Participant Observation and Enhancing of “Watching and Recovery Supporting” Disaster Victims
- Focus on Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster –

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ABSTRACT
Life recovery of disaster victim which has heavily damage takes a considerably long time. Recovery process includes, for example, housing reconstruction, community reconstruction, mental and physical health care, financial situation and preparedness for next disaster. Life recovery support office in Natori city government, Miyagi prefecture has implemented “Watching and Recovery Supporting” activity for affected people based on visiting, hearing and recording. In this study, 1) Participatory observation of the activity was conducted for about 1 month, 2) Interview survey workshop-based-approach to the office member were conducted for the activity improvement and 3) A new activity flow and information system to support the activity were designed and implemented.

Introduction
Natori city government which is affected area in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake disaster is operating “Watching and Recovery Supporting” disaster victim project. The project is to lessen anxiety related in livelihood and health, prevent social isolation and stay-at-home, and support life recovery for affected people who are resident inhabitant in private rental houses that serve as temporary house, rebuilding house (move-out from temporary housing in both prefabricated house and private rental house) and refugees from Fukushima affected in nuclear accident. The purpose of this study is primary analysis of what is happening in the project.

Participant Observation and Data
We have conducted participant observation and analysis of visiting and hearing log data which is caught up by visitor. The participant observation of visiting activity and case conference has continued for about 10 hour just about once two weeks since April, 2014. Visiting log data is digitized since June, 2012. This database’s fields consist of log unique ID code, input date, house code, household code, personal code, intended person’s name, birthdate, age, sex, visiting date, visiting address, inhabitation pattern (private rental house as temporary housing or rebuilding house), hearing category (health, livelihood, housing environment, economic situation, absence, other), hearing content (free word text), etc.

Analysis of Interview Log

Flow of the Activity

Preparation
Visiting and hearing
Entry visiting log

• Visitors ask intended victims of familial condition, interaction with a community, housing, economic situation, working and health (hospital visit and medicine)

• Visitors entry hearing data (free text) to database system

In the case of absent household, center staff calls later. Case conference that city staff and center member make a decision of visiting continuance or not each intended household is held in Wednesday. If a victim has significant risk to health or care needs, the center carries on into Natori city health center.

Monthly number of visiting disaster victims

Distribution of visiting and calling to victims
(a) Japan
(b) Miyagi prefecture

Number of interviews (intended people)

All record (n=20,612) Hearing text data (n = 13,534)

Distribution of visiting and calling to victims
(a) Japan
(b) Miyagi prefecture

Density
Number of interviews (int/1km²)
90 – 160
60 – 160
30 – 60
0 – 40
40 – 90
90 – 190