

Tohoku Chapter, Architectural Institute of Japan
Quick Reconnaissance Report of East Japan Earthquake Disaster
March 21, 2011

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(Translated by Shunsuke Otani, University of Tokyo)

Reporter:

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Date:

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Mr. Kashiwadate of AIJ Tohoku chapter visited Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture, on March 12 and 13, 2011. The Disaster Committee, Tohoku Chapter, provided the photos of the area to the AIJ Disaster Committee. Kamaishi City is located in the south east of Iwate Prefecture, approximately 100 km to the south east of Morioka City. The city is famous for fishery base (one of the three largest bases for ocean fishery in the world). After New Japan Steel closed blast furnaces, the population of the city is decreasing. The city faces a Rias coast, highly susceptible to tsunami attacks.

The following photos show the influence of tsunami wave attack.

(1) U-no-sumai-cho, Kamaishi City

The town faces Ohtsuchi Bay. The photos are from the west part of U-no-sumai-machi (residence of coal geese). The town was washed away by tsunamis; only reinforced concrete (RC) and concrete block masonry buildings were left standing. .



Photo 1: Overall view of Ohtsuchi Bay, Kamaishi Higashi Highschool at far distance



Photo 2: Hikata district facing the U-no-sumai River



Photo 3: Timber houses in Hikata district



Photo 4: Only RC buildings are standing (previously Housing for Employment Promotion)



Photo 5: Washed away of houses in Hikata district



Photo 6: RC or concrete block masonry buildings are left standing



Photo 7: Community Center Building



Photo 8: U-no-sumai district



Photo 9: Before and after of U-no-sumai district

(2) Matsubara 3-chome, Kamaishi City (March 12, 2011)



Photo 1: Matsubara 3-chome, Kamaishi City



Photo 2: The Ohto River

(3) Ohmachi 3-chome, Kamaishi City (March 12, 2011)



Photo 1: 3-chome (Aoba Street), Kamaishi City, approx. 560 m from Kamaishi Harbor

(4) Ohto-machi 2- and 3-chome, Kamaishi City (March 12, 2011)

The tsunami came to Ohto-machi 2- and 3-chome, Kamaishi City, and reached the JR station. The area is located approximately 850 m from Kamaishi Harbor.



Photo 1: Ohto-machi 2- and 3-chome, Kamaishi City

(5) Tadakoshi-machi 3-chome. Kamaishi City

Tadakoshi-machi 3-chome. Kamaishi City, is located approximately 400 m from Kamaishi Harbor.



Photo 1: Tadakoshi-machi 3-chome. Kamaishi City

(6) Hama-machi 1- to 3-chome, Kamaishi City



Photo 1: Hama-machi 1-chome, Kamaishi City. Rear side of the fishermen's cooperative association building, approximately 60 m from the harbor. Houses were moved to road



Photo 2: Hama-machi 2-chome, Kamaishi City, only RC buildings are standing



Photo 3: Hama-machi 3-chome, Kamaishi City, approx. 160 m from the harbor



Photo 4: The first story of a timber house was washed away and the second story is about to collapse.
The building behind is steel construction



Photo 5: Timber and steel construction suffered more significant damage. RC buildings on the coast side suffered less damage.



Photo 6: Approximately 165 m from the harbor

(7) Higashimae-machi, Kamaishi City



Photo 1: Higashimae-machi, Kamaishi City, approx. 170 m from the harbor.



Photo 2: An RC building, approx. 250 m from the harbor.



Photo 3: Higashimae-machi, Kamaishi City, approx. 170 from the harbor. Timber houses did not maintain their original configuration.



Photo 4: Only RC or concrete block masonry buildings are standing



Photo 5: Only timber houses behind an RC building survived from wash away



Photo 6: RC and steel buildings, exterior finishing fell from the steel building

(8) Ohtsuchi-machi, Kami-Hei-gun



Photo 1: Ohtsuchi-machi, toward north direction, 700 m from National Route 45 near the mouth of the Ohtsuchi River



Photo 2: Near Iwate Prefectural Ohtsuchi Hospital, approx. 550 m from the mouth of the Ohtsuchi River



Photo 2 (Cont'd): Near Iwate prefectural Ohtsuchi Hospital, approx. 550 m from the mouth of the Ohtsuchi River