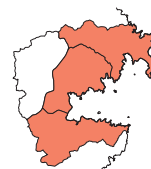


There's a Job We Can Do Here

Local construction companies



▲ April 26th, 2011 Search for missing persons, Tajiribatake, Shizugawa District

Photo courtesy of Ground Self-Defense Force Northern Army

Local construction companies found themselves with heavy machinery that survived undamaged, despite losing office buildings and the homes of many of their employees to the tsunami. In the desire to take whatever action could be taken, their executives assembled a week after the earthquake at one of the companies that was located on high ground. They set up a voluntary task force. There were 12 or 13 companies that had heavy machinery capable of being moved. A plan was drawn up to work in three teams. Both fuel and personnel were in short supply, but everyone worked together to overcome the various problems that arose each day.

The work done in collaboration with the Self-Defense Forces went especially well. Initially, the idea was to have the local companies remove rubble after the Self Defense Forces had finished searching for missing persons. However, as this would double-up on the work, the decision was made to search for missing persons in conjunction with removing rubble. This speeded up the process of finding and recovering the bodies of the victims. The two parties worked in this collaborative way, mindful of the bereaved families who wanted to know about the fate of their loved ones as soon as possible.

A result of this decision was the building of a relationship of trust with the Self-Defense Forces. Local construction companies also joined forces and played a major role in the recovery work that came later.