The Great East Japan Earthquake

On March 11, 2011, at 2:46 in the afternoon, a great earthquake hit the Tohoku region. It was of magnitude 9.0 and had a maximum intensity of 7 on the Japanese sevenstage scale, the greatest in the history of seismic observation in Japan.

Tremendous damage was caused to the coastal areas by tsunami.



The five campuses of the university were not damaged by tsunami.

Status of damage at Tohoku University

Some facilities and equipment in the university were severely damaged. Some walls were crumbled, and research equipment was destroyed. However, the campuses were safe and there were no injuries among the students and staff. A risk evaluation survey that was implemented afterward indicated that 90% of the buildings were safe to use.



Research building with damaged walls (Kawauchi Campus)



Research equipment damaged (Katahira Campus)

Books scatterd around Tohoku University Library (Kawauchi Campus)



10% of the buildings were severely damaged. (Aobayama Campus)

Status of Tohoku University restoration

To deal with damage to the facilities and equipment, the undamaged ones are being shared. Our university is now restoring not just the original educational environment, but also moving forward to become an even more excellent education and research institution.

On May 6, 2011, the Entrance Ceremonies, which had been postponed, were held in each faculty. On May 9, classes were started, and lectures, seminars and practical training have since been resumed. Students are active again in club activities, so the campuses are as lively as they were as before the earthquake.





Entrance Ceremony at the faculties and the graduate schools

Lectures being conducted as usual



Lively club activities



Students undergoing practical training

After the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, inaccurate rumors were spread about the effects of the earthquake, tsunami and radioactivity on education/research at Tohoku University.

In order to correct such rumors, further promote education, research and social contribution, and showcase our world-leading university's contributions to world society domestically and overseas, we have conducted various university-wide restoration



publicity campaigns since July 1. For these, we have created a variety of content, such as establishing a formal logo mark for the campaigns.