more sustainable societies for a better future:



Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Policy Bureau, Environment and Economy Division, Environmental Partnership Office
Kasumigaseki 1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8975 Japan (<http://www.env.go.jp/>)



United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP)
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo 150-8925 Japan (<http://isp.unu.edu/>)



Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC)
United Nations University
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo 150-8925 Japan (<http://www.geoc.jp/>)



Personnel from the Turkish embassy in Japan help pass out Turkish food



Messages of encouragement from Vietnamese college students



The U.S. military's "Operation Tomodachi"

Hope For the Future

~ People’s Efforts Towards the Creation of a Sustainable Society ~

With encouragement and diverse forms of assistance from around the world, the affected areas are now advancing along the road to recovery. Japan can express its thanks to the countries of the world, and also fulfill an important mission, by achieving a successful recovery and then passing on the lessons learned from its experience to the world. We will introduce below some projects which, in the recovery from the earthquake/tsunami disaster, are attempting to implement through partnerships the realization of a sustainable society.

Case Study 1 - Reconstruction of oyster farms which were damaged by the tsunami of March 11, 2011

“The Reconstruction Project by Owners & Supporters” is an effort to assist in raising the necessary capital for oyster farm reconstruction through purchases of oysters, scallops with advance payments. Individuals and organizations registered with this effort can also support the project by supplying voluntary labor. Volunteer activities are carried out not only in the ocean, but also in forests, and serve educational purposes for experiencing the connections between forests, rivers and the ocean. Also, these activities are partly supported by funds provided by Louis Vuitton; past experience in which Japanese-type oysters helped save the French oyster farming industry became the catalyst for joining in this partnership.

Head organization: Mizuyama Oyster Farm
URL:<http://mizuyama-oyster-farm.com/owners&supporters.html>



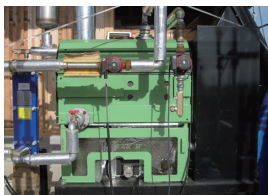
Supporters constructing an oyster farm



©Mazen Saggar, Louis Vuitton, Antoine Jarrler
Mr. Patrick-Louis Vuitton and Mr. Hatakeyama, a fisherman who leads the project



Construction of housing, as part of the reconstruction process



An installed pellet boiler



Migratory birds swoop down on a Fuyumizu paddy field



Fukkou-Mai rice, consumed in company employee cafeterias in support of reconstruction efforts
(From: Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company, Limited)

Case Study 2 - Construction of ‘recovery housing’, in which victims can live securely

The "Te-no-Hira-ni-Taiyo-no-le (‘House of the Sun in Your Palm’) Project", while helping sustain the local community, has also introduced renewable energy generation (in the form of solar power generation, solar water heaters, pellet boilers, etc.), and provides housing where disaster victims can live with peace of mind. Materials used include local lumber, and construction work is carried out by local lumbermills and contractors, so it contributes to the revitalization of the local economy. In addition, the project has begun planning expansion to include a carbon credits project, to assist in the creation of a low-carbon society, and is attempting to create a framework for autonomous financing. In this way, the project has become a mechanism from which diverse stakeholders can benefit.

Head organization: The Japanese Forest Biomass Network (NGO)
URL:<http://jfbn.org/taiyounoie>

Case Study 3 - Recovery of paddy fields damaged by tsunami

"The Fuyumizu Tambo / Fukkou-Mai Project" (*The Winter-flooded Paddy Fields / ‘Happiness Recovery Rice’ Project*) is an effort in which support funding is added into rice prices, with proceeds later derived from the sales of such rice being used to assist in recovery. It is being advanced as one part of the “Umi to Tambo kara no Green Fukko Project” (*The Tohoku Green Renaissance Project based on the Ocean and Rice Paddies*), which inculcates multiple collaborative partnerships between universities, researchers, NGOs, etc. In "Fuyumizu paddy fields" (winter-flooded rice paddies), water is allowed to flow into the fields during the winter, with the effects of reducing weed growth and improving fertilization. This is a method of cultivating rice which enriches the biota of paddy fields. Also, migratory birds such as Pacific white-fronted geese and swans use the fields as wintering areas, so in terms of biodiversity conservation activities, this serves as a model *Satoyama* initiative. Furthermore, salt-reducing effects have been demonstrated in fields which sustained salt damage due to the tsunami.

Head organization: Tambo (= *Paddy Field*) (NGO)
URL:<http://npotambo.com/>

A Message from Japan After Its Experience in the March 11, 2011 Disaster

~ Utilizing Local Resources and Strengthening Resiliency Through Partnerships ~

Through the still-ongoing recovery from this disaster, we have learned many things. We think that our experiences can provide many hints for overcoming the various problems. What especially served as a driving force behind recovery efforts was the participation of, and collaboration between, various actors - in other words, partnerships. We are convinced that such partnerships can be effective in helping solve the problems inherent in creating sustainable societies, not only in special situations like disaster recovery, but also going forward, in the context of creating sustainable societies.



1. Partnerships which bring out each party’s wisdom and abilities to the fullest

Concerning local problems, various actors, such as governments, companies, NGOs, disaster victims and supporters, created partnerships, shared information, and generally complemented each other’s efforts. There were many cases in which the wisdom and abilities of each stakeholder were thereby brought out to their fullest extent, and this became a major driving force towards recovery. We feel that these kinds of partnerships exhibit significant possibilities in terms of improving people’s problem-solving abilities.

2. Strengthening resiliency through conservation and utilization of ecosystems

There were numerous instances in which the existence of rich local natural capital played an important role in speedy recovery from disaster. From this, we came to recognize that a sustainable society is one which makes use of the natural capital of each local area; while the society conserves rich ecosystem services, it also utilizes them. Such a society must also be very resilient. To improve the resiliency of local areas, it is crucial to have partnerships between local residents and various actors who have knowledge and technology about conservation and utilization of ecosystem services.

3. Advancement of a 'green' economy via partnerships

Among the partnerships which were created to assist in recovery, new ideas and mechanisms have originated which have been widely beneficial, profiting both disaster victims and the relatively unaffected. These have helped in terms of maintaining employment, realizing economic autonomy for stakeholders, and revitalizing the local area. We should focus on the point that the formation of such partnerships has benefited many stakeholders, and we feel that this suggests at the ideal structure for a 'green' economy.

Rio+20 is a new starting line, with a goal of creating sustainable societies.

**From each region, in each nation, and also over national borders, let’s try to:
advance partnerships not only at the state level, but also through efforts and collaboration
between diverse actors; help protect the environment; and accelerate our efforts towards
achieving truly sustainable societies.**