HOPE FOR project
Practical Build Back Better Efforts, and the Course of Action Hereafter

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Arahama district is located in the Pacific coastal area approximately 10 km east of the center of Sendai City.

It was designated as a disaster risk area in December 2012 after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The residents of approximately 800 households, who used to have their homes in the area, moved inland under the “Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project.”

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Arahama Elementary School, founded in 1873, was located 700 meters inland from the coast with 91 children commuting there.
Arahama District before the Great East Japan Earthquake

The community with approximately 2,200 residents of 800 households. Used to be a popular, and the only bathing resort in Sendai City, welcoming approximately 40,000 sea bathers annually.
Almost all parts of the town were washed away by tsunami, leaving approximately 190 dead and missing.
From Day 1 after the Great East Japan Earthquake, they started reporting confirmation of safety at Shichigo Elementary School, provided as a evacuation center, by using SNS such as Twitter.

We received more than 100 confirmations of safety. However, as time passed, the number of safety confirmations began to decrease. Despite feeling bewildered in reporting deaths to those with whom they had not previously been acquainted, they kept providing the safety confirmation service.

After a while, we began to collect the pictures left exposed to the weather in Arahama district and hold gatherings to return them to the owners.

“Omoide kaeru (Memories have returned),” a specified non-profit corporation, with a resident of Arahama as the representative, has continued this activity up to the present day.
On March 11, 2012, in collaboration with 1,700 visitors to Arahama district, we released balloons containing flower seeds into the sky above Arahama. This project since then has been annually performed on March 11. We also conducted other projects like the Candle Night to light up the lightless town and the Music Event using the music room of the former Arahama Elementary School, where they used to enjoy our school life.
The former Arahama Elementary School, which is no longer used as a school
since the Great East Japan Earthquake.
As a place which welcomes those wishing to visit their hometown, where they
will no longer be able to live ever again.
As a place which allows those who love the coastal area to spend some
reminiscent time.

HOPE FOR project
Sendai x Arahama Weekends

On August 17 and 18, 2013, as the collaborative project with the Tohoku University School of Design, Social Axis, we organized “Sendai x Arahama Weekends” at Sunmall Ichibancho shopping street in the downtown of Sendai and Arahama Elementary School. We projected on the arcade walls the images of “the past, present and future” of Arahama and held talk sessions on their future direction with those conducting activities in the city area by inviting those dealing with agricultural restoration in the Arahama district and those continuing recovery activities.
They began to examine how to utilize the remaining site in the coastal disaster risk area, which the city purchased under “the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Promotion Project.” Regarding the Arahama district, approximately 40 hectares of vast land is now under discussion on how to utilize it in future.

Last year, we conducted hearings to former residents of the area, specifically to those who were 16-80 years of age at the time of the disaster, and visiting each one of them in person, frankly asked them to share their ideas and opinions about the utilization projects and listened to their memories of Arahama.

We produced “the Memory Map” on which to mark the places related to our memory.
これからの人へ「帰結」していくこと
これからの人へ「帰結」していくこと
The Ruins of Great East Japan Earthquake: Sendai Arahama Elementary School

This school opened to the public as “the Ruins of Great East Japan Earthquake” on April 30 this year.

Tsunami reached the second floor of the school building, as high as 4.6 meters from the ground.

320 evacuees stayed in this building at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, consisting of 71 school children, 16 teachers and staff and 223 local residents.

It displays pictures and videos, showing the damage of the building and the disaster-stricken conditions right after the disaster to help people solidly get a sense of the threat of tsunami in order to elevate their awareness of disaster risk reduction.
The number of visitors

Total: 43,300 (as of the end of September 2017)
Approximately 350 visitors per day

Visitors:
- Parties: NPOs, private organizations, neighborhood associations, religious organizations, etc.
- Educational institution: Outdoor school studies, school excursions, college seminars, etc.
- Business corporations: Inspections, researches etc.
- Others: Governments, local governments, local assemblies, overseas VIPs, private groups, etc.
Build Back Better

Civic Activities in the Disaster Afflicted Areas

- What cooperation among citizens and collaboration with the administration should be like.

What the Disaster Remains and the Memorial Facilities Should Be Like

- What the Arahama Elementary School should be like as a disaster remain. What the school should be like as the place of memories for local residents.
- The disaster remains and the memorial facilities as our business.

Sharing Experience Hereafter

- How to be involved with silent majority.
“The Consequence” to Be Inherited by Future Generations