

Press release

2011.07.12

Japan Forest Biomass Network
Nonprofit Organization Kurikoma-kogen Natural Education Institute

*translated by : MontBell

Project of Constructing Recovery Assistance House “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” (Post-earthquake Reconstruction Support) – The first house will be built in Toyoma-machi, Tome City as the support project of MontBell

Japan Forest Biomass Network and Nonprofit Organization Kurikoma-kogen Natural Education Institute are officially announcing the general outline of the construction project of “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie”, which is the recovery assistance house for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. We are also announcing that we are able to start constructing the first house thanks to the support from MontBell.

“Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” is the community-based recovery assistance house where people live together, which was designed to solve the problems that the conventional temporary houses have. The conventional temporary houses have the living environmental problems such as dew condensation and sick house syndrome, the problem of community corruption caused by the unfairness regarding who can move into house sooner or later and also the problems of suicide or death from loneliness. Regarding the construction of the conventional temporary house, it is limited for the local companies to go in, thus it brings only a little economic effect. Therefore, we designed “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” as the community-based house where people live together, aiming to provide them the space where they can feel safe and work on reconstructing their lives. At the same time, we aim to contribute to the economic effect by using local materials and labor. Also, we aim to present the new house model, adopting natural energy such as solar power and pallet heater, which is comfortable and sustainable.

We will decide the order of people to move into the house with the organizations and public administration who are working on the reconstruction in the disaster areas, prioritizing aged people and the children who lost their families from the earthquake. After people become independent and “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” is no longer the recovery assistance house for the earthquake victims, we are planning to use it for the long term

as the place of education as business with the theme of environment or nature.

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan Forest Biomass Network and Nonprofit Organization Kurikoma-kogen Natural Education Institute have been working on this project with various supporters in drawing up its concept and designing. Takeshi Okada, the administration officer of Japan Football Association and the former director of Japan National Football Team and Nonprofit Organization Ap Bank (Takeshi Kobayashi is the administration officer) are also supporting the project.

Takeshi Okada commented as follows:

The Great East Japan Earthquake gave us the opportunity to think about energy problems and changing our lifestyle. I believe the project, which focuses on sustainability and adopting natural energy and the relations of community will provide us various ideas for our future lifestyle. I hope to provide further support in environmental education, which I have been working on for a long time.

Takeshi Kobayashi, the administration officer of Nonprofit Organization Ap Bank commented as follows:

I visited the lumber company in Kurihara City, which is one of the centers of the project from right after the earthquake. I was glad to see the harmony between human and nature in the area. The companies such as MontBell with whom we can share the same vision are supporting the project. I hope the connections among supporters will spread for reconstruction. We are willing to support the project.

Thanks to the various support from MontBell including financial support, we are able to start constructing the first building. We are going to start the construction in October, 2011 on the site, which MontBell purchased in Toyoma-machi, Tome City, Miyagi Prefecture. We are planning to use this first house as a nature school for children and run business for area rehabilitation after all the residents become independent. The school will be run mainly by MontBell and Nonprofit Organization Kurikoma-kogen Natural Education Institute.

Isamu Tatsuno, the CEO of MontBell commented as follows:

I decided to provide the site for the first house and financial support because when I thought of what the true support for the earthquake victims should be, I felt empathy for the idea of “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” in the way that it was designed to solve the problems

that the conventional temporary houses have. In the future, we are planning to use the house as the nature school where children learn the importance of natural environment. I learned a lot of things from nature as a human and as a business owner. I want this place to be where I can share those ideas.

For the construction of the first building, we have been receiving supporting offers of materials and management from many other companies and organizations. We are also planning to continue this project after the first house, so we are looking for continuous financial support and of materials.

Toyoshi Sasaki, the administration officer of Japan Forest Biomass Network commented as follows:

I truly appreciate all the supporters of the project including companies such as MontBell, organizations and individuals. They showed their understanding for the project and their strong feelings that they want to help the earthquake victims and support post-earthquake reconstruction. This house will not only be the innovative recovery assistance house model, which solves the problems of the conventional temporary houses but also the example of sustainable house model using natural energy and circulating system. In many disaster affected areas, people discuss “Eco-village” with houses of that kind as the theme of post-earthquake reconstruction. To make it happen, I want to contribute through this project. A Chinese organization contacted us about it, and I believe this will be the example of house model that Japan can present to the world.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF “TENOHIRANITAIYO NO IE”

OPERATION STRUCTURE:

The house model of “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” was designed to support the independence of the earthquake victims and area revitalization by making the most use of local governments, citizens and businesses. It will also play the role of the post-earthquake reconstruction support center, which provides employment and educational support not only for its residents but also for other victims. To avoid the victims isolating from the community, we adopt local volunteer workers to run the center.

DESIGN CONCEPT:

The house consists of about 10 private rooms, a shared kitchen and a dining room. As it

provides people the space where they spend time together and cooperate with each other, they are able to support each other mentally. Aged people and children who lost their parents from the earthquake are able to live in the family-like environment. This lifestyle will help preventing people from suicide, death from loneliness or depression.

SUSTAINABLE HOUSE MODEL WITH NATURAL ENERGY:

“Tenohiranitaiyo no ie” adopts wooden pallet heat boiler and solar energy. It also adopts the circulation system with rainwater. Also, it will be built with safe wood building materials, which prevents sick house syndrome.

ECONOMIC EFFECT FOR THE LOCAL AREA:

Regarding the construction of the conventional temporary house, it is limited for the local companies to go in, thus it brings only a little economic effect. In constructing “Tenohiranitaiyo no ie”, we plan to use local materials and labor. Also, the use of wooden pallet will activate the local timber industry.

LONG TERM USE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Instead of breaking down the building after the independence of the earthquake victims, we designed the house to use as the center for education or business with the theme of environment or nature such as environmental education, development of environmental technology or organic farming, as examples. It can also be used to meet the needs for the sponsor companies, organizations, the local area or society. Regarding the use of the house, Japan Forest Biomass Network, Nonprofit Organization Kurikoma Natural Education Institute will cooperate with other supporters of companies and organizations.