

## Documents of Relief Experiences “The Tono Volunteer Diary”

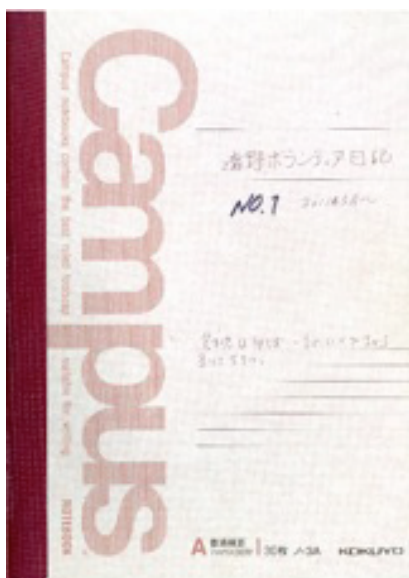
Yutaka, IWADATE

The Tono Volunteer Diary contains descriptions of events in tsunami-devastated areas—including the details of relief activities in these areas and the emotions felt by volunteers who participated in those activities—that were written by visitors to the Tono Union Volunteer Center. A number of people who came to the Center from Iwate prefecture, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and overseas left notes about their experiences in two notebooks that were laid out inside the Center. Turning the pages, a reader can find many fragmentary words and sentences about huge debris, rotten sanma fish, the conditions of the wounded, etc. These are the footprints of the volunteers who went to the Sanriku coastal area—a document of their relief experience.

One volunteer from Kyoto wrote that the journey from there to Sanriku spanned 1,000 km, and that he “saw breathtaking scenes that made impressions on my mind.” He also drew pictures in the notebooks, such as those seen below.

How did these volunteers engage in relief action in this tsunami-devastated area? What did they witness there? In the transitory space of Tono Union Volunteer Center, what kinds of events occurred? These materials will offer valuable hints to answer these questions.

With the cooperation of Kyosei Union Iwate, we preserved the Tono Volunteer Diary, making the raw materials available electronically as PDF files.



Cover of The Tono Volunteer Diary No. 1, begun in May 2011.



The Tono Volunteer Diary No. 1, May 3 and 4. Images of “sagging rails,” “odor,” and “rotten sanma.”

Yutaka IWADATE, Doctoral Student, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University