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Five Months after 3.11: Japan's triple disaster and the Challenges of Japanese Civil Society



Tuesday 9 August 2011, 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Professor Yukie Osa, Rikkyo University / Association for Aid and Relief, Japan

Law Link Theatre
Law Building [7]
Fellows Road, ANU

On 11 March, Japan was hit by unprecedented triple disasters, a massive earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0, 30-meter-high tsunami and the explosion of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Damages have been tremendous. As of 26 July, 20,444 people are confirmed dead or missing, and more than 100,000 people are still in evacuation. It seems Japan cannot return to the days before 11 March in many senses. What impact have the triple disasters had on the Japanese society, and how has the Japanese civil society dealt with the challenges it has faced? What lessons can be learnt from these disasters? This lecture will explore these questions from the perspectives of the Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) and Japan Platform, two of the best-known humanitarian NGOs in Japan which have been actively involved in the disaster relief.

Professor Yukie Osa, BA, MA (Waseda), PhD (Tokyo) Department of Sociology, Rikkyo University; Chairperson of the Board, Association for Aid and Relief (AAR), Japan; and a Board member of Directors, Japan Platform (JPF). She worked for AAR from 1991-2003. As the head of emergency assistance operations, she was involved in programs in Cambodia, Former Yugoslavia, Mozambique, Kosovo, Chechnya, and Afghanistan. During and after the Ottawa Process, she led the Japanese Campaign to Ban Landmines, as a member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). In 2008, she took up a position of the Chairperson of the Board of AAR. AAR has been active in relief operations in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. From 2006 to 2011, she was also the Chairperson of Board of Directors for Japan Platform, which is a consortium of 33 Japanese NGOs, MOFA and Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) to provide humanitarian assistance to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

This public lecture is hosted by the Department of International Relations, in association with the Australia-Japan Foundation and the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Nottingham.

Part of the workshop on
Cultures of Humanitarianism;
Perspectives from the Asia Pacific

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