



Kumamoto University

Kumamoto Earthquake Experience Project (KEEP)

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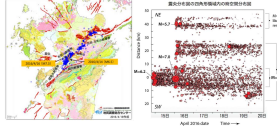
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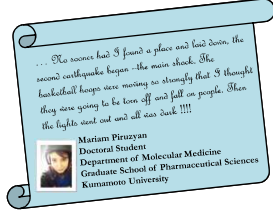
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Introduction



In April 2016, Kumamoto Prefecture in Kyushu, Japan, suffered two major earthquakes of an intensity not seen since the Tohoku earthquake of 2011. Many foreign residents found their lives tough, especially who could not speak Japanese, and struggled to get help and information.

With the ambition to collect and spread the message of those who experienced the earthquakes to people across the world in English, Kumamoto Earthquake Experience Project (KEEP) was started in May 2016 with the support of Kumamoto University.



... The room had 3 fans and had down, the second earthquake began - the main shock. The basketball hoops were moving so strongly that I thought they were going to be torn off and fall on people. When the lights went out and all was dark!!!!

Mariam Piruzyan
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Problem



- Information provided by Kumamoto local government about natural disasters are in Japanese.
 - Most foreigners have never experienced an earthquake so they do not relate to these information easily.
 - Ignorance and the assumption that Kumamoto is a safe area within Japan and that an earthquake would not happen anytime soon.
- These are some of the issues that foreigners in Kumamoto failed to take into account before coming and while living in Kumamoto. Consequently, when the earthquake struck Kumamoto, most foreigners didn't know what to do.



Most of these problems can be avoided .

Our Aim

- To raise awareness of the earthquake to foreigners in Kumamoto and rest of Japan through local governance
- Raising awareness to foreigners and Japanese through local governance of earthquake disasters based on our experiences. Last year, we found out that most of us didn't know what to do during the earthquake. We hope foreigners and Japanese alike can learn from our experiences by raising awareness through organizing and conducting workshops, interviews, and collaborating with other stakeholders, so as to avoid most of the problems that we encountered last year and more importantly, respond to earthquakes more effectively.



Project Activities in 2017

Through KEEP's exposure and recognition, Kumamoto International Foundation (KIF) has assisted in providing data and translation of the English version of KEEP's Earthquake Experience Booklet into Japanese.



KEEP Earthquake Experience Booklet English Version.

KIF has further opened opportunities for KEEP through connecting the project to other stakeholders where KEEP has further expanded its message to other parties and areas within Japan



Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) invited KEEP members to Tokyo to talk about foreigners' earthquake experiences

KEEP members went to Kobe to attend the exchange meeting to share the experiences of those from Kumamoto with those who experienced the earthquake there in 1995

Project Activities in 2017

Sharing KEEP activities with local people in Kumamoto at Kumamoto International Foundation (KIF) on the one year anniversary of the Kumamoto Earthquake



KEEP members participated in Community Leadership in Disaster for foreign residents organized by Japan Israid Support Program (JISP)



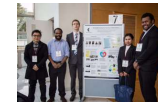
KEEP organized the disaster drill for foreign residents with the collaboration of KIF

Sharing Experience to ASEAN Students

KEEP members sharing their personal experiences with ASEAN students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines. Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions.



Prizes and News of Project



KEEP won a prize from the Kumanichi newspaper as the voice of foreign residents in Kumamoto



KEEP got the certificate from the President of Kumamoto University for our contribution related to Kumamoto earthquake



Articles about KEEP were published in the Kumanichi newspaper two times



KEEP's activities was published in Japan Times



KEEP's activities was also published in the São Paulo Newspaper, Brazil

Outcomes of KEEP

- Becoming the voice of foreigners
- Raising the foreigners awareness to the preparation to disaster by sharing own experiences
- Reminding the foreigners and local residents in Kumamoto and rest of Japan that what happened in Kumamoto earthquake and what we need to prepare for the future
- Letting the local Government know missing important information from foreign residents via our project

Future Activities

- The Japanese version of our booklet will be published in collaboration with KIF
- Workshop with Indonesian Students in Kumamoto University
- Video shooting about KEEP by CLAIR
- Disaster Workshop in Kobe
- Annual report of project activities to Kumamoto University

KEEP Logo

- The sad castle represents the damage and suffering of Kumamoto
- Two helping hands in different colours represents local and international communities, together embracing Kumamoto with care, love forming a heart
- With the motto - Let's KEEP Together!!! (頑張ろう Kumamoto)



Members



Andrew Mitchell (United Kingdom) President
アンディュー ミッチェル(英国) 大統領



Khine Zar Wynn Myint (Myanmar) Vice-President
カイザーウインミン (ミャンマー) 副社長



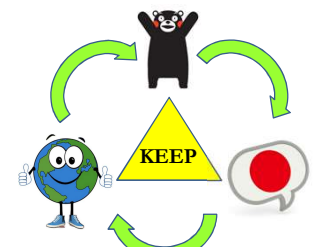
Francis Wargirai (Papua New Guinea) Head of Media
フランシスワルジライ (パプアニューギニア) メディア



Russel Yangin (Papua New Guinea) Head of Analysis
ラッセルヤンジン (パプアニューギニア) 分析



Kaung Kyaw (Myanmar) Head of Design
カウン チョウ (ミャンマー) 設計



We can't predict, we can't prevent, but we can prepare !!!
KEEP aims to spread its message in order to help people understand the risks of disaster in Japan and prepare for them.