

Doro-Chiba Quake Report

April 20, 2011/ issue 14

International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba (National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba)

Anger, fight and unity! We are striving to live”

Let’s organize a powerful movement against dismissal under the pretext of the quake and to stop nuclear plant

Report from the Secretariat of the People’s Earthquake Relief Center on their visit to Sendai one month after the earthquake

April 18, 2011

From April 11 to 12, just a month after the huge earthquake, we, secretariat of PERC, visited the Relief Center located in Sendai City. We reached there via Fukushima by a truck fully loaded with relief goods. Violent aftershock repeatedly attacked us during we talked with our suffering friends there. We were shown Shiogama port, Sendai port and its surrounding areas and Yuriage district of Natori City, most terribly stricken by the quake.

Life and death battle still continues in the affected areas

What struck us the most was the serious fact that affected areas are still faced with the matter of life and death even a month after the disaster, far from restoration. It is evidently impossible to live without fighting.

The center part of Sendai with one million inhabitants certainly seems to have recovered to a certain degree. But in the coast region of the city, we shockingly witnessed a totally different picture: wreckages by the huge quake and the subsequent gigantic tsunami are scattered all over the area, such as crushed cars heaped up like toys, shapeless debris of houses, washed up big ships, etc. Especially in Yuriage district, a view from a watch tower of fishermen violently shocked us. As far as the eye could reach, we saw only a vast dimension of deserted land without grass, trees, houses or factories.

We’ve got an impression that we should not have built housing in such a dangerous location. A gigantic tsunami had been anticipated to come in 30 years with 99% certainty from the



Near the Port of Sendai, we saw only heaps of wreckages of houses, cars...



Yuriage District of Natori City

experiences of past big tsunamis. It had been publicly warned not to construct houses on sea side area over Namiwake shrine on shore. Big housing developers ignored these concerns and bought up farmland to build houses in a large scale there. The disaster was brought about by capitalism itself which seeks only profit at the sacrifice of others.



Sendai, the PERC has been waging overwhelming speech, leafleting and petition campaign relief materials.

very busy: many workers are visiting there one after another and they are talking over arrangement of relief works and starting from there with news and materials to workplaces and communities for organizing. The total amount of donations from across Japan and the rest of the world have reached millions of Yen and the office is filled with several hundreds of packages of

Repeated occurrence of inland-type earthquake as aftershock of March 11 huge quake is Also in

seriously aggravating the imminent danger of blast of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and radioactive contamination is expanding. Local industries and enterprises have already been swept away, causing a large-scale dismissal of lay-off of their employees, amounting hundreds of thousands. Employment agencies are flooded by jobless people. A vast number of farmers, fishermen and self-employed workers are completely deprived of their means of living.

One of our colleagues of Sendai's Municipal Workers' Union told us: "Everybody has got hurt deeply in mind. We remember still now that there were several hundreds bodies of victims before our eyes just after the quake and tsunami. Many of us have lost houses, beloved family members and friends. You must know that many workers are driven to work hard, while there are workers who are out of job and struggling to live in despair and poverty."

His story once again convinced me to fight arm in arm with those suffering and fighting workers there for a common cause.

We completely depend on our own anger, fight and unity to live

The Relief Center of East Japan in Sendai is

We are now violently confronted with a fresh attack of neo-liberalism that aims to suppress all independent relief actions in the name of "reconstruction from the quake disaster" in the affected area and everywhere in Japan. While capitalist rule is driven to the brink of collapse by the outbreak of earthquake and nuclear plant disaster, the corrupt labor movement leadership is proposing "political truce" and "restoration campaign by labor-capital collaboration". It is a critical moment for labor movement: anger of workers in workplace is suppressed and mass dismissal, wage cut and tax hike is attacking workers by the help of labor union bosses to maintain capitalist system at the sacrifice of working people.

We need to develop the struggle against the attempt of dismissal under the pretext of earthquake in close cooperation with the nationwide campaign of national railway struggle for the reinstatement of dismissed 1047 national railway workers and against outsourcing. Doro-Chiba and National Coordinating Center of Labor Unions have already set up the People's Earthquake Relief Center and now launched a preparation for Job Counseling Center of the Earthquake.

Stop mass dismissal under the pretext of the huge earthquake!

***Stop and abolish all nuclear plants
immediately!***

***Never repeat Hiroshima, Nagasaki and
Fukushima!***

We fight under these significant slogans for the lives of everybody and for the future of our children.

We pledge to organize vigorously our struggle from the affected areas, rise up for May Day and participate in the big rally of the nationwide campaign of national railway struggle on June 5th, developing our close links with wider range of workers and inhabitants.

You can find the archive of Doro-Chiba Quake Report here: <http://dorochibanewsletter.wordpress.com>

Let's relieve earthquake victims through people's power!

(I) Bank Account for Donation

Some or all of the following data 1 to 9 are required to send a remittance to Japan. And if the purpose of remittance is questioned, please reply that remittance is made for relief to the earthquake in Japan through the National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba (for short, Doro-Chiba).

1. Bank name: The Chiba Bank, Ltd
2. Bank code# in Japan: 0134
3. Branch name: Chuo Branch
4. Branch code# in Japan: 001
5. Branch address: 2-5-1 Chuo, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, Chiba 260-0013, Japan
6. Type of address: Ordinary deposit
7. Account number: 4177605 Address of Account: 2-8 Kaname-cho, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, Chiba 260-0017, Japan Phone No. of Account: +81-43-222-7207
8. Account name: Kokutetsu Chiba Doryokusha Rodokumiai
9. SWIFT address: CHBAJPJT 001 4177605 Note: One space is needed between Branch Code# (001) and Account number 4177605).

(II) PayPal Account for Donation:

Alternatively, the following PayPal account could be used instead of the above bank account:

PayPal Account: bleve21@gmail.com

Account Holder: YAMAMOTO Hiroyuki, Secretary Treasurer, International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba