

‘ A real friend becomes obvious on a bad day’

Respected panelists, valuable guests,

I would first like to thank the organizers of such important event. It is a great honor for me to be a part of this organization and i respectfully commemorate Dr.Atsushi Miyazaki.

First of all, I would like to give some brief information about our association. Kimse Yok Mu solidarity and aid association was established in 2004. Even though, it is a young association, Kimse Yok Mu has become one of the biggest NGOs in Turkey. Our association was awarded the ‘outstanding service award’ by the Turkish Parliament in 2008. Our association gained ‘Special Consultative Status’ of UN-ECOSOC in 2010 and in 2011, our association was voted as the best NGO in Turkey by İstanbul residents.

Kimse Yok Mu Association is delivering aid in 91 countries around the world. We are delivering this aid regardless of religion, language,race, colour or ethnicity. We are distributing aid directly to the needy people , door to door, through the organization of partner associations or our volunteers in these related countries. we are not leaving the aid materials to the partner associations or volunteers. All the aid materials that are given to these needy people, come from Kimse Yok Mu, and together with our partner association workers or volunteers and our association representatives, they are distributed. This is our working principle.

There has been a strong bond between Japan and Turkey throughout history and Japan was one of the first countries that provided relief to needy Turkish people when the huge Marmara earthquake occured in 1999. Japan has always been very helpful to Turkey and the Turkish people.

Please- be empathetic; you are an aid association and there are nearby sister country suffering due to huge earthquake,tsunami and nuclear disaster.How can you wait at home and do nothing! Your brothers and sisters are suffering, and you are sitting at home!!! This is totally unacceptable.So that we wanted to be together with the Japanese people to share their pain.Immediately, we came together fort his purpose and we discussed- what we can do, and how can we do? Our plan was as follows;

- 1) To start an aid campaign and promote the campaign on our website, national newspapers and tv stations to inform donors about the campaign,
- 2) To get in contact with our partner associations and volunteers in Japan,
- 3) To immediately go to Japan, our first team was 5 persons, including myself.
- 4) To distribute clean water and food to the needy people in Sendai
- 5) To evacuate as many as possible people from Sendai to secure regions such as Osaka and Tokyo
- 6) To continue the distribution of food, water, blankets e.t.c
- 7) To make a permanent project from the rest of the budget, depending on how much is collected during the campaign.

By this plan, we immediately started to organize, immediately.

Our first team, including myself, arrived in Japan one day after the earthquake. The Second day after the earthquake we were in Sendai. When we were in Sendai, the 3rd and 4th nuclear power plants exploded. When we arrived to the tsunami stricken area, we felt so sad and pained. The landscape was terrible-sad and painful. We have seen that the earthquake did not damage anything. Japan has made all the necessary precautions about earthquakes. This gives us hope. But the tsunami has damaged too much. Of course, it is difficult to take preventative measures for tsunamis. But, I deeply believe that in the near future, Japan can take some strong preventative measures for tsunamis, too. I am sure of this.

We have visited the crisis coordination center in Sendai and we were informed by the officials about what we can do and where. And then we started to organize the aid. We evacuated 49 persons from Sendai to Tokyo and Osaka. Meanwhile food, clean water and blankets were distributed to hundreds of people. After that, we repaired one school, Horizon Japan International School, Sendai Branch. which was damaged very little due to earthquake.

Generally our association is functioning as follows;

We get in contact with our partner associations or our volunteers in the related country. We obtain certain information about scale of the disaster and what is needed. And then we are having a meeting about our strategies. What we are going to do? And how we are going to do it? Our team is going to the related disaster region. Depending on the disaster and country. Our aid teams stay in the region, one week, one month, one year, sometime 3 years. sometimes our teams stay in the region for a long time because as I metioned above, our aid should be distributed door to door directly to the needy people. We are not simply giving our aid items to any association or volunteers in the related country; we are co-operating with them. Our representatives control all the distribution until that aid reaches the needy people. This is our association's principle.

On an-other subject; will your organization come to help if disaster happens again in Japan?

If disaster occurs wherever in the world, we wish to be with these needy people. We try our best for needy people, even disaster occurs again and again. If it is Japan, we must be in Japan, next to our Japanese brothers and sisters, to share their pain. This is our responsibility (and feelings) as Turkish people, especially for Japan and the Japanese people. Because, Japan and Japanese people are beloved by Turkey and Turkish people.

And finally; there is a proverb in Turkish; 'A real friend becomes obvious on a bad day'. I would like to explain this proverb a little; if one person is wealthy, that person might have so many good friends! But if everything turns up-side down, when that person loses everything and needs help and support, we must look at that how many friends are going to be standing by himself or herself. These are the real friends; when one person is in need, his or her real friends will be next to

them. So we believe that Japan and Japanese people are real friends to Turkey and Turkish people. Likewise, Turkey and Turkish people are real friends to Japan and Japanese people - So that if there is going to be not just one, may be thousand times disaster, we wish to be in Japan, with Japanese people every time. We feel that this our responsibility as real friends. And I deeply believe that if disaster occurs in Turkey again, the Japanese government and Japanese people will also come to help to Turkey and the needy Turkish people.

I believe that Japan and Japanese people are very helpful. So I am sure, you help to people who is in need wherever in the world, suffering due to disasters.

who Thank you very much for listening.