

## Activities of the Israeli Medical Support Team



▲ At the closing ceremony, the Israeli medical support team handed Minamisanriku Town Mayor Sato Jin the keys to the field hospital. Second from the left is then Mayor Sato Isamu of Kurihara, Miyagi Prefecture, the city that supported the setup of the facility.

All of the medical facilities in Minamisanriku had been destroyed.

A medical support team from Israel numbering some 60 personnel (14 doctors and 7 nurses together with engineers, interpreters, and transportation staff) worked for about 2 weeks from March 28 to April 10, 2011. After completing its mission, the team donated the medical equipment it had been using to Minamisanriku.

The city of Kurihara in Miyagi Prefecture, which had signed an agreement with Minamisanriku for mutual support in times of disaster, supported the work of the Israeli team through the speedy provision and installation of essential infrastructure such as generators, lighting equipment, water supply, makeshift toilets, and a prefabricated building to be used as a clinic.

In addition to providing medical care at the prefabricated clinic, the team made its rounds at the town's evacuation sites, made home visits to examine pregnant women, and conducted tests at the request of other medical personnel working in shelters.

A closing ceremony was held on the evening of April 10, which was the team's last day in Minamisanriku. It was attended by members of the team; the mayor of Minamisanriku; Sato Isamu, then mayor of Kurihara; and officials from the Israeli Embassy in Japan. Origami paper cranes were presented to each of the team members. As they made their farewell, children who had grown close to the Israelis during their time in Minamisanriku raced after them, sending them off.

The prefabricated building was taken over by the Shizugawa Hospital in mid-April 2011, becoming a field hospital where outpatient care was offered to the community.