



International Center for Clubhouse Development

Messages from Japanese Clubhouses and Colleagues about the Impact of the Earthquake and Tsunami

Update from ICCD March 16, 2011

Dear International Clubhouse Community:

Many of you have written and asked about the health and safety of our Clubhouse community in Japan following the catastrophic earthquake and the tsunami last Friday. Our international community is so close and so committed to each other that we have come to expect - and depend upon - this kind of concern from sister Clubhouses around the world.

I have been in contact with all of the Clubhouses in Japan and I am able to report that although the events are terrible for so many people in Japan, all of the Clubhouses are further south and have not experienced the direct impact of the earthquake or the tsunami. The members and staff are safe. However, as you can imagine, there is great uncertainty for all of the Japanese people right now.

I have sent a message to all of our Japanese member Clubhouses letting them know that the ICCD community is ready to help in any way that we can. I have asked our Japanese Clubhouse colleagues to please keep us informed and not to hesitate to ask for assistance if it is needed.

I am sure you all join me in hoping for the quick end to danger and uncertainty along with a quick recovery for all of Japan.

Below, I have included the emails I have received from the Japanese Clubhouses regarding their situations during this crisis.

Best regards,

Joel Corcoran
Executive Director
ICCD
www.iccd.org

Dear Joel,

Thank you for your concern relating to the major earthquake in Tokyo, and north part of Japan on the 11th of March.

We had never experienced this huge earthquake before. We were so surprised when the earthquake attacked us. Fortunately no one has been hurt at Sun Marina. In fact, we sent a message to Tapestry Clubhouse and Crossroads Clubhouse in New Zealand recently when they had the major earthquake in Christchurch on the 22nd of February. They said they were all right.

We have same experience, and we can support each other.

We are so happy that you are saying you are more than willing and ready to support us. We remember that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Metro West Area wrote to Sun Marina that "The Clubhouse in our Area are interested in helping the consumers who may have been effectedby the earthquake in Kobe January 1995.

Our consumers were very moved by the plight of those whose lives were disrupted by the earthquake. . . . If you know of such a Clubhouse , could you please ask them to contact me or could you let me know the name of the person I might contact. The goal would be to initiate a Clubhouse-to-Clubhouse affiliation program. Barbara Lou Fenby,DSW,LICSW,Deputy Area Director." There was no clubhouse in Kobe in those days,but we sent this warm message to consumers in Kobe. They were so glad to hear it. We feel this is clubhouse.

Kind regards,

Toshi,
All the members and staff of Sun Marina

Dear Joel

Hello, I am Daisuke.

Thank you E-mail.

There is no big damage because we are away from the seismic center. Though Tokyo shook very much, three Clubhouses(Habataki, Stride, SunMarina) are all right. Five groups which participated in NCDT think whether it is all right, too. I took out mail to five groups.

We thank for support of ICCD and you.

Best regards,

Daisuke Kato
Director of Clubhouse Peer Station Yu
(Nara, Japan)

Dear Joel Corcoran

There were a little earthquake here in our city, Kakamigahara-city, too. But nothing happened, it is all right. The east and north area of Japan have worst accidents. Some of Clubhouse in Tokyo happened a little bit more earthquake, but we heard that there are no accident, they are also fine. The worst areas are a few of foods, water, electricity, house and so on. Some atomic power plants were exploded.

Anyway, we, all Clubhouses in Japan is O.K. Please do not worry.
Thank you for the kindness and mail.

sincerely

Clubhouse Yuusen, in Japan

Dear Jack

I'm very sorry too late to acknowledge your great effort for our training and conference. And thank you for your information about good news of SAMHSA.

You know there were big earthquake and huge Tsunami in East Japan the day before yesterday. Are there any Tsunami disasters in Hawaii? The colleagues of Friendship are OK? You know we Members and Staffs of Clubhouse HABATAKI are OK. However, aftershocks have continued and there are great and serious damages in Tohoku region (the North-east zone of the main land Japan).

We, HABATAKI are in Kodaira-city, Tokyo, in westside of Tokyo. There is little damage of the Earthquake in Kodaira area. We have no trouble about lifelines, electric power, gas and water supply. But the electric power supply will be cut off part time intentionally in part of Tokyo after tomorrow. Because some nuclear power plants at Tohoku region that supply Tokyo with the power were down.

We received a email from Clubhouse Sun-Marina in the north of Tokyo is OK. There is a little damage in and around area of the Clubhouse, Stride Club in the center of Tokyo.

You know there is a little damage in the west Japan from Tokyo. So they have no damage Clubhouse Peer-Station Yu in Nara and Clubhouse Yuusen in Gifu.

There is no Clubhouse in Tohoku region where they have great and serious damage by the huge earthquake and Tsunami, but many people with mental illness live there.

However two more days passed from the Earthquake, Japanese government still can not grasp the whole aspect of the damage from huge earthquake and Tsunami.

Because many large bridges on mainroads were broke down. Some nuclear power plants at Tohoku region have happened radioactive leakage and electric power supply at Tohoku region were down. Some towns at the Pacific coastline of Tohoku region were swept away by the huge Tsunami. So the municipal administrations of those towns were lost.

What can we do for them?

We may not be able to do immediately for them.

But do you have any good idea?

The economics of Tohoku region has dealt fatal blow.

Not only Tohoku region but whole Japanese economics have huge damage. I'm afraid of the impact on the Japanese Social security policy.

Please say hello to colleagues of Friendship and ICCD.

With best regards.

Hiroshi Kawase

Director/Clubhouse HABATAKI

Dear all,

Thank you for your work for ICCD and support of Japanese Clubhouses.

Clubhouse Habataki cannot use internet yet, but the members and staff are all well and work as usual.

We think those of the other Clubhouses in Japan are all safe and sound.

In Christ,

Yumiko Sawada

Dear Joel and friends at the ICCD

Thank you for your encouraging words. Your concern is heartwarming. We are still in the aftershocks and sending days in unease. We are going to close from March 14th to March 25th. But staffs will come to Stride Clubhouse. We are doing all right. We sincerely thank you for your support. .

Kind regards,

Koto Teranuma
Clubhouse Director

Stride Clubhouse

Hello Colleagues,

Thank you again for your warm message.
Members and staff of Sun Marina work together to reach out our members who stay their homes.
There is a possibility to occur a huge earthquake again, so that we prepare for it. Japanese clubhouses help one another.

Sincerely,
Members and staff of Sun Marina