

East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Response Programme (EJET)

For the Children's Hopes and Aspirations for the Future

Within 48 hours of the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011, WVJ deployed the first rapid assessment team. During the first 90 days emergency response, WVJ addressed the needs of the disaster-affected communities through NFI (Non-Food Items) distributions, food support through Community Kitchens, and

child focused protection and education support. From July 2011, WVJ started a long-term rehabilitation programme, consisting of the following five projects to provide support for about 300,000 affected people in Fukushima, Iwate, and Miyagi prefectures.



1. Child Focused Project (Jul 2011 – Mar 2014)

For the protection of affected children and for their better future:

- Child Friendly Space
- Re-starting school meals
- Provision of scholarships
- Minamisanriku Town Development Project (Child Participation Initiative)

2. Child Focused Disaster Preparedness Project (Jul 2011 – Dec 2012)

To protect children from future disasters:

- Provision of disaster preparedness materials to evacuation centres
- Installation of solar panels, wells and biotopes in primary and junior high schools
- Reinstallation of tsunami observation systems
- Installation of evacuation signposts



3. Livelihood Recovery Project (Jul 2011 – Dec 2012)

For the sustained well-being of children:

- Rehabilitation of the local key industry (fishing) to stabilise household income of affected families

4. Community Development Project (Jul 2011 – Mar 2014)

To recover the community ties:

- Support and activate community based activities in temporary housing

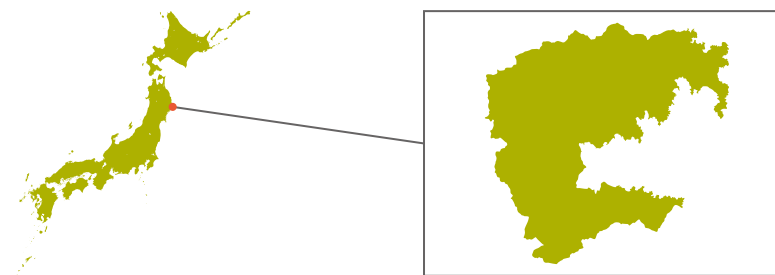


5. Special Assistance for Affected Population from Fukushima (Jul 2011 – Dec 2012)

To support the evacuated people from Fukushima to Niigata:

- Promotion of community outreach activities
- Implementation of gathering/outdoor events of children

About MINAMISANRIKU



Minamisanriku is a town in the northeast area of Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. Located on the Pacific coast, the area is a rich fishing ground.



SARYO STUDIO



SARYO STUDIO

The town was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami; 62% of the residential buildings in the town were damaged.

- Population: 15,337
- Number of Household: 4,894 (as of Jul 2012)

About MVC Buranko

Junior Leaders (JLs)

The JLs are local youth volunteers to promote children's and other community activities. Although the JLs are common in Japan, the systems vary from place to place. In Minamisanriku, the members are junior high and high school students.

MVC Buranko (Minamisanriku-cho Volunteer Circle Buranko)

MVC Buranko is a volunteer group of the JLs in Minamisanriku with a history of over 40 years. As of Sep 1, 2012, it has 59 registered members who are actively working to support local children's clubs and community events, etc. The JLs' training programme is provided by the Minamisanriku Board of Education.

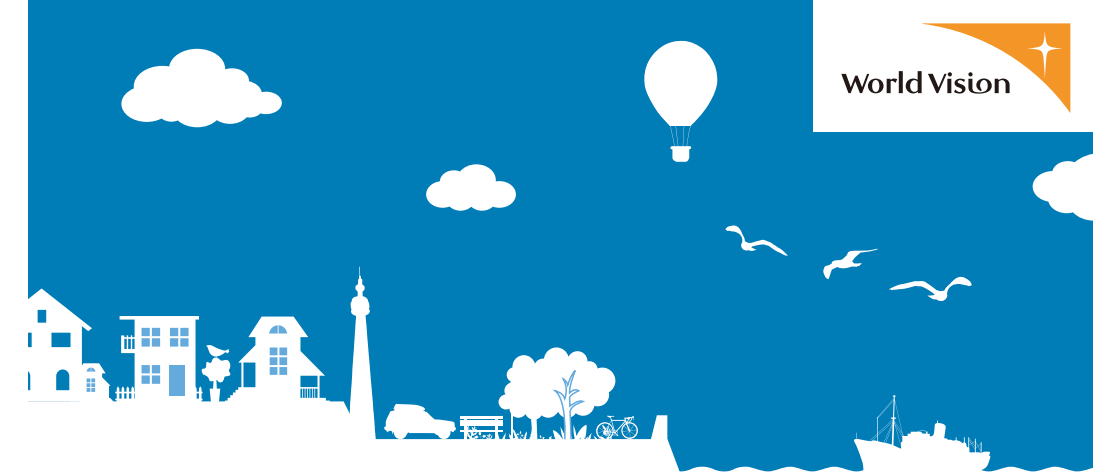


A Child Participation Initiative

Minamisanriku Town Development Project
By Town of Minamisanriku and World Vision Japan
<English Summary>

June 1, 2014 (Full Report in Japanese was issued on December 1, 2012)

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World Vision

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Minamisanriku Town Development Project (MTDP)

How the Project was Started

Minamisanriku Town Development Project (MTDP) is a joint project of MVC Buranko, Minamisanriku Board of Education, and World Vision Japan (WVJ).
WVJ first met MVC Buranko in Sep 2011, six months after the onset of East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. MVC Buranko is a group of junior high and high school students who volunteer to support local children's clubs and community events.
MVC Buranko has been active since long before the disaster. They usually used the town's community centre for their activities.

However, since the community centre was washed away by the Tsunami, they became less active. MVC Buranko, Minamisanriku Board of Education, and WVJ shared the view that the local children should be involved in the town's rehabilitation process. Therefore, WVJ officially proposed a child participation project, namely MTDP, and the three parties agreed to carry it out together. The series of child participation workshops started from Jan 2012, as described below.

Objective of the Project

Following objectives were set for MTDP:

1. To consolidate local children's voices for the rehabilitation plan of the town of Minamisanriku, and present their ideas to the general public in the town.
2. To present the voices of the local children to the town mayor of Minamisanriku.
3. To provide an opportunity for the participant children to present their ideas to the wider public.

It was also hoped that the series of child participation activities in MTDP would revitalise MVC Buranko, which once became less active after the disaster.

Achievement of the Project

MVC Buranko submitted a proposal to the town mayor of Minamisanriku in Jun 2012 (see the overview on the right). The mayor highly appreciated the proposal, and recognised MVC Buranko as equal partners to promote the town's rehabilitation. Minamisanriku is still in the midst of long process of rehabilitation. In hope that their proposal will be realised near future, MVC Buranko continued the workshops in 2013/2014 with WVJ to discuss further details of their proposal to the town.

Overview of MVC Buranko's/JLs' Proposal to the Town Mayor of Minamisanriku (submitted on Jun 30, 2012)

Theme

"Smiles for Children! Dreams for the Town!"
-Our Picture for the Future Minamisanriku-

Proposal

After going through the disaster, we, JLs, have discussed what we could do, and decided to be actively involved in the process of the town's reconstruction. As the JLs, we would like to support the revival of local children's club activity. We would also like to boost our JL activities and engage with interaction/exchange with people in the town and in other areas.

MVC Buranko's Action Plan

Action 1. To help revive the local children's club activity.
Action 2. To renew and restart MVC Buranko News Letter as a local communication paper.
Action 3. To interact/exchange with various youth groups inside/outside of the town to revitalise Minamisanriku
We also think that it is essential to convey children's opinions to the town. We put together local children's opinions into the following 2 plans. We hope that our plans will serve for our town's recovery and better future.

Proposal for the Town

Proposal 1.
To activate the interaction among people of various generations, MVC Buranko suggests the following public facilities in the town:
(1) Community Centre with Café
(2) Library Space (with an exhibition of the town history including the earthquake/Tsunami)
(3) Park

Proposal 2.
To make safer and disaster-resistant town, MVC Buranko suggests the following things:
(1) Better Evacuation System for future disaster
- To place huge evacuation maps for public spaces, which is recognisable and understandable to children and visitors.
- To conduct compulsory evacuation drills and raising awareness of the all town residents.
- Timely and quick information sharing with the town residents, especially in case of a huge earthquake.
(2) Safe and Secure Evacuation Shelter
- To install storage warehouses to keep food stock, waters, flashlights, radios, etc.
- To promote education for disaster preparedness in schools.



Mar 11, 2011
Damaged Shizugawa Community Centre



Kiyotaka Oikawa



SARYO STUDIO

Onset of the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami



Jan 15, 2012
MTDP workshops started!



Jan 30, 2012
Discussion with the town Mayor of Minamisanriku

MVC Buranko shared their ideas to the town mayor on the town's rehabilitation plan.



Mar 25, 2012
MTDP event in Minamisanriku:
"Smiles for Children! Dreams for the Town!"
- Children's Discussion on the Town's Reconstruction"

Local children, including MVC Buranko, presented their ideas/opinions to the town residents.



Apr 30, 2012
MTDP restarted.



Jun 23, 2012
MTDP event in Tokyo:
"The POWER We Share, The POWER We Have - What the JLs Can Do Now after the Disaster"

MVC Buranko and other children's groups from Tokyo Metropolitan area shared their activities in their own communities, and exchanged their opinions for better future.



Jun 30, 2012
Proposal was submitted!
MVC Buranko put together their ideas on the town's rehabilitation plan into a proposal, then submitted to the town mayor of Minamisanriku.

After the submission ceremony, the leader of MVC Buranko said, "In MTDP, I met various people and exchanged ideas about the town's rehabilitation with them. I am proud of taking part in the town's rehabilitation process. It will be great if our proposal will be realised in the future."



Movie

Movie of MTDP is also available online
<http://wvj.eng.mg/99e46>

