

The disaster prevention learning activities by the "earthquake disaster learning train" service of Sanriku Railway

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By the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake, "Sanriku Railway (for short "SanTetu") which ran through the vicinity of Sanriku was damaged in the facilities, track and came to have the damage point of 317 places of big things and small things and reached the shutdown.

This "Sanriku Railway Company" (1984 (H59) opening of business) is a third sector railroad running at the Pacific coast of Iwate prefecture. "a third sector" is a joint venture of a local government and private businesses. SanTetu is railroads comprised by 2 routes of "north ria line" between Kuji-Miyako and "the south ria line" between Kamaishi-Sakari (Ofunato). Both routes of north ria line, the south ria line suffered big damage caused by earthquake vibration and the tsunami. Particularly, the damage caused by the tsunami was serious.

However, though SanTetu suffered big damage in this way, SanTetu performed partial service of "disaster reconstruction aid train" (fare for free) in section of Kuji-Rikuchu Noda on March 16. It was 5days later of the earthquake disaster. Even a section of Miyako-Taro reopened service on March 20 to follow.

Just after 3.11, local people used it for "safety confirmation" "procurement of the food" as a traffic road on a track of SanTetu. Look at these scenes, it thought that SanTetu must do the life support of local people and support to the revival of the town.

On June 13, 2012 one year later, "Kizuna visit delegation from the United States of strengthening project" (student organization) came to Japan in the "hands-on education travel" program of "Hometown experience learning Association" of Kuji.

Mr. Nihashi who is the employee of the Sanriku Railway, guided the damaged spot then.

The visit group really took Sanriku Railway, and Nihashi explained the damaged spot.

As for the reaction of students of this time,

"I want to tell an earthquake disaster generated in Japan to many people"

"I want to support you from one's country"....etc.

He was impressed very much. From this, including a student, he can realize the need to have general people watch the real damaged spot, the tsunami-hit area etc. He understood that it was a mission to tell in history as the company which was damaged.

Therefore it was decided that the Sanriku Railway performed the service of "the earthquake disaster learning train".

The program of "the earthquake disaster learning train" is as follows. It completely needs reservations, and the vehicle becomes chartered and is traveled by a special train. 1 vehicle has one guide. Disaster in places where the situation can be seen by, for example, slow down or stop the train, such as the earthquake at the time of appearance and now of the affected areas of the situation and problems will be described using the such as a panel. Guide is selected from the Sanriku Railway employees or residents along. Contents of the guide explains is not decided. Guide has been decided to speak to the straight that he think.

After 3.11, there was the request that I wanted to understand that wanted to observe the stricken area spot from the inside and outside the country. However, in the acceptance organization there is no situation, Sanriku Railway became a good acceptance organizations. Since the "earthquake disaster learning train" start of June, 2012, the applications to this program gradually increased.

The past results are as follows.

2012 27 organizations 1472 people

2013 146 organizations 6571 people

2014 251 organizations 10470 people

Currently, the main aim of "earthquake disaster learning train" is as follows.

Inherits to posterity and lessons the Great East Japan Earthquake of experience, we want to contribute as site of the future of disaster prevention education.

By positioning the "earthquake disaster learning train" as our important content, to attract travelers to the Sanriku region for regional reconstruction, and want to contribute to the promotion of local tourism industry.

Keywords: sanrikutetsudou, Reconstruction, earthquake disaster learning train, tsunami, Disaster prevention learning, Great East Japan Earthquake