

Description on the actual damages to the peoples' lives by The Tohoku Pacific Ocean Earthquake And Tsunami

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1. Introduction

Tsunami has brought not only the damage on the property such like collapsed and wrecked houses but also damages to the peoples' lives that the victims have been forced to live up for a long period of time under inconvenient conditions under shortage of daily household goods, no utilities supply, destructed community functions. By those reasons mentioned above, we visited victims' houses in the Tsunami disaster area directly so as to grasp the actual circumstances of damages to the lives of such peoples.

2. Inquiry method

Actual inquiry was implemented from February to June 2012 with the collaboration of total 223 victims in seven cities (Iwate pref.:Kamaishi,Miyako, Miyagi pref.:Ishinomaki, Shiogama, Tagajo, Iwanuma, Fukushima pref.: Soma). We have visited homes of such victims respectively and sounded their life after disaster through direct conversation inquiry about one hour each.

3. Damages to the life

We came to have grasped actual circumstances that the victims are obliged to bear inconvenient life long time as shown below.

- It became difficult to obtain food and daily household

goods as almost all of the retail shops have got damage.

- Using the bicycle as a substitute for the damaged automobile until new one becomes available, but obliged to move long distance for going and coming between the safe shelter and home as well as purchase of daily households goods.
- Life in shelter becomes long not knowing when and how to recover the proper housing as there is no target that the area is recovered without concrete land development schedule.

Further, following examples were shown on deteriorated physical condition and mental illness due to long period of inconvenient life.

- A person lost its physical conditions and was under medical treatment at home following a distress caused from staying long in a shelter. As a result the person fell suddenly one day and cannot stand up any more.



Photo-1 Area destroyed by the Tsunami



Photo-2 Longer-term shelter life

Family members are suffering from unstable mental condition caused by the fear of Tsunami and cannot determine to return home adjacent to the beach.

- A person who could not approach his/her house as only pillars were left on the ground floor, lost all memory articles such as children's photos in early childhood that were left on the second floor when his /her house was torn down.

4. Conclusion

In the inquiry process, we have made great efforts to make the query sheet flexible in order to explain and ask questions pursuant to understanding of victims since inquiry items are complicated and diversified.

In the catastrophes, victims tend to suffer from the inconvenient life for long period that does not appear on the statistical figures. Hence the challenge is how to reflect such circumstances in the business evaluation and so on.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those victims who cooperated with us in this time inquiry.