

Higashimatsushima city

“From the 3.11 Tragedy to Reconstruction” Higashimatsushima-style?



Situation

Based on the lessons learned from the series of earthquakes in 2003, the city concluded an agreement concerning mutual cooperation in response to natural disasters with the Higashimatsushima General Construction Association at the inauguration of the city.

Based on this agreement, disaster waste disposal operations were implemented after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.



Action

The Higashimatsushima General Construction Association took immediate action to check how many vehicles and how much heavy machinery, power generators and drainage pumping equipment, owned by members of the association, were ready for operation. The member companies independently checked the damage situation and whether the roads were passable.

The city decided to implement sorted collection of disaster waste and temporary storage of the sorted waste, and to sort the disaster waste into 14 categories; wood, plastic, tyres, paper, cloth, stone/concrete, 4 home appliance items, other home appliances, iron, toxic waste, hard-to-handle objects, and earth and sand.

Mixed waste inseparable by machine was manually separated into 19 more categories. Waste which had to be incinerated accounted for 3% of the total disaster waste (combustible/non-combustible) generated in the city.

Impact

A total of 900 people out of the 1,500 who worked on the city's disaster waste disposal operations were victims. The city succeeded in creating employment opportunities for the victims.

Thanks to the cooperation of the disaster victims and the Higashimatsushima General Construction Association, the city achieved a recycle rate of 97%.

In the first year of the project, the disposal cost was reduced to 16.9 billion yen, 6.3 billion yen lower than the estimate of 23.2 billion yen.

The cost for four years of operations from 2011 to 2014 was 58.8 billion yen, which was lower than the estimate of 64.5 billion yen, meaning the city succeeded in cutting the cost by 5.7 billion yen, which accounted for 9% of the estimate.