

## Preface

The sea floating man-made-objects whose potential cause was the Tsunami of Great East Japan Earthquake, hereafter referred to as "marine debris", has been adrift to the coasts of the U.S. and become the serious environmental threats. It is important to approach this problem from a variety of angles; not only through the inter governmental collaborations, but also through the cross-border projects by the private entities in both countries. The major debris driftage to the US coasts is prospected to reach around October 2012. Quick action is now essential.

The followings were implemented for this government-sponsored project. Besides the projects already started both in governmental and academic fields, the below is to accelerate the necessary investigations, data collections, and analysis of the whole debris problems as well as to establish the mutual communication basis among the related organizations.

### (1) Project Committee Establishment

The project committee was established to examine the whole procedures of the on-site investigation, data collection and the information disclosure. The members were those energetically tackling the marine debris and the sea environmental issues from the different fields; the staff members from Non Government Organizations, the researchers, and those from Non Profit Organizations striving for rebuilding from the earthquake. The committee meeting was held for three times. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was to overview the whole projects; the procedures both for the investigation and the informative activities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> featured the data analysis after the investigation, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> was for the review of the whole project, including two Japan forums and some future plans.

### (2) Field Investigation and Data Collections

The field investigation and data collections were conducted at the coastal areas of Hawaii and Ohio. This was aimed to make preparation for the major stranding of the disaster debris. Also the team looked into their countermeasures and comments from the local community.

The delegation consisted of the NGO members and the researchers from the above committee in (1); 8 for Hawaii and 6 for Oregon.

### (3) Raising Awareness

Two forums were held in Sendai and Tokyo to officially report the outcomes of the investigations and related activities. It was held for the Japanese NGOs, the private organizations, and other groups involved in marine environment conservation and the debris management. The outcomes should be fully taken advantage of by these attendees.

Especially, the following is why it had to be in Sendai, the major disaster stricken area of the Great East Japan Earthquake; media reported that some objects drifted, such as Japanese soccer balls or fishery buoys, and were tracked down of their sources and then returned to the original owners in Japan. For the Tsunami victims and their families, these objects are so precious because they are the life memories themselves. Holding the forum in this particular city, Sendai, draws the attention of the citizens and may give the deep knowledge of the marine debris from the disaster.

In the forums, the original DVDs were shown for the demonstration of the on-site investigations, aimed to provide background knowledge about the whole marine litter issues, especially those in Okinawa and Japan Sea coastal lines. The efforts to control ocean litter were also introduced.

Also, to these Japan forums, members of the US NGO and the related people were invited. They already had participated in the Japan-US NGO forum of disaster debris early in the last August. (Here, the gratitude should be given to Sassaiga Peace Foundation for the invitation support.) These foreign participants visited the Tsunami-hit coastlines, deepening their understanding about the disaster marine debris and its future management.

#### (4) The Project Operation Outlines

This project involved both Japanese and the US NGOs/ NPOs that are interested /already involved in general marine litter issues, Tsunami oriented marine debris, and the reconstruction of disaster hit areas.

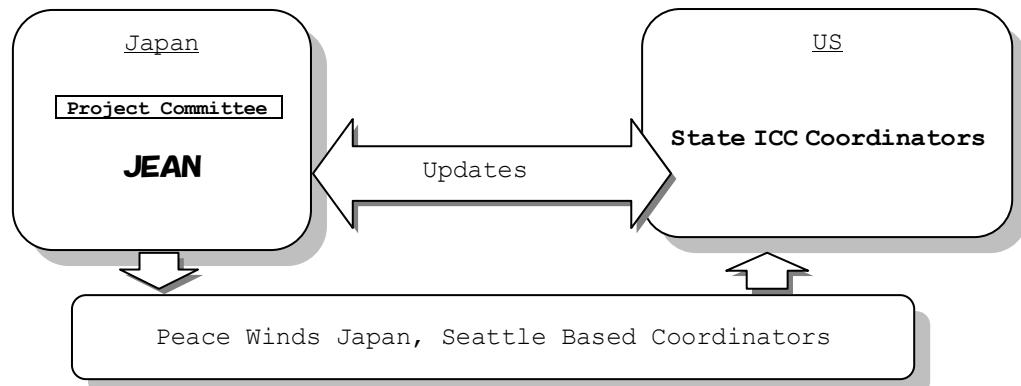
| Organizations   | Roles   |
|---|---|
| Ocean Conservancy   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supports for the Hawaii and Oregon investigations, including coordinating with the local related groups.</li></ul>        |
| Peace Winds Japan, Certified Non Profit Organization  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supports for the Oregon investigators, including coordinating with the local groups and collecting debris data.</li></ul> |
| Partnership Office, Non Profit Organization   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supports for Material development and inter Japan forum preparation / operation</li></ul>                                 |
| KIDS NOW, Non Profit Organization<br>Miyagi Disaster Relief Volunteer Center, Non Profit Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supports for preparation and operation for the Sendai Forum.</li></ul>  |

#### (5) Coordination Prior to the Investigation

In carrying out this project, JEAN and Ocean Conservancy, the Washington D.C. based Non Governmental Organization, worked together. These two organizations have been tied over

20 years through "International Coastal Cleanup". The coordinators in each state helped the investigations. Ocean Conservancy provided updates of the marine debris at coastal lines both in Hawaii islands and US mainland.

Also, the Seattle field coordinators worked hard between OC and the Oregon based ICC coordinators for the smooth operation of the investigation. The below shows the communication flow of the group participated.



#### Networking with the US NGOs and NPOs

One of the goals of this project was to strengthen the ties between US-Japan NGO/ NPOs. So far it has been attained. Moreover, this brought the advanced networking among the domestic organizations, deepening the understanding of such international collaborations as well as relating each organization.

※The ministry of Environment released the mid term prospects for Tsunami marine debris' driftage to the remote shores from Japan, November 9, 2012.

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting

- ① Tackling the disaster debris ~ the efforts so far
  - US-Japan NGO meeting on August 12
  - Marine debris issues before the disaster
  - Marine Debris Research Projects
- ② The objective of the whole project
- ③ The procedures for the project
  - Prospective arrivals of ocean debris from The Ministry of Environment
  - Marine Debris Overview on North American West Coasts
- ④ On Site Investigations / Questions and Answers

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee Meeting

- ① Updates of Disaster Ocean debris driftage
- ② The review of the field investigation and the findings
  - Regarding the press release from The Ministry of Environment
  - Reports from the Investigators

- The overview; investigation results and data collected
  - Additional comments from the investigation team members
- ③ Promotional campaign in Japan
- ④ Inter-Japan Forum preparation and operational arrangement
- ⑤ Other necessary updates

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Meeting

- ① The review of the inter Japan forums
- ② The review of the whole project
- ③ NGO/NPO The future plans for marine debris management
- ④ Other necessary updates