

Restoration and Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

A14 Tokyo Gakugei University Senior High School , Tohoku Study Tour



“ Tohoku Study Tour ”

We have been visiting Miyagi continuously as "Tohoku Study Tour" in Tokyo Gakugei University High School soon after The Great East Japan Earthquake broke out. We visited Kesennuma, Natori, Onagawa, Higashi Matsushima and so on this year, which was the seventh time to carry out this tour plan, and did a research about the Community Development and the construction of seawalls by interviewing the local people. Based on the result, we analyzed the Community Development and the status of restoration of each areas according to the 17 goals of SDGs.



Miyagi Pref. North East Japan



Inner Bay Area, Kesennuma City



goal11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

It is thought that it may be against the management of the general disaster of risk of every level because Tsunami simulation for seawall construction doesn't assume at the time of a high tide in Kesennuma bay. Citizens participate in a revival plan positively and aim at the sustainable revival in Kesennuma bay. However opinions may clash between the government and citizens. And there is the reality that the seawall construction stop because of the administration and the citizens complete agreement formation not being performed.



Oya Coast, Kesennuma City



goal11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Oya coast, was seriously affected by the tsunami occurred in March 2011. In 2012, the prefecture administration decided to construct a 9.8 meters high tide embankment by reclaiming the sandy beach, however, the citizens proposed the city to remain the sandy beach, and the construction of the tide embankment was suspended once. Then for years, the citizens repeatedly discussed about the plan, and in 2016, the alternative plan that proposed to raise the national highway and make its slope as the tide embankment, and now they are waiting for its construction. The desire of the citizens who eagerly called for remaining their daring coast to their children in the future created an alternative plan at the same time with securing the safety of the city from the anticipated disaster by the Tsunami, and moved the administration. The ideal consensus formation was realized by the cooperation of the citizens and the administration by playing their own roles.



Yuriage, Natori City



goal11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Thanked to the mayor's quickly action, Natori City started making a plan soon after the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. However, until now the recovery hasn't been carried out smoothly in Yuriage. This delay has accelerated the population decline. There are two factors as causes the problem; the oppositions of the residents for the project and the conflict among people who have different opinions or positions. The most important issue from now on is making the city more comfortable and convenient for living; for example, providing adequate and affordable housing, making transportation more accessible and improving education facilities.



Higashi Matsushima City



goal7 Secure access to inexpensive, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all people

Higashi Matsushima city was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake, but due to the administration's entrusting certain authorities to citizens and the private sector, it realized speed recovery and even reconstruction. In 2012, Higashi Matsushima MIRAI and Organization (HOPE) was established as an intermediate support organization for industry, academia, government and people to cooperate, and many initiatives are being implemented. Focusing on energy among them, we launched the project "Higashi Matsushima City smart disaster prevention eco-town" in 2014, to supply electricity to houses and medical institutions even in the event of a disaster, to prevent global warming by renewable energy Aiming to contribute, rebuilding and town planning aiming for a sustainable future is being carried out.



Onagawa Town



goal8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

70 percent of all the buildings in Onagawa collapsed and a lot of people were killed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. This disaster made Onagawa developed especially in the field of tourism industry from scratch. The land of this city has been raised instead of making coast levees. It enables this town to protect the scenery and to build a lively town which helps people forget the Earthquakes and Tsunami. Asueno-Kibou, a NPO corporation mainly led this project and It now holds events to discuss how to reconstruct this city quite often. On the other hand, Onagawa has a lot of problems. One is decrease of population. It is also inconvenient to get to this town from large cities. Therefore it is the biggest problem whether this city can increase both tourists and residents hereafter.



Suggestion for the future

When each person plays each role depends on their position, there would be a possibility to move on. Introducing a new perspective from organizations or the young also leads to community development.

