Texas A&M University Student Response to the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

College Station Japan Earthquake Relief Volunteers

In the days following the earthquake and Tsunami Japanese students at Texas A&M and members of the Japan club and Japanese community began to organize fundraising efforts to support Red Cross relief in Japan. Since the Japanese students lack a formal student organization, International Students Services and International Affairs have provided marketing and logistical support for the fundraising activities. At this time, the CSJERV has organized the following fundraising activities in support of the Red Cross relief efforts in Japan.

- Campus Donation Drive – A campus donation drive involving multiple student organizations was organized from March 21 through 23 at three locations around campus.
- Charity Rummage Sale – The volunteers organized charity rummage sale that took place on April 2nd at an off campus location.
- Japan Club Donation Jars – Partnering with local businesses, the Japan club placed donation jars throughout the communities of Bryan and College Station.

Aggie Japan Project

A Red Cross relief fundraising effort was spearheaded by the One Aggieland student organization and involving student organizations such as Texas A&M Red Cross Society and Arts Music and Poetry Society (AMPS). At this time the organizers have planned the following activities to raise money for the Red Cross relief efforts.

- AJP T-shirt Sales – Building off a sponsorship plan for the t-shirt, AJP has purchased 2,000 t-shirts from CC Creations bearing the special AJP logo. Current plans involve the sale of the t-shirt at $10 per unit through booths located around the campus starting on April 25.
- AJP Benefit Concert – A benefit concert on-campus showcasing local bands is in the process of finalization with proceeds going to the Red Cross Relief Efforts.

International Affairs participates in the planning meetings for AJP and will extend assistance through marketing the t-shirt sales efforts and benefit concert.

Development of Further Responses

- Letter to Koriyama – In consideration of the current state of Fukushima and Texas A&M’s historical ties to the region, a letter to civic leaders should be considered.
- Engineers Without Borders – International Affairs will reach out to the local student chapter to see if our office can help facilitate any plans for volunteer student projects in Japan.
- Study Abroad – The rebuilding process in Japan may provide opportunities for existing study abroad programs to add service learning components for participating students. Should sufficient interest exists our office would like to explore and support efforts by the lead faculty members to develop service learning components for programs in Japan.