

**By Tomoko Masuyama**

**BU Online Criminal Justice Student**

First of all, I would like to thank all people who care about and support Japan. We all feel reassured by your cooperation. Thank you very much.

Japan was damaged by the powerful earthquake and tsunami seriously. Since Japan is surrounded by sea, all seaside places had to expect tsunami, and most transportation facilities in Japan were stopped until safety was confirmed.

Where I live is Fukuoka. It is in Kyushu, the western part of Japan. I did not feel the earthquake because my place was far from the hypocenter. However, there are many people who cannot know the safety of their family, relatives, friends, and acquaintances still now. Also, many logistics have been slow down since the damage from the disaster is so serious. Though it is recovering normal conditions, all entertainment programs on TV and events were voluntarily refrained all over the country.

Over 9,000 people died from the earthquake, over 12,000 people are still missing, and about 350,000 people continue to live in places of refuge. The media keep reporting how big the earthquake and tsunami were. However, they start to report bright topics of the disaster-stricken areas recently. For example, some places of refuge started school; people who were junior high school students helped to deliver relief goods; and people started to clear up the wreckage of the disaster. They already started to move for restoration in a positive manner.

Because of the earthquake, the nuclear power station in Fukushima did not work well, and nuclear leakage had been occurred. We found that some milk and spinach were polluted by radioactivity. I think the public are not so fearful about that so far. However, the media report that local people are fearful about a bad reputation.

Even in those outside the areas that were directly hit, some goods are in short supply because the administration has to send those goods to the stricken areas first. That's why most supermarkets put limit those goods per a family. We are told "do not buy up" everyday.

I am not sure whether the following story is reported worldwide or not. When I heard this story, I thought all people should know what was going on, so I would like to write it. All relief goods are sent to some relay points and then distribute to each place of refuge. However, those goods are not delivered to all places equally. There are some problems. Since the disaster was so serious, more places of refuge are formed than the administration expected. So there are many places where the administration does not know the existence. Also, a truck with goods cannot reach some places because of bad road condition and air pollution. Moreover, the public tend to send goods to the disaster-stricken areas where the media pick up. However, there are many areas with serious damage where are not picked up by the media and unknown to the public. These issues have to be solved soon.

Lastly, I would like to introduce the good news. On March 20, an 80-year-old grandmother and a 16-year-old grandchild were rescued from rubble. It was nine days after the earthquake. I hope many people who are missing will be saved like them.