

# SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Tomohide ATSUMI

Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University, Japan



# INTRODUCTION

- **Group Dynamics**
- 1993 Kobe Univ.
- 1995.1.17 Kobe EQ
  - ⌘ V. at a shelter
  - ⌘ Nishinomiya Volunteer Network
  - ⌘ Nippon Volunteer Network Active in Disaster
- **Academic and Practical Research on Disaster Volunteers**





# DISASTERS I PARTICIPATED IN AS A VOLUNTEER AND A RESEARCHER

1995 Kobe EQ

1996 Indonesia EQ

1997 Oil Spill Accident

1998 S.Tohoku Flood

1999 Taiwan Chichi EQ

2000 Tottoi W. EQ

2001 Terror in NYC

2003 Miyagi N. EQ

2004 Iran Bam EQ

2004 Niigata Chuetsu EQ

2007 Noto EQ

2007 Chuetsu-Oki EQ

2008 Sichuan EQ

2008 Iwate EQ

2009 Yamaughi Flood

2009 Sayo Flood

2011 EJ EQ & Tsunami

2011 Typhoon 12 Flood

2012 Flood in Uji, Kyoto

2013 Typhoon 18 Flood

2016 Kumamoto EQ

2017 Kyushu N. Floof

2018 Osaka N. EQ

2018 W. Japan Flood



# NIPPON VOLUNTEER NETWORK ACTIVE IN DISASTER (NVNAD)

} Est. 1995 in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo

} 2 Paid Staff

- 1. Disaster Relief and Support for Recovery

- 2. Disaster Preparedness for Communities

- ☞ Preparing for Disaster without saying Disaster Preparedness

- ☞ National Contest supported by Insurance company and media for 15 years

- 3. Networking



# OUR MOTTO

- Just be there with no intention to do anything
- Survivors-Centered
  - Respond to people in front of you
  - Volunteering is not a goal but a means
- Listen to silent voices
- Pay attention to where no one pay attention
- Not Support, but Interaction



# OVERVIEW OF THE QUARTER OF CENTURY

- 1995 First Year of Dis. V.
- 1997 Expansion: Relief
- 2004 Extension: Recovery
- Locally, V. for Dis. Preparedness
- Manuals→Survivors were lost
  - Efficiency of Disaster V.
  - The More V. the Better for what?
- 2011 Self-Censorship
- 2016 Imbalance of Drive for
- Institutionalization and Drive for Nomadization

Drive for Institutionalization





# COVID-19 IN JAPAN

Responsibility: Not Respond but Accuse someone of

- We should respond to people/situation, but we are afraid of being accused of...
- Disasters under COVID-19
  - Can we go and help? :No one should be left behind (SDGs)
- Government
  - Many Announcements without dialogues
- Society
  - Not Lockdown but Conformity Strategy

*We needed to know what you have been doing as citizens...*



# AT IACCR

- One of the Founders, introduced by my old good friend Mr.Zhang
- Presentations
  - 3 or 4 times both on practice and academic
- IACCR-Kobe with Mr. Yoshitsubaki at CODE
  - We divided the core group into two functions:
  - Chengdu: Headquarters, Conference
  - Kobe: Donation for International Response, Archive



# WHAT WE DISCUSSED IN IACCR: PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

- × How do you cover when your volunteers suffer from the virus (insurance)
- × How did you motivate citizens, especially young students, to respond seriously to the Coronavirus.
- × How did you take care of the elderly people and people with disability, if it is hard to see them directly? Sent messages? Chat over SNS?
- × Can we establish a model for future bio-hazard response?

Can Research Propose Any Ideas?



# WHAT WE DISCUSSED IN IACCR: ACADEMIC QUESTIONS, POSSIBLY RELATED TO PRACTICE

- × Psychological responses/care
- × Social Psychological issues
  - × Prejudice
    - × Do not have any and overcome.
  - × expert knowledge vs. lay knowledge
    - × Do not use “Cluster”, “Overshoot”, “Lockdown” without translation.
  - × attacking invisible enemy
    - × Be afraid but in a proper way, but how?
  - × solidarity via social network
    - × Keep some distance from authoritarianism, dictatorship...



## CASE 1: WE SHOULD SHARE *FREE MASKS AT LOBBY*

- ✗ Learned via IACCR conference that Citizen Volunteers helped Local Residents in Apartment in Wuhan.
- ✗ A resident in a tower apartment in Tokyo set a box at a lobby to facilitate the residents to put excessive masks, which anyone can take home if s/he needs it.



## CASE 2: RESPECT OUR CULTURAL TADITION

- × Learned through the IACCR that a case of citizen volunteers for the local elderly people.
- × Resumed washing hands with rainwater in a traditional tub before entering into a house (Indonesia)
- × Distributed information about COVID-19 at weekly meetings at Buddhist temples (Sri Lanka).

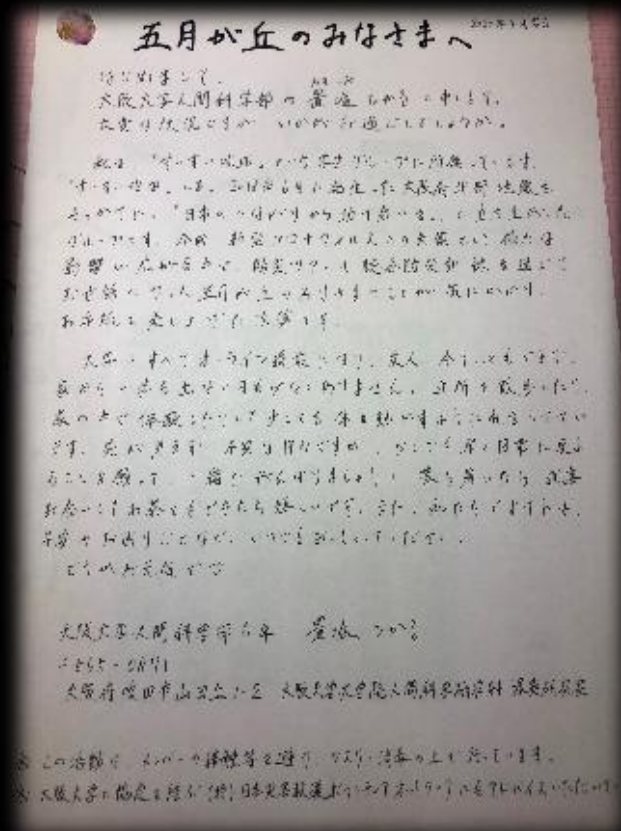


## CASE 3: RESPECT THE ELDERLY PEOPLE

- Student at Osaka University have launched a local project, Sui-Sui-Suita (Get Close Support Team), to support old residents living alone near Osaka Univ. campus.

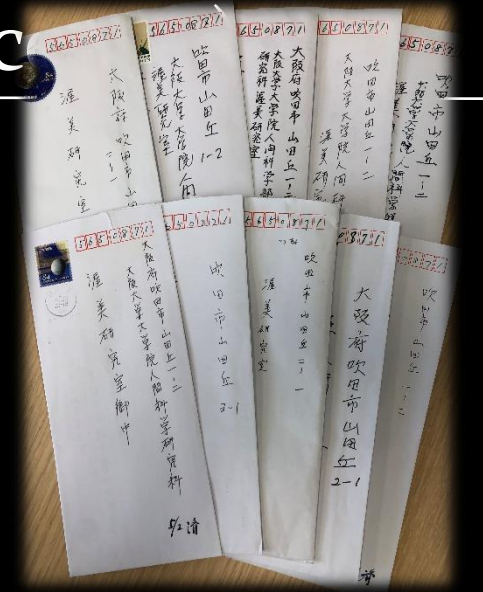


# Activities of the Get Close Support Team





# Responses received from the senior citizens (exc



"The letter was reassuring and moved me to tears."

"The encouraging letters made me feel a little better."

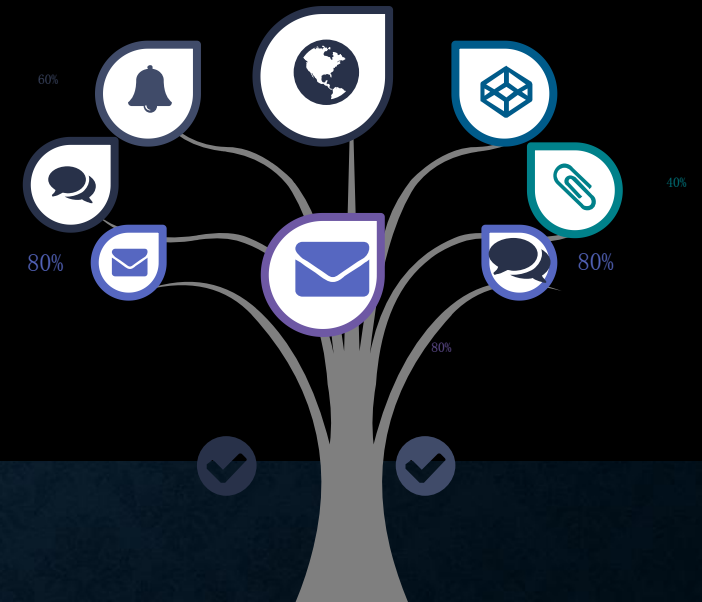
"For someone who lives alone, letters are the best."

"I walk for about an hour a day."

"I write and memorize difficult Chinese characters and do crossword puzzles."

"I feel mentally and physically uncomfortable staying at home alone."

"I'm worried about when the threat of corona will hit me (due to my chronic illness)."



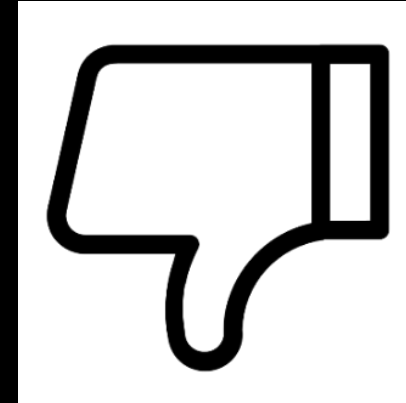


# Exchanging letters

Activities of the Get Close Support Team



It's great to hear from the elderly  
that they are happy and energized,  
but there are also problems...



- How do we respond to the responses we receive?  
(Do we respond to each one individually? Share the content?)
- "I was happy to receive your letter, but I've forgotten the Chinese characters, my motivation to write has waned, and I don't have the strength to go to the mailbox. What should I do? The voice of an elderly person



# Communication through correspondence: newsletters

すいすい吹田 2020年5月 Vol.1  
よりそい隊通信

五月が丘のみなさん、こんにちは。  
先日はすいすい牧田のメンバーより、みなさまにお手紙を送らせていただきました。お返事を下さったり、福祉委員さんや社協さんにいろいろなご感想を寄せて下さったりと、みなさまからの反響を頂けてうれしく思っております。今日は通信の形で、7名の学生からのお便りをお届けします。




こんにちは！ 冬は暑く、手はぬく。家の外は  
雪がまだ降らない。元気に動いて、微笑したいです。  
私も最近、農業を始めています。冬は授産です。昨日  
は明雄とも手伝って雪を降らせた！ 秋の成長録日記の編み  
でやりきります。 冬は、ぬく。

2月25日 午前にお遊びしてはいかが?  
 ながなが外虫もでない今の時期、庭上にも(?)  
 毎日の炊炊のおかげで、料理の腕が上へがたまに!  
 今からできることを擇んで、少しでも楽に毎日  
 過ごせたらいいなあと思ひます。  
 少しでも早く、コロナが終息して、皆様に会える日を  
 1ヶ月半にしています。 野見山 菜々子

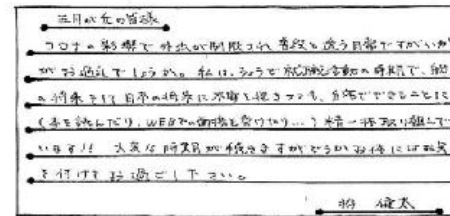


私は最近、今の生活に慣れてきたように感じつつ、やはり普通に学校に行ったり人と会ったりしたいなあなんて思っています。みなさんはどのようにおすごしですか？  
今感じられる幸せを大切にしつつ、みなさんにお会いできる日を楽しみにしていますごき

岡田 知花

五日が直のび安さま、2人になちわ! お元気でまか! あといひ 簡  
は5日口なりましたね~私の後輩は家の近くに3Fを越して  
きました。最近、毎日夜2鰯一鰯に食っています。私の料理の腕  
がますますよくなった気がします。嬉しい~ 簡 雁利

おはたましややお過ごしですか？ 私に最近、母が学生時代に読んでいた小説を読んでいます。不思議な感覚です。私ももう子供はいないのだと思います。大学生の今、自分が何を想うのかじっくり向き合えて、私にはまだお会いできず昨日には新しい私にはなっているかと考えています。倉田和佳



正月の日のかりで二日づかん。外出自禁の規制が緩むが、むかしが  
お祭りでいられたことに似て居て居る。テレビでもコロナの音  
ばかりで辟易して居ます。そんな中で、今月の多岐と一緒  
料理を作ることに決めています。水は今までレジの裏に暖めて置  
く。この間、山梨粉も水で溶いた食、おもむき、レンジに火を入れて煮  
て居た。そうするとやはりもちもちになります。今度は元々の  
しおと水につけて、今ではおとなにならばせて居るのか下の子が、  
時間があるとは思って居る。お茶も何年ぶりか。釧田(はつた)玲子

学生のメッセージ、いかがでしたでしょうか。なかなか直接会ってお話することはできませんが、今後も通信という形を通してみなさまとつながりを持つことができればと考えています。

そしてこの状況が収束した際には、みなさまと地域のイベントなどで会いたいと思います。その日を楽しみにしております。

大阪大学人間科学部 学生有志「すいすい吹田」一同

何かご意見やご感想などおありの際、下記の連絡先にお寄せください。

7565-0871

大阪府吹田市山田丘1-2

大阪大学大学院人間科学研究科 渥美研究室

メールアドレス: [suisuisuita618@gmail.com](mailto:suisuisuita618@gmail.com)



※この活動は吹田市社会福祉協議会と連携し、会議はすべてオンラインを活用するなど、感染症対策に留意したうえで行なっています。



# Communication through correspondence

・応募締切...6/27 (日) 用ください

～ご意見・ご感想があればぜひお寄せください～

いつも「よりよい隊通信」  
あやとりが楽しいです。皆さんの日常  
生活が目に浮かぶようで、毎回楽しく読ませて  
いただいています。今回は「川柳」を募集され  
ているとのこと。さっそく作ってみました。楽し  
くせにならうかな。いいきっかけをいただ  
きました。あやとりが楽しいです。これから  
暑さの本番。体調に気をつけ  
元氣にお迎え下さいネ。

江口  
幸文

今月号はいかがでしたか？楽しんでいただければ  
幸いです😊そして、みなさまの渾身の一句、心待  
ちにしております！  
大阪大学人間科学部学生有志「すいすい吹田」一同

・応募締切...6/27 (日) 用ください

～ご意見・ご感想があればぜひお寄せください～

すいすい吹田の皆さん、今日は  
「よりよい隊通信」の復活を願っています  
又、皆さんの「素直」を大切にしたいと思います。

---

何らかのメールを送ったの？届いているかどうか  
だけでも報告して頂けませんか？  
(R2.10.12 → もしかしてアドレス変更...かも (618宛れ)  
R3.1.13.5 → 完全アドレス  
どちらもメールで連絡にできるかな、なんて  
思っています。届いていないのかな...  
バネム ガンバリマウス (光輝)

(いまま 敦基)

K.0110.tokiemom. @docomo.ne.jp

今月号はいかがでしたか？楽しんでいただければ  
幸いです😊そして、みなさまの渾身の一句、心待  
ちにしております！  
大阪大学人間科学部学生有志「すいすい吹田」一同

Feedback from readers



# Feedback from students

---

“It was a mysterious experience that I wrote a letter to someone I had never met.”

“I’ m glad that they seem like my grandparents.”

“I didn’ t feel like I met her for the first time. It was more like a reunion.”

“the activities at Suita helped me to integrate more deeply into life in Japan.”

“It also became an opportunity for lonely international students to deepen their ties with the community.”

“There is always some uneasiness and apprehension in communicating by mail”

**⇒The encouragement is actually mutual!**



# FUNCTIONS OF IACCR

- Information sharing through the international network reminded people of their own social norms and traditional ways of living and motivated them to apply them in the context of COVID-19 with respect especially toward the elderly people. Therefore, we concluded that international network of volunteers for COVID-19 had strong potential for effective community response against epidemic disasters and some implications for natural disasters in future.



# FOR FUTURE

(1) Keep in touch with each other through IACCR! International exchange of information and experiences motivated people in Japan to help people nearby.

(2) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of Disaster Preparedness for future COVID-19 and pandemic

- *A lawyer in Chengdu reported at an IACCR seminar how he communicated with the residents in communities (社区). It is a great way to the 3<sup>d</sup> generation of disaster preparedness.*
- Japan has been famous for its good preparedness for natural disasters. However...
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Generation: Specialists teach people how to prepare. One-way teaching. Bored.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation: Social organizations work with local people for disaster preparedness. If you are interested in, you would join, but...
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation: Disaster preparation is woven into a local/traditional/cultural event.

(3) Let's pile up our findings into a book, which can be read by people in general!



# FOR YOUR DISCUSSION

- How can you go beyond professionalism for the social workers?
- What is the most important spirit(s) of volunteerism for the volunteers?



**Thank you VERY much!**

**謝謝！**

**ありがとうございました！**



日本災害救援ボランティアネットワーク  
兵庫県西宮市