Assistance to Foreign Nationals in the Areas Hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake

Akihiro Izumi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Foreign Residents in Japan
2,078,480
Registered as of March 2011

- Chinese: 31%
- Korean: 20%
- Brazilian: 10%
- Philippines: 10%
- Others: 30%
What had happened
More than 15,800 death confirmed including 23 Foreign nationals

Around 6,000 injured including 173 Foreign nationals
On March 11th

33,600 foreign residents lived in the three main affected prefectures.  

200,000 foreigners lived in the surrounding prefectures.  

423,000 foreigners were visiting the area.  

In total 700,000 foreigners were in the affected area.
Departure of Foreign Residents From the Affected Areas since March 11, 2011

Approx. 3,500 left Japan after the quake
Our response
Humanitarian action first
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

1 Information services

- Web based news release;
- Daily briefing for diplomatic corps;
- National Radio Network (NHK World); and,
- Briefing for foreign business communities.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

2 Support to Foreign Nationals

- Collaboration in search efforts with diplomatic corps, police and local government;
- Dispatch of the ministry officials to the affected sites; and,
- Facilitation of rescue and voluntary return arrangements for foreign nationals.
Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Immigration Bureau

- Quick issuance of Visas for families and humanitarian workers to assist victims.
- Eased re-entry and over-stay process for foreign residents.
Collaboration with IOM

A Pakistani family leaving Japan with the assistance of IOM and MoJ

IOM MOJ joint mission to the disaster affected area
Lessons learned
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN JAPAN: —East Japan Earthquake and the Policy on Foreign Nationals—
- Strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation, diplomatic corps, local governments and NGOs.

- Use IT (social media) for better communication, but P2P contact is vital for survival.

- Ensure safety net for vulnerable foreigners.

- But, DON’T forget that foreigners can play as an active agent in the crisis situation.
Thank You!