Minamisoma City Revitalization Plan (outline)

~All hearts united for the rebirth of Minamisoma~





December 2011 Minamisoma City

Formulate a revitalization plan

Background

The Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011 and the subsequent enormous tsunami, took precious lives, destroyed property, and inflicted severe and unprecedented damage on our community, devastating historic and cultural heritage, local businesses, and housing and transport networks that we had accumulated over generations.

Meanwhile, the nuclear disaster continues, together with the associated reputational damage. The situation is grave, as residents have been forced to evacuate from their homes, student activities have been restricted in the local elementary and junior high schools, limits have been placed by the national government on rice planting and in light of tough living conditions and the decline of local industry, businesses in our city have been closing down or moving elsewhere, and people have been made redundant or forced to relocate to work.

Based on the lessons we have learned from the natural disaster and globally unprecedented nuclear accident, the Plan for the Revitalization of Minamisoma City has been formulated in the aim of creating a city whose residents can cherish dreams for the future and lead safe, secure lives. This involves providing secure housing to the residents living in evacuation shelters and temporary housing and restoring the livelihoods of survivors as soon as possible. Fundamentally, it means striving to revive and develop local industry for the revitalization of disaster-stricken communities and requires the greatest possible effort be made to overcome the nuclear disaster and develop a town where people live and work with peace of mind.

[Background of the Revitalization Plan]

On 6 June 2011, the Minamisoma City Government made the decision to formulate a revitalization plan and began necessary preparations. It established two groups: the "Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee" made up of city officials, community organization representatives and citizens' representatives, and the "Minamisoma City Revitalization Expert Committee" comprising academics and experts in various fields.

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Date	Event					
June 6	Decision taken to formulate a revitalization plan					
June 6-29	Survey of citizens' attitudes to revitalization carried out (5,012 households)					
July 1-15	Citizens' views on revitalization sought publicly					
July 2	First meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
July 13	Children's views sought on revitalization (at local elementary and junior high schools)					
July 17	Second meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
July 31	First meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Expert Committee					
August 6	Third meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
August 17	Minamisoma City Vision for Revitalization decided					
August 29	Presentation of the Vision for Revitalization to the Regional Council of Haramachi Area					
September 29	Presentation of the Vision for Revitalization to the Regional Council of Odaka Area					
October 1	Fourth meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
October 4	Presentation of the Vision for Revitalization to the Regional Council of Kashima Area					
October 8	Second meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Expert Committee					
October 15	Fifth meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
0 + 1 20	Presentation of the Vision for Revitalization to the executive meeting of the Association of Regional Council Chairs (Kashima					
October 20	Area, Haramachi Area)					
October 21	Presentation of the Vision for Revitalization to the executive meeting of the Association of Regional Council Chairs (Odaka					
October 21	Area)					
November 2	Sixth meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
November 11-30	Public comment on draft revitalization plan					
November 23	Public seminar on the revitalization plan (Kashima Area)					
November 24	Presentation of the draft revitalization plan to the Regional Council of Odaka Area					
November 25	Presentation of the draft revitalization plan proposal to the Regional Council of Haramachi Area					
November 27	Minamisoma City Revitalization Symposium					
November 29	Presentation of the draft revitalization plan to the Regional Council of Kashima Area					
November 29	Public seminar on the revitalization plan (Haramachi Area)					
November 30	Public seminar on the revitalization plan (Haramachi Area)					
December 18	Seventh meeting of the Minamisoma City Revitalization Citizens' Committee					
December 21	Minamisoma City Revitalization Plan finalized					

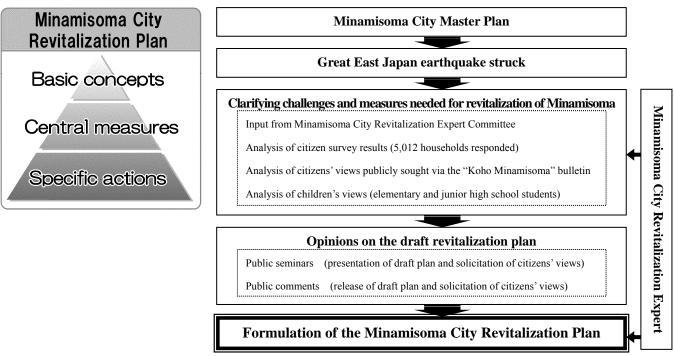
Starting points

Development of this plan has begun with four starting points from which Minamisoma can overcome its challenges, recover from the disaster and achieve further development:

- oPlanning for the recovery of citizens' livelihoods
- OPlanning for an economic recovery driven by new ideas
- ODeveloping a safe and secure city that will serve as a creative model of revitalization
- Harnessing available wisdom from the city and beyond for citizen-led revitalization

Structure of the revitalization plan and how it is formulated

In addition to presenting the "basic concepts" and "major measures" for emergency restoration and revitalization in Minamisoma, this plan clarifies the specific actions, land use policies and other aspects needed for revitalization.



Duration of plan

The plan covers approximately ten years from FY2011 to FY2020.

The ten years it will take to achieve revitalization are divided into the "recovery/restoration period (1-3 years)" and the "revitalization period," with different measures and projects to be rolled out for each period.

Progress on revitalization will take account of the circumstances of each community and the fact that, in some areas, residents will not be able to return to their homes due to the nuclear disaster. There is currently no end in sight to the nuclear crisis, but we will revise the plan as appropriate if and when the situation changes.

Future population assumptions

The aim is to return to a population higher than before the disaster by the end of the period of the ten-year plan (FY2020), by striving to improve the environment so that all citizens can return to their homes and by taking measures that harness the city's unique qualities.

Guiding principles for revitalization

Together with a slogan that encapsulates a message of the shared desire and dedication of all citizens to restore the city, we present the three basic principles of action to revive Minamisoma, putting citizens at the heart of revitalization.

Slogan

Strong purpose and message to be shared by all citizens on the road to revitalization

All hearts united for the rebirth of Minamisoma

May a healthy smile return to our faces, and may our children cherish hopes and dreams and love their hometown.

A new value-creating Minamisoma that we can proudly show to the world



Basic direction

Basic direction of the revitalization plan based on the slogan

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policy 1

All citizens return and revive the city with bonds of community

Citizens forced to escape after the disaster will return home and rebuild their livelihoods amongst the bonds (of local community) they had formed and cherished throughout their lives before the disaster.

Basic

Turning challenges into breakthroughs Creative and vital economic recovery

policy 2

We have sustained enormous damage from the disaster, but we will not give in to this challenge. We aim for revival of local industry and thereby a creative and vital economic recovery.

Basic

policy 3

Overcoming the nuclear disaster

A safe and secure town to show the world

Having survived the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters, Minamisoma will provide an example to the world of the development a safe and secure town that does not depend on nuclear power, harnessing all available wisdom for a citizen-led recovery.

Land use policy

Basic principles of land use policy

Our basic principles of land use are as follows, based on the Vision for Revitalization:

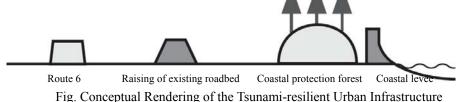
- oProtecting lives from tsunamis is our first priority. We will take appropriate prevention measures by establishing an in depth defense against the ocean, including the construction of seawalls and planting of coastal forests.
- OSecuring land to house citizens away from tsunami-devastated areas in safe sites on higher ground, in the city center and its surrounding areas, we are aiming to create a "comfortable town where anyone can live with peace of mind."
- While efforts will be made to restore farmland affected by the tsunami, such land may also be repurposed for coastal forests to protect against tsunamis, renewable energy facilities and industrial zones.
- oIn the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, we will seek self-sufficiency in energy through renewable sources, breaking the dependency on nuclear power. These efforts will help develop a safe and secure town and enhance the city's capacity to promote new industry.
- We aim to create an environment where people can live in harmony with nature by recreating the coastal scenery so familiar to Minamisoma citizens and establishing recreational facilities and other amenities for them to enjoy.

Investing in infrastructure for a tsunami-proof city

One lesson of the March 11 disaster was the need for multi-faceted defense against tsunamis.

We will invest in infrastructure to bring about a tsunami-proof Minamisoma, in the aim of protecting all citizens. This primarily means ensuring coastal protection facilities are able to withstand waves of the height seen on March 11 while investing in other urban infrastructure and evacuation planning.

- oRebuilding coastal levees higher than pre-disaster levels
- oPlanting of coastal protection forests (around 200m wide) to dampen the effect of a tsunami surging over the levees
- oExpansion and raising of river levees and the overall rethinking of the width of waterways
- Seeking ways to make our roads more Tsunami-resilient, including by raising the road beds of the Haramachi-Ebi-Soma road, the Kitazumi-Odaka prefectural road and the Hirono-Odaka prefectural road
- ∘ Areas where tsunami surges destroyed all homes will be designated as danger zones, and the city's future hosing lots will be developed on higher grounds and around urban areas. ▲ ▲ ▲



Land use policy

Land use zoning

The foundation of the new land uses a functional layout in seven zones.

1 Potential zone for mass re-housing

Zone to house those from districts devastated by the tsunami

2 Green buffer zone

Disaster prevention zone to reduce tsunami impacts

3 Farming revival zone

Zone for the revival of agricultural land

4 Fishing revival zone

Zone for the revival of fishing port

5 Industrial park zone

Zone for the promotion of industries

6 Renewable energy zone

Zone for the promotion of new industrial capabilities

7 Park and green zone

Zone for the creation of recreational places for citizens to live in harmony with the environment

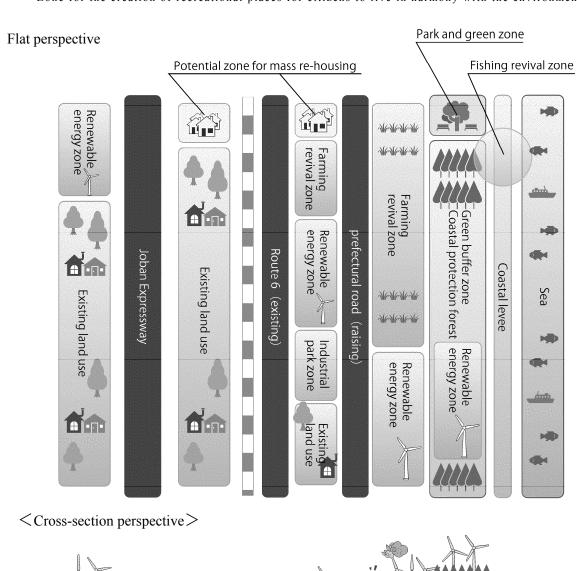




Fig. Conceptual Rendering of Land Use Zoning

Future overview of the city

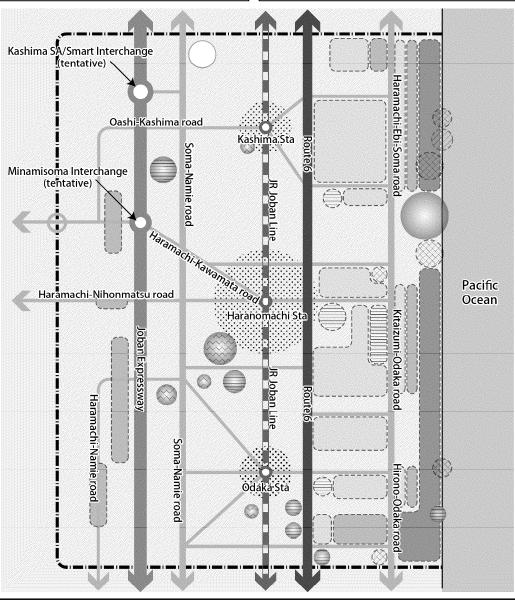
Here is the future overview of Minamisoma, based on our basic land use principles and zoning.

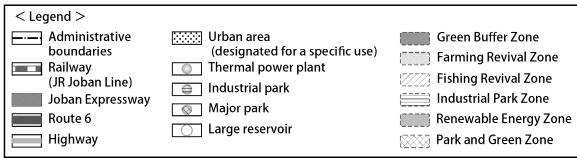
To the West of Route 6

Taking advantage of the existing city infrastructure and in time for the early completion of the Joban Expressway, we will create incentives for industrial parks in Minamisoma and forge a stronger road network linked to national and prefectural highways. To achieve this, we will pursue investment in access roads from the expressway and smart interchanges while promoting the early completion of the Yagisawa Tunnel.

To the East of Route 6

In seaside areas, we will install seawalls while seeking the revival of the Manogawa fishing port within the Green Buffer Zone and the Park and Green Zone, as well as creating parks including the Kitazumi Seaside Park. In addition, we will promote the introduction of new industries such as renewed, innovative farming and renewable energy businesses in inland areas.





Central measures 1: Emergency response

Radiological decontamination

Objective

We will endeavor to eliminate concerns over contamination by enhancing radiological monitoring and ensuring appropriate disclosure of radiology-related information to the public, while pursuing measures such as establishing and promoting decontamination projects, and implementing citizen health surveys.



Basic measure

- ©Environmental radiation monitoring and provision of radiation-related information (monitoring the space of the entire city, including soil, sewers and groundwater, and education about radiation)
- ODecontamination (supporting decontamination measures for schools, public facilities, roads, parks and sewers)
- Radiological testing of agricultural products and full disclosure of the results (measures to address reputational damage to agricultural and manufactured products)
- oInvestigation of internal radiation exposure levels of the citizens (testing for internal exposure, distribution of radiation-monitoring glass badges)

Measures for the urgent restoration of livelihoods



We will support the rebuilding of citizens' livelihoods by taking urgent steps to restore the housing, medical, welfare, employment and education systems vital to people's lives. These efforts will be carried out by providing information promptly and accurately and by investing in the restoration of infrastructure, schools and other facilities.



- ODisposal of post-disaster waste (removal of rubble, demolition of dangerous buildings)
- Re-establishment of the medical, welfare and health system (full re-opening of hospitals, care facilities, citizens' medical examinations and mental care for disaster survivors)
- Re-establishment of an adequate living environment including immediate installation of short-term housing (temporary housing, shuttle bus service for residents, creation of networking opportunities for temporary housing residents)
- oProvision of benefits using the subsidy system for disaster survivors to rebuild their livelihoods
- oRapid provision of information (use of the city's PR functions to inform public about city affairs, disaster-related information via the Minamisoma community TV channel, disaster FM radio station, website and disaster alerts via email)
- oCrime prevention and security measures (coordination among relevant institutions including the Association of Regional Council Chairs, volunteer fire corps and police stations, and the formation of independent crime-fighting groups such as anti-crime patrols in each administrative ward)
- OSupport and action to promote early payment of indemnities and compensations (provision of relevant information such as where to contact and application procedures)
- Support for reestablishment of businesses (Financial support for building temporary stores and offices, restoration of shared warehousing and for restarting farming operations)
- Ensuring employment opportunities (urgent measures to create work for jobseekers, especially disaster survivors)
- o Infrastructural restoration and urgent repair works (restoration and urgent repair work on roads, rail, ports and sewers, and flood prevention measures)
- Reopening of public facilities (cultural and sporting amenities)
- Re-establishment of educational facilities (temporary classrooms, renovation of damaged school buildings)
- OSupport for child survivors of the disaster (everyday guidance and counseling by experts, financial support for orphaned children and subsidy for support projects)
- oEnhancement of counseling system (for parents facing concerns over child-raising because of the disaster, etc.)





Basic measure 1-2

Central measures 2: Recovery of citizens' livelihoods

Restoration of a city that all citizens can live in with peace of mind

We will develop a city environment that is safe and secure, where all citizens, from children to senior citizens, can lead healthy and happy lives.

OHealth management for citizens (health examinations, mental care)

oRapid provision of information (use of PR to inform the public about city affairs, disaster-related information via the Minamisoma community TV channel, disaster FM radio station, website and disaster alerts via email) *Repeat of the above

oCrime prevention and security measures (coordination among relevant institutions including the Association of Regional Council Chairs, volunteer fire corps and police stations, formation of independent crime-fighting groups such as anti-crime patrols in each administrative ward) *Repeat of the above

o Support and action to promote the early payment of indemnities and compensations (provision of relevant information such as where to contact and application procedures) *Repeat of the above

oInvestment in the medical, welfare and health promotion systems (establishment of mechanisms for sharing information about services for disabled persons and the elderly, suicide prevention, health care, and wider health promotion)

OSupport for rebuild of housing (subsidies for house repairs under the Disaster Relief Act, projects for mass re-housing)

• Installation of public housing for victims (post-disaster public housing)

Restoration of local community bonds

We will strive to deepen community bonds by providing networking opportunities among evacuated citizens and those living in temporary housing so as to maintain their sense of community while making efforts to keep our local customs and traditions.

oPost-return community revival (preparation of meeting places, support for community activities)

Opportunities where people can gather and have fun (continuation of traditions, restart of local festivals)









Basic measure 2-2

Measures by theme

Central measures 3: Economic recovery

Industrial revival



In order to secure employment and provide our citizens with stable livelihoods, we will seek to revive local industry and revitalize the economy as soon as possible.



Basic measure

- OSupport to primary industries (restoration of farmland, investment in fishing-related facilities, rebuilding of industry by corporatizing production, increased diversification of operations, and removal of salt from soil)
- OSupport for the revitalization of local businesses (Seeking assistance from the national and prefectural governments for the disaster-hit manufacturers and business owners in the city)
- Revitalization of the city center (revival of commerce, creation of bustling activities in the city center)
- OSupport for the revival of the tourism industry (rebuilding of the tourism industry by promoting local tours, etc., creation of new exchange opportunities through tourism revival and assistance, building of a new tourist hub next to the Kashima Service Area [tentative name])
- oJob creation (employment of local residents in works and projects related to the city's restoration and revitalization)
- Support for revitalization based on the special economic zone scheme (financial incentives including tax exemptions and interest subsidies)

Creation of new industries



We will seek to regain vitality in the community through the creation of new industries capitalizing on the area's unique characteristics and resources.



Basic measure 3-2

- oPromotion of investment in industrial infrastructure (installation of industrial parks, incentives for companies to relocate here)
- oCreation of new industries (establishment of a renewable energy base and incentives for green energy companies to relocate here, incentives for the radiation research industry, support for new investors under the special zone scheme)
- oCreation of new industries harnessing the strengths of existing industries (clustering of machinery and metals assembly industry, incentives for businesses to invest in new industries such as robotics)
- oPromotion of multifunctional farms for stable business operations (the EDEN Plan*)

*What is the EDEN Plan?

This plan aims to create integrated business organizations in Minamisoma through such efforts as the production of crops in plant and flower factories, strengthening agricultural businesses through expansion and diversification, and bringing processing, sales and energy generation together on farms.

Central measures 4: Disaster-proofing the city

Building disaster resistance



We will seek enhanced disaster countermeasures, structurally and operationally, based on the lessons of the March 11 and subsequent disasters in order to create a safe and secure city.



- oInvesting in a disaster resistant city infrastructure (relocation of communities to safer sites, building of coastal levees and planting of coastal disaster prevention forests, raising of road and river levees, and installation of memorial forests, disaster memorial parks and cycle paths in disaster prevention forests)
- ©Earthquake-proofing in the city (making public facilities and lifelines more earthquake-resistant)
- o Investing in disaster prevention infrastructure (evacuation centers, emergency communications, building of a Minamisoma fire and disaster prevention center)
- oInvesting in transport infrastructure (re-opening of the JR Joban Line and completion of the Joban Expressway, improvements to the Haramachi-Kawamata prefectural road, early completion of the Yagisawa Tunnel)
- Revision of the city's disaster prevention plan (stronger liaison with other municipalities, compilation of disaster records)
- OStrengthening the disaster response capabilities of each community (execution of disaster drills, enhanced education and training in disaster management)

Basic measure 4-

Central measures 5: A better education and child-raising environment

Raising and supporting our young, the task of all generations

We will restore a situation where children can lead healthy and happy lives in a lush natural environment, full of dreams and hopes for the future. As a result of coping with this disaster, the next generation will have learnt the sanctity of life and possess the strength to face challenges. We will seek to foster young people and other citizens who hold the future of Minamisoma in their hands as community leaders, capable of putting to work not only their knowledge and skills but also their thoughtfulness and compassion for others.

Basic measure 5-

- Support for child survivors of the disaster (everyday guidance and counseling by experts, financial support for orphaned children and subsidy for support projects) *Repeat of the above
- Building of a community-wide system to help young people grow (support for projects to involve children and their parents)
- oFostering younger generations who understand what it means to love their hometowns and respect the sanctity of human life, capable of overcoming hardships and leading the city's revitalization
- oPromoting disaster education to teach the lessons of 2011 so that citizens can respond appropriately in times of disaster and make necessary preparations in normal times (instruction to children and students, lifelong learning seminars, collection and preservation of materials about nuclear power, etc.)
- Offering learning opportunities through art, culture and sports participation and exchange
- OStepping up the city's human resource development initiatives for young professionals who will lead the development of local industries (training in electric power technology, radiation technology, automated machinery control technology, etc.)

 Enhancing vocational training courses at the Hama Technical Academy

Establishing a good environment for bringing up children

Basic measure 5-2

The community, families and schools will work together to bring up children in a safe, secure environment, with enhanced child support measures in place.

- ©Enhancement of the counseling system (for parents facing concerns and anxiety over child-raising because of the disaster, etc.) *Partially repeated from the above
- oImprovement of childcare services and facilities (temporary childcare, extended childcare, early opening of childcare for three-year-olds, etc.)
- o Improvement of child-raising environment through enhanced cooperation among community, families and schools (increased coordination between nurseries, kindergartens and elementary schools, seminars and meetings about raising children, projects to promote hands-on learning and exchanges among citizens)

Central measures 6: Overcoming the nuclear disaster

Decontamination

Basic measure 6-

A full clean-up of radioactive matter will enable all citizens to return to their communities and live in a setting that gives them peace of mind. While implementing decontamination procedures, we will actively pursue research and medical treatment to eradicate health concerns among citizens regarding exposure to radioactivity.

- OMeasures against radioactive materials (stepped-up radiation monitoring, disclosure of information, public education, decontamination procedures) *Partial repeat of above
- Health monitoring for citizens (targeted medical examinations and cancer screenings, testing for effects of radiation, etc.)
- oEnhancement of testing for radiation exposure (establishment of system to provide wide-ranging services such as specialist medical treatment)
- •Establishment of offices to carry out the radiological testing of foodstuffs, etc.

A revitalization model for the world to see



Under a "nuclear free" banner, Minamisoma will send a message to the world with its creative and original "revitalization model." It will combine all forms of knowledge to overcome the nuclear disaster, making the shift from nuclear energy to renewable energy, becoming a renewable energy hub and pursuing an energy efficiency policy, in the aim of becoming a community where people can live in harmony with the environment.



- oPromotion of surveys and research on radiation exposure (incentives for relocation of survey research organizations to Minamisoma)
- oPromotion of an energy-saving initiatives (environmental education, provision of environmental information concerning energy conservation)
- oIntroduction of renewable energy sources to all households and companies (support for installation of energy-saving equipment, awareness-raising initiatives)
- •Promotion of the eco-model city concept*
- *What is the eco-model city concept? It is a form of urban development that is intended to be an engine of Japan's future economic growth whereby successful models of urban planning unprecedented in the world are created, combining futuristic technology, social and economic systems and business models and exporting them to other parts of the world. This will be made possible by promoting growth of "environment, society and the economy," and "investment in the lifestyle infrastructure."

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Basic measure

Advancing the Revitalization Plan

Citizens' participation and cooperation

For the recovery of Minamisoma, the Minamisoma City Disaster Recovery Headquarters will take the lead on the specifics of the Revitalization Plan. It will seek the participation and cooperation of citizens, strengthening liaison with citizens' action groups and NPOs of every stripe.

Local governance

Capitalizing on the community governance districts unique to this city, public views, mainly collected through regional councils, will be integrated into voluntary and proactive measures by each district. We will provide support to proactive town development proposals and diverse actions pursued by communities to resolve their issues, including the revival of local community in the wake of the March 11 disaster.

Advancing the plan and managing progress

In order to recover from the disaster and revitalize our city promptly, we will implement the plan in an efficient and effective way – liaising with the national government and Fukushima on clarifying our roles and responsibilities and ensuring speedy decision-making and administration. Based on the revitalization plan, an implementation plan will be drawn up, and we will also gauge and manage progress on the plan every year.

Finance

A fiscal plan will be formulated alongside the implementation plan to ensure the swift execution of projects for the revitalization of Minamisoma. The fiscal plan will be based on appropriate support and fiscal measures from the national government and Fukushima prefectural government. Moreover, all the available resources inside and outside the city – financial, material and intellectual – will be harnessed in various ways, such as through public-private cooperation like partnerships with private sector firms, all to achieve one goal: the revitalization of our hometown, Minamisoma.

[March 11 disaster statistics]

Time of first quake: 2:46pm, Friday 11 March 2011

Epicenter: Off Sanriku coast (N38.1 degrees, E142.9 degrees, 130km ESE of the Oshika Peninsula)

Depth: 24km Magnitude: 9.0

Human cost to Minamisoma (as of 18 November 2011)

Deaths: 636 Missing: 10 Injured: 59 (2 severely injured, 57 slightly injured)

Damage to housing (as of 26 August 2011)

	Total	Damaged	Completely	Substantially	Partially	Inundated below
	households	houses	destroyed	damaged	damaged	floor level
Odaka Area	3,771	463	317	33	65	48
Kashima Area	3,460	579	425	31	91	32
Haramachi Area	16,667	593	438	38	86	31
Total	23,898	1,635	1,180	102	242	111

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Edited and published by: Minamisoma City Administrative Planning Department Planning Management Division

Date of publication: December 2011

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URL: http://www.city.minamisoma.lg.jp/