

# Top Interview

## Report from the Disaster Task Force Vol.4

Setsuo Takekawa, Chairman of Medical Corporate Body KEN-IKU KAI



March 23, 2011

It is the sincere wish of the Ken-Iku Kai Group that the disaster-stricken areas will be able to rebuild as soon as possible. Through the various forms of cooperation provided by everyone, we hope to carry out support activities at our Group's hospitals and facilities that are located in the disaster-stricken areas, and contribute in any way we can to those who suffered in this catastrophic disaster. In this issue, I would like to report to you what has been accomplished from March 18 onward.

### [Ishinomaki Hospital & Himawari Home Healthcare Service Division]

#### Dispatch of disaster relief medical staff

- On March 18, eight volunteers (one doctor, four nurses, and three care providers) from within the Ken Ikukai Group were dispatched to Ishinomaki as disaster relief medical staff. The dispatched members are providing support for local staff who have been working continuously since the earthquake struck.
- Since March 20, five staff members (four nurses and one clerical staff) dispatched from Akane Medical Corporation of Yamaguchi Prefecture have been providing manpower assistance.



#### Restoration of electric power

- With the cooperation of Maeda Corporation, construction work was carried out on the switchboard at Ishinomaki Hospital, resulting in the restoration of electric power to a part of the 2nd floor, and the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors, which had not suffered any flood damage.

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### **Toward resumption of medical services**

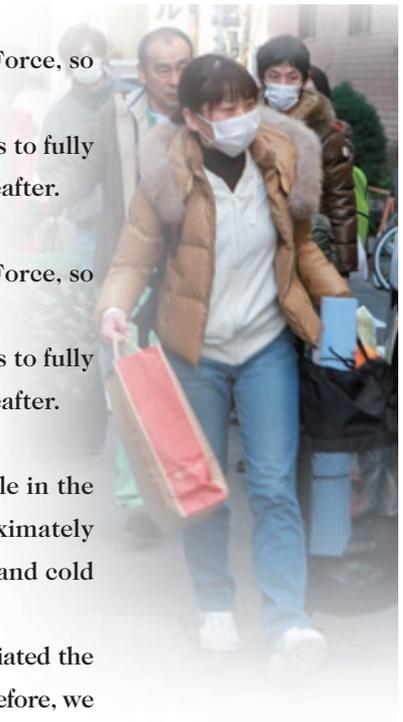
- Shipments of relief supplies are regularly being made by the Disaster Task Force, so it has become possible to provide a stable flow of supplies.
- It will apparently take a significant amount of time for Ishinomaki's lifelines to fully recover. The Disaster Task Force plans to continue providing support hereafter.

### **Toward providing a stable flow of supplies**

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### **Support for the people in the stricken areas**

- With the aim of providing assistance in maintaining the health of the people in the stricken areas who were evacuated from their homes, we provided approximately 1000 packets of such items as vitamins, medicine for intestinal disorders, and cold medicine, free of charge, to those who needed them.
- From the stricken areas, we received a message that "everyone really appreciated the medicinal items," together with a request for additional medicinal items. Therefore, we are currently making preparations to provide them with additional supplies.



### **Support from all over**

- Supplies and expressions of sympathy have been received from all over the country. We are truly grateful.
- As a result of a program aired by NHK (Japan's national public broadcasting organization) that showed the local staff struggling to carry out their work, we received encouragement from a great many people. Thank you very much.

### **[Iwaki Yumoto Hospital]**

#### **Toward providing a stable flow of supplies**

- Because Iwaki Yumoto Hospital is located in the city of Iwaki in Fukushima Prefecture, it has been suffering from harmful rumors related to the accident at the nuclear power plant, and it continues to suffer from a shortage of supplies, even though it is not in an evacuation zone. Amidst these circumstances, the mayor of Iwaki appealed to the media that "Iwaki is safe," resulting in a slight improvement in the situation.

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- At present, it continues to be difficult to secure sufficient supplies locally, so the Disaster Task Force regularly sends supplies.

**Toward resumption of medical services**

- With regard to Iwaki Yumoto Hospital, we believe that if the shortage of water and supplies could be resolved, it would be possible to resume normal hospital operations. The restoration of the water supply is expected to take one more week.
- All necessary information is being collected with the aim of achieving complete restoration, and the Disaster Task Force will provide support.

This summarizes the current situation at Ishinomaki Hospital, its Himawari Home Healthcare Service Division, and Iwaki Yumoto Hospital.

The Disaster Task Force has established a system that allows it to continuously provide support to these hospitals and facilities. Although things are still a long way from how they were prior to the disaster, it is now possible to carry out a certain level of stable operations. Therefore, the Ken-Iku Kai Group's Disaster Task Force, which had been set up to continuously provide emergency measures around-the-clock in response to the earthquake-related disaster, was dissolved once, and from today, reopened under the name of the Restoration Support Office. The function of the Restoration Support Office is to continuously provide support to hospitals and facilities that suffered damage from the earthquake-related disaster.

Hereafter, we will continue to upload information to our website whenever there is some major activity being carried out in support of restoration efforts. We ask for your support and cooperation for our efforts.

