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## Feature

### Whether Univ. Save Students?

Many students took action to support victims involved in Touhoku Crisis on March 11. It was Students Staffs of Volunteer Center in OCU, a part of OCU authorities, who have taken the most active and continuous action. They had gathered ¥520,832 for a month. On April 7, about 4 weeks later from the Crisis, we interviewed Ms. Yukiko Wakikawa (photo: left), president of Volunteer Center in OCU, and Mr. Hiroyuki Nakano (photo: right), vice-president, and heard about their action after the Crisis.

#### “Something abnormal happens”

**Wakikawa:** When the quake occurred, we had a conference in Volunteer Center. We soon knew something abnormal had happened on TV or web news. We decided to ask OCU authorities to show what they would do on the day after holiday and also decided we would take some action, donation for example.

- What did OCU authorities answered?

**Wakikawa:** Just “Now on the conference” when we asked on the Monday.

**Nakano:** They did nothing during holiday.

**Wakikawa:** CHOVORA!!, a volunteer club in OCU, came to propose to collect donation on April 4, when newcomers sign up to this university. We supposed that some other clubs would do the same kind of action, so we contacted students supposed to be interested in such action in OCU, and had a meeting.

- What did you talk about there?

**Wakikawa:** Came Volunteer Center of OCU, CHOVORA!!, Imagine, executives from Cultural Circle Union, from Sports Union, and from Cheering Party.

**Nakano:** And Hijicho.

**Wakikawa:** We did not know whether OCU authorities would take some action or not. Everyone there agreed to take action as one team, united around Volunteer Center of OCU.

- And how about OCU authorities?

**Wakikawa:** On March 15, the next day of the previous conference, they announced that they had decided to have a every-day-conference where executives of authorities attend, and to collect donation around Volunteer Center of OCU.

**Nakano:** We quickly made a collection box and started.

#### Sign up required for action

**Wakikawa:** Name, student number, and phone number are necessary to join volunteer works. Before the crisis, they requested us to take out insurance, which was so troublesome.

**Nakano:** Donation was taken at JR Sugimotocho Station, at Subway Abiko Station, at OCU, and at events of OCU.

**Wakikawa:** Collection is usually on weekdays. CHOVORA!! is the most active.

- Are you going to continue collection?

**Wakikawa:** We've not decided all yet. But at least till the end of April, collection is carried on. The problem is lack of staffs in April. A survey said that much donation cannot be collected by a group of less than 5 members. We asked clubs that attended all-club-conference on March 17, to collect donation in each club and to hand to us.

## Mental care is required in Tohoku

**Nakano:** I went to victim area in Tohoku from March 28 for a week. That was in order to see and hear it and to think about how volunteers from all Japan universities can support there. I met a member of Homedoor, who was from OCU. I interviewed victims and staffs of local government rather than volunteer work. Much of a day was for interview. You have to know a picture TV shows is often different from the actual scene. We see temporary houses are under construction, but all victims cannot enjoy such support.

- What kind of request did you hear there?

**Nakano:** They need mental care at refuges. Additionally, nurses who talk with the old, people who play with kids, and doctor who remove stress of victims. I suppose they need more mental care than goods before long. Demand for money won't change. So we have to continue to collect donation.

**Wakikawa:** Students showed acute reaction just after the crisis, but now they don't because of welcoming newcomers - awareness of the crisis is fading away. That is a problem. Therefore, we have to change the way of action.

**Nakano:** I am going there again in this summer. Volunteer Center of Iwate Prefectural University is now trying to make a system by this summer to welcome volunteers from universities.

- How about sending goods?

**Wakikawa:** We welcome goods at Student Support Center 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 16, on Futaba Festa. Osaka City Office had welcomed since March 23, so we decided to follow that way with a manager of the Center on March 30.

## Whether Univ. saves students?

**Wakikawa:** A doubt is whether OCU authorities have a concrete plan facing the same kind of the crisis around this university.

**Nakano:** They must have. The fact is they don't have a way to let us know.

**Wakikawa:** They answered "We don't have a concrete plan against tsunami or safety maps on crisis" on March 30. On the other hand, Osaka City announces Yamato River which is located next to this university will spill water 2 hours after Nankai Great Quake occurs and if it causes tsunami.

- What did they do after researching students' safety?

**Wakikawa:** Prof. Michio Miyano, vice-president of OCU and studying safety human industry, went to Tohoku on March 30 and met president of Iwate Prefectural University. He wrote many books concerning Hanshin And Awaji Great Quake.

**Nakano:** He said he will give me a chance to talk about my experience in Tohoku in front of students after May.

- Whether OCU authorities can save us?

**Wakikawa:** We haven't told the way not to be in panic here by them.

**Nakano:** They say "See the portal site" but we rarely see it because it's difficult to collect information.

**Wakikawa:** They should not expect us all to be active to collect information. They have to have a responsibility to let us know the way how we should act when a crisis occurs here.

## They have no way to tell us all

- What's your next action?

**Wakikawa:** 3 thing.

- (1) Try not to let the students' memory fading out.
- (2) Show students how to protect themselves.
- (3) Collect donation continuously.

Especially (1). It is difficult for ordinary students to keep awareness of protection from crisis. We help it.

- Do you have a plan to keep collecting donation?

**Wakikawa:** I don't know. But we have to 3 things I showed at the same time.

**Nakano:** We can let the memory not to fade out by thinking of circumstance of victims and how to protect ourselves in the future.

**Wakikawa:** OCU authorities is going to stop collecting donation every day, and will not collect but on some events. We want to take another kind of action and involve students into it. On that point, we expect Hijicho.

**Wakikawa:** Unless more students stand up not to forget the crisis, the present situation will not change.

(Yuki Kaga)



### to be continued

A forum discussion on what's seen and heard in Tohoku and analysis by professors will be held by Hijicho in the end of June.

A concrete plan will be announced on Hijicho Web as soon as we decide.