

## Leading efforts for regional reconstruction: Eight Projects and Reconstruction Action 100+

Tohoku University, as a member of the community affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, has established the Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research, which plays a leading role in helping bring affected communities back to normal by coordinating Eight Projects and supporting Reconstruction Action 100+.

(Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research Website: <http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/president/open/idrrr/>)

### <Eight Projects>

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| 1. International Research Project on Disaster Science      | 5. Tohoku Marine Science Project  |
| 2. Project for the Reconstruction of Community Health Care | 6. Radioactive Decontamination Project                                      |
| 3. Project for Environmental Energy                        | 7. Regional Industries Restoration Support Project                          |
| 4. ICT Reconstruction Project                              | 8. Industry-University Collaboration Development Project for Reconstruction |

### 1. International Research Project on Disaster Science

The International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) has been established to pursue an interdisciplinary and practical approach to enhancing disaster preparedness. The institute is tasked with reviewing and upgrading technology for reducing and managing disaster risks and with compiling and preserving records of the earthquake and tsunami for future generations.



Project to archive records of the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami



IRIDeS Professor Fumihiko Imamura briefed the Emperor and Empress on a project to manage disaster risks on May 12, 2012 (photo provided by the PR Division of Miyagi Prefectural Government)



Posting an IRIDeS sign



Medical staffers learning how to use state-of-the-art medical equipment



Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization Session to discuss community health care

### 2. Project for the Reconstruction of Community Health Care

- **The Comprehensive Training Center for Community Medicine** has been established to retrain medical staffers from the affected areas so that they can demonstrate better skills when they are back in community hospitals and clinics.
- **Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization** has been established to create a biobank that integrates medical and genome information; to build an information infrastructure for community medical services; and to develop highly skilled medical staffers.

### 3. Project for Environmental Energy

Meeting the energy needs of affected communities by researching and developing a disaster-resistant, clean energy system, as part of efforts to help reconstruct the Tohoku region.

### 4. ICT Reconstruction Project

Researching and developing a disaster-resistant infrastructure for information and communication technology to address vulnerabilities of ICT exposed in the wake of the earthquake, such as the disruption of mobile phone services.

### 5. Tohoku Marine Science Project

Tracking and monitoring changes in the fishery environment along the Pacific Coast to ascertain the impact the earthquake and tsunami had on the marine ecosystem in the Tohoku region as a step toward restoring the region's fishery industry.

### 6. Radioactive Decontamination Project

- Researching effective ways to decontaminate radioactive soil and developing a technology to make use of radioactive substances extracted from such soil.
- Analyzing the organs of cattle and other farm animals exposed to radiation to ascertain the biological impact of radioactive substances through environmental media.



Decontamination of the playground of a nursery school in Fukushima

### 7. Regional Industries Restoration Support Project

The School of Regional Innovative Producers trains corporate executives and up-and-coming business leaders from local communities to lead efforts to restore industries in the Tohoku region.

### 8. Industry-University Collaboration Development Project for Reconstruction

Working with local businesses and leveraging the technological expertise that Tohoku University has amassed to pursue new business opportunities in a joint effort to innovate and enhance the region's industrial infrastructure that will provide a basis for economically revitalizing the affected communities.

### <Reconstruction Action 100+>

Faculty members of Tohoku University's graduate schools and research institutes have initiated and been engaged in more than 100 voluntary projects of diverse scope to assist with the reconstruction of the affected communities in the region.

### Food-Agriculture-Village Restoration Support Project coordinated by Graduate School of Agricultural Science

This project assists in securing safe, sustainable food resources; in restoring the region's agriculture, forestry, fishery, and livestock industries; and in revitalizing the region's farming and fishing communities. Two-thirds of the graduate school's faculty members are engaged in project activities, which include planting coles in farmlands damaged by seawater; helping restore the aquaculture business of oysters; and rounding up cattle left unattended within a 20-kilometer radius of the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

(Website: <http://www.agri.tohoku.ac.jp/agri-revival/>)



### Off-Site Open Class on Smart Aging conducted by the Institute of Development, Aging and Cancer (IDAC)

IDAC professors visit community centers in the affected areas to talk to local residents about healthy aging and give them tips on how to live long and happy lives. The professors help people who had gone through a lot from the earthquake and tsunami take good care of themselves and help them get physically and mentally strong enough to take up the challenge of reconstructing their communities.

(Website: <http://www.idac.tohoku.ac.jp/demae/index>)



### Renewed commitment on the first anniversary

The start of the 2012 academic year coincided with the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. To keep the affected communities on a firm track to full recovery, it is imperative to carry out reconstruction projects with a long-range vision for the future of the Tohoku region in particular and Japan as a whole. Tohoku University will continue to work closely with businesses and local and national governments to address opportunities and issues associated with the region's reconstruction efforts. We are also committed to becoming an educational and research institution that attracts the brightest minds from around the world and that contributes to society.

Tohoku University has been a part of the community and has been receiving community support throughout its history of more than 100 years. We have received an outpouring of sympathy and encouragement from many people after the earthquake. As a way to return the favor, Tohoku University strives to become a world-class university as its mission states, and will continue to play a leading role in reconstructing the Tohoku region and in revitalizing Japan.