

Government-private joint project on a digital archive to record great east Japan earthquake

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The Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 took a heavy toll of lives and devastated the regional society. It is responsibility of us, current generation, to hand down this experience and lessons derived from it for the next millennium as a shared possession in order to build a safer society. Based on this philosophy, “311 Marugoto Archives: Archiving Project of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 2011” was launched, with the aim of digitally recovering *past* memories of the devastated area as well as digitally archiving images and materials showing *the present* and those related to reconstruction plans for *the future*. The project is run in cooperation with those who have suffered, local governments, state research institutes, universities, NPOs, volunteers and private sectors. Digital contents in the Archives are in principle posted on the Internet after clearing up personal information, image rights and copyrights issues, so as to be available at libraries, museums, universities and research institutes both locally and globally, as reference materials for reconstruction plans of the region and disaster prevention studies. We have already started shooting and collecting images, both moving and still, with support from the media in addition to the above-mentioned actors. Also launched was a government-private joint project to develop digital educational materials for elementary schools in the region. In this presentation, outlines of the 311 Marugoto Archives project as well as technical and institutional challenges which digital archives concerning disasters are facing will be covered. (245 words)

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