

Summary of State of Damage at Tohoku University and Restoration after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Immediately following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11th, the university established the Disaster Control Headquarters headed by the President, and put all its efforts into confirming the safety of the students and staff, and ensuring the safety of the campus.

All those connected with the university has come together to work towards the early restoration of damaged buildings and facilities and the swift resumption of the university's functions.

In addition, while we continue to contribute to the local community, we are striving to maintain a flexible approach; we have cancelled the degree conferment ceremony, and have been flexible with regard to entrance ceremonies, the commencement of lectures and so forth.

1. Safety of Students / Staff

- Confirmation of the safety of students/staff was completed on March 30th
Japanese students: 17,073 International students: 1,499
Staff (including part-time employees) : 11,590
- Confirmed fatalities: a fourth-year student of the Faculty of Agriculture, a first-year student of the Faculty of Economics, and a new student due to enroll in April.
- Injured: 14 students (13 Japanese students and an international student)
- Zero fatalities among staff. Relatives of five members of staff died and relatives of two members of staff are missing.
- Survey of damage to student residences (student residences are being considered accordingly)
→ Students whose residence was completely/partially destroyed: 526 (5.2%)
Students who are considering moving : 331 (3.2%)
Deadline for submitting applications for entrance and tuition fee exemption extended for approximately 2 months
Financial support for students affected by the disaster
→ entrance/tuition fee exemption new scholarship system under consideration
long-term support extending beyond the academic year necessary

2. Educational Affairs

- Degree conferment ceremony for the 2010 academic year cancelled (degree certificates

and President's message mailed at the end of April)

- Undergraduate / Graduate entrance ceremonies, orientation for new students rearranged from April 6th (Wed) to May 6th (Fri) (all conducted by individual departments)
- Commencement of lectures
Common Education lectures (first and second year undergraduates): May 9th (Mon)
Specialized undergraduate lectures / graduate lectures : April 25th (Mon)

3. Buildings

- Condition of lifeline utilities
Electricity, water, gas fully restored to all buildings except those assessed dangerous on April 26th.
- Level of danger
Dangerous : 28 buildings (including those damaged by the tsunami),
Caution needed : 48 buildings
Safe : 512 buildings (including those that require partial repairs)
- Restoration costs (rough estimate calculated by Tohoku University) : 44.8 billion yen
At present, dangerous buildings have created a total area of unusable space amounts to 40,000 square meters. Of this, 18,000 square meters can be created by adapting individual existing buildings and utilizing spare space. However, prefabricated temporary structures are necessary to make up the remaining 22,000 square meters. In order to accelerate the current reconstruction activities, we need special arrangements with regard to application for the reconstruction of damaged buildings and construction of prefabricated buildings.

4. Facilities

- Rough estimate of total cost of damage to facilities: 35.2 billion yen (6,118 items)
Where possible, general-purpose equipment to be made available for shared use across departments.
In order to commence the early restoration of equipment, we need special arrangements with regard to flexible budgetary provisions and implementation systems.

5. Acceptance of Emergency Provisions and Earthquake Disaster Relief Donations

- Emergency provisions: we have received support from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Association of National Universities. Emergency provisions sent from all national universities in Japan have been accepted through Niigata University and Yamagata University. Provisions have also been received from the private sector.
- Establishment of Tohoku University Earthquake Disaster Relief Donations (March 18th)

6. Support from Foreign Universities / Institutions

- With regard to offers of educational and research support from foreign universities, we will request cooperation when absolutely necessary in order to ensure the smooth continuation of research and education.

7. Contribution to the local community

1) Tohoku University Hospital

- The hospital is endeavoring to secure medicine and medical materials via university networks and academic societies. The hospital has taken a central role in accepting patients from hospitals in the disaster area, transporting patients to hospitals outside the prefecture, dispatching doctors and providing medical supplies.

2) Monitoring of Radiation Levels

- Responding to requests from Miyagi Prefecture, Sendai City, and Fukushima Prefecture, Tohoku University's committee for nuclear science safety has been monitoring radiation levels in vegetables, milk, tap water, the atmosphere, the soil, and the sea, and providing information on these radiation levels to local municipalities and local residents. We have also been cooperating with efforts to remove contaminated soil from the playgrounds of nursery schools in Fukushima City.

3) Volunteer Activities

- There are currently around 1,000 students registered with the university's volunteer association. These volunteers have been actively providing help at nursing homes for the elderly and administrative support at the Prefectural Office. In addition, in response to requests from Miyagi Prefecture, over 40 students were sent daily to Yamoto Town to provide support at evacuation centers. Students have also been sent to Kesenuma to deliver relief supplies to evacuation centers. In Sendai, student volunteers are providing learning support for children in evacuation centers and temporary housing.

4) Dissemination and archiving of information on the disaster

- Utilizing the academic potential of the arts and sciences, Tohoku University's specialists from a variety of fields are reporting on the disaster situation while also promoting the sharing of information and development of a disaster database.

Additionally, from directly after the earthquake, Tohoku University has provided evacuation centers, assisted with the identification of bodies, conducted surveys on salt water damage, and led the development of new tsunami counter-measures.

Furthermore, we have established a support office for student volunteer activities to help students contribute to the reconstruction of the region.

We will gather our collective wisdom, and, through collaboration with Miyagi prefecture, Sendai City and the national government, we will contribute to city planning that is effective against disasters; to nuclear accident response; to food, agriculture and village reconstruction assistance projects; and to the reconstruction and regeneration of the local community.