

## Stand together! No.1

### How sad and disconsolate to leave the town / Sendai-1

On March 19, little after 9:00 am, Councilor Tashiro's car and JRU's wagon filled with all the relief supplies left Meguro Satsuki for Sendai. The staff members of JRU and Railway Family saw us off.

From the highway entering the Tohoku road, the speed limit was set for 50 km per hour, and only the emergency vehicles were allowed to enter in the area. The road was normally known for a terrible traffic, but not anymore. Few cars we passed were also those relief supply vehicles, fire engines, police vehicles, and or the JSDF vehicles. We were very encouraged as we passed those cars filled with all the relief supplies.



A couple of service stations were opened but rather quiet. They served cups of warm soup free of charge. Although our cars were authorized as emergency vehicles, we had to find the way to supply our own gasses. We were quite uneasy for the entire 360 km drive on the way because we had no idea when and where we could get the gas.

Just about when we passed Shirakawa, the road became obviously damaged and the car was bounced or hit. We saw that Tohoku Shinkansen's poll of overhead contract wire was blown over, and the wires hung down here and there. There were many houses with their roofs covered by blue sheets. We couldn't help but felt the tension and nervousness of life as the radio sounded busy reporting news on aftershocks, nuclear crisis, the safety of the missing people, stores opening hours, and how things are going at hospitals.

As we looked at the streamer, we were concerned that the wind was blowing from the nuke plants. According to the radio, in town of Futaba, which the entire town was instructed to evacuate due to the



radiation scare, the town office and the people will migrate to Saitama prefecture. Soon after that, there were suddenly several buses coming from the opposite side of the road. I looked at one of the busses through a telescope, and on it written a sign said Saitama prefecture. Those busses were for the people who came from Futaba town to migrate. It had been one week since the

earthquake shock the nation and the accidents at the nuke plants happened. They may never be able to come back to the town. We were deeply sadden and moved to think about how they felt in leaving their home. Nuclear plants incidents are natural disaster as well as man-made- disaster. On the nightly news, there was a sign that said “Nuclear power for our bright future...”

We are almost Sendai. It's beginning to rain...

(To be continued)

**Photos : Aid delivery for Sendai**