

# Nozomi Center Volunteer Participation Policy

Nozomi Center (the Center) is operated by a group composed of international Reformed and Conservative Presbyterian churches whose hearts go out to those in the disaster zones. Please understand and follow our adopted policy during your stay at the Center.

## **Please work co-operatively with the staff's instructions while staying at the Center**

- What one may think "normal" can be different in a disaster struck area (which may be especially true in a different country). Please work co-operatively with the staff for understanding and wise decisions.

## **Serving the Local Community**

- Activities at the Center are to serve the local community. Please understand that volunteer service is not to carry out what you want to do, but to respond to the needs of the locals.
- We believe that God's love will be testified when Christian brothers and sisters work together as one team. Please prepare your physical and spiritual conditions so that you can serve the local community.

## **Prayer**

- We spend some time in prayer before and after the day's work.
- Please pray along with us even you are not a Christian.

## **Listening to the Locals**

- Please concentrate on listening when hearing the locals' stories. Most of them just need a listening ear, not advices.
- It is important to show sympathy by saying such phrases as "I see, I hear you" "It must've been hard for you".
- Comments like "it's great that you are still alive", "please do your best" seem positive and encouraging. However, it may hurt the locals, whom may have lost everything. Please refrain from using such phrases.
- When lead to prayer, please ask whether the other person is comfortable to be prayed for, before doing so.
- If you hear any specific needs from the locals, let the staff know. Please do not make any promises or hopeful comments about meeting their needs.

## **Photo Taking**

- Please ask the staff whether it's appropriate to take photos during volunteer work.
- Please be sensitive, especially taking photos of children or sharing the photos on the internet. Ask the staff beforehand.

## **Under Emergency Situation**

- Center stands in an area that was hit by the tsunami (up to 2m). We still experience frequent aftershocks (smaller earthquakes) and there is still danger of tsunami.
- Please follow the staff's instructions under emergency situation.
- If you have chronic disease, please bring extra medication in case of an earthquake and you can't obtain your medication.

- Please do not go out alone while staying at the Center.

### **About full-time staff**

- The Center has two full-time staff living in the Center. Please be understanding for their privacy.

### **Use of the Center**

- All areas inside the Center are non-smoking.
- Consumption of alcohol during the stay is not permitted. Those who drank outside the Center will not be allowed to stay at the Center.
- Please be responsible for preparing your meals and clean up.
- Please make an effort not to be too noisy.
- Please take responsibility for your own valuables.
- Please try to limit your time in the shower to 5 minutes.
- Please try to keep the kitchen, toilets and baths clean when you use them.
- Please separate trash in conformity to the directions posted in the kitchen.
- Please ask the staff if you need to use the washing machine.
- Please have breakfast and prepare for the day's work before 9am. Please keep quiet after 9pm.
- The Center is closed and the staff is off on Sundays and Mondays.