"Netvol-MIYAGI" helps with networking for the tsunami afflicted areas

Dai Sato

Netvol-MIYAGI

Tohoku University Hospital

Who I am

- A network administrator of Tohoku University Hospital

- A member of Japan DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistant Team)

- Worked for a month in the emergency response headquarter of the hospital after the disaster

- Launch "netvol-MIYAGI" on the mid-April

The earthquake

from @kenichi_sasaki

Netvol-MIYAGI

http://netvol-myg.w3m.jp/

netvol-myg@w3m.jp

@netvol_myg

The cue

- Prefectural coordinator of disaster medicine: ICT environments are strongly needed at medical bastions. (11 Apr)
  - The needs are hidden from the outer area.

- Friends in ICT companies: PCs are ready to send. But we don't know where to send. (12 Apr)
  - The offers are hidden from the inner area.

"to BE in Sendai"

- Not so far from tsunami afflicted area
  - Easy to go to the area by car
  - Able to imagine the local customs
- Damages are limited in central Sendai
  - Enough ability to support
  - Information networks are working

- We can see both the afflicted areas and supporters: We can get the "overview".

What we possibly can

- Livelihood supports are needed, and many volunteers are working for them.
    - Difficulties on collecting information
- Offers of PCs and software are exist.
    - Uninformed about the needs

- ICT environments should make the volunteer works more efficient.
    - Not only devices, but with skills

So we did

- CFP to friends (11 Apr)
  - More responses than expected
- Make an open mailing list (13 Apr)
  - +30 people in a week
- Not only for medical, but general (21 Apr)
  - Named "netvol-MIYAGI"
  - Starting publication on the web and twitter
  - Registered as an on-site supporter to industry-sponsored "ICT supporter" (27 Apr)

Activities

- Discussions on the mailing list (+100 people)
- Installing ICT devices to facilities
- Cooperating with other volunteer groups
  - Supply materials, regional info, hand, pilot, …
- Broadcast information about afflicted areas and volunteers over Twitter and the web

- Many trials: Groping for the way to help them

Policies of netvol-MIYAGI

- Things can do in distant places should be done in distant places.

- Take everything easy

- Don't hustle

- And, keep everyone aware of the tsunami afflicted areas

Detailed Activities

Main job (device supply)

	category	number
Devices supplied	3G router	10
	Wireless access point	15
	3G USB device	20
	PC	91
	Printer	23
others	Rent devices, PC set up, site operation, guide to tsunami afflicted area, etc.	

Use of devices

- Evacuation centers
  - Info about governments, Livelihood, jobs...
- temporary housings
  - Info and interaction between inhabitants
- Schools
  - Info, operation, communication, classes
- Volunteer groups
  - Info, operation, communication
  - Workshops of ICT skills

Side jobs (what we usual do)

- Volunteer wanted list
- Links pages of supports
- Regional portal sites

  For home page of PCs
  - Governments
  - Volunteer centers
  - Transports, Telecom companies
- EVERYDAY tweets
  - Volunteer wanted, supports, etc.

In the early phase

- links page of general livelihood info
- portal page for each region
  - Summarized info from web sites

- tweets
  - Traffic jam info in holidays
  - Info from volunteer stations
    - Some very busy stations said "stop the announce".

Afterward (now)

- Sending tweets -- @netvol_myg
  - Collect info from the blogs of volunteer centers, supporters, etc.
  - One or more tweets for each updates
- Updates lists on web (at the same time)
  - Announce updates on Facebook
- Target: Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima pref.
- More than 1,200 followers on Twitter

principles

- Bring an overview
- Dates must be shown for each offers or needs
  - "Closing" is rarely announced
- Confirm the original sources, and show
- Never use secondary informations
- Notice only facts, no opinions nor impressions

- Stay on tweeting at all

Daily tweets
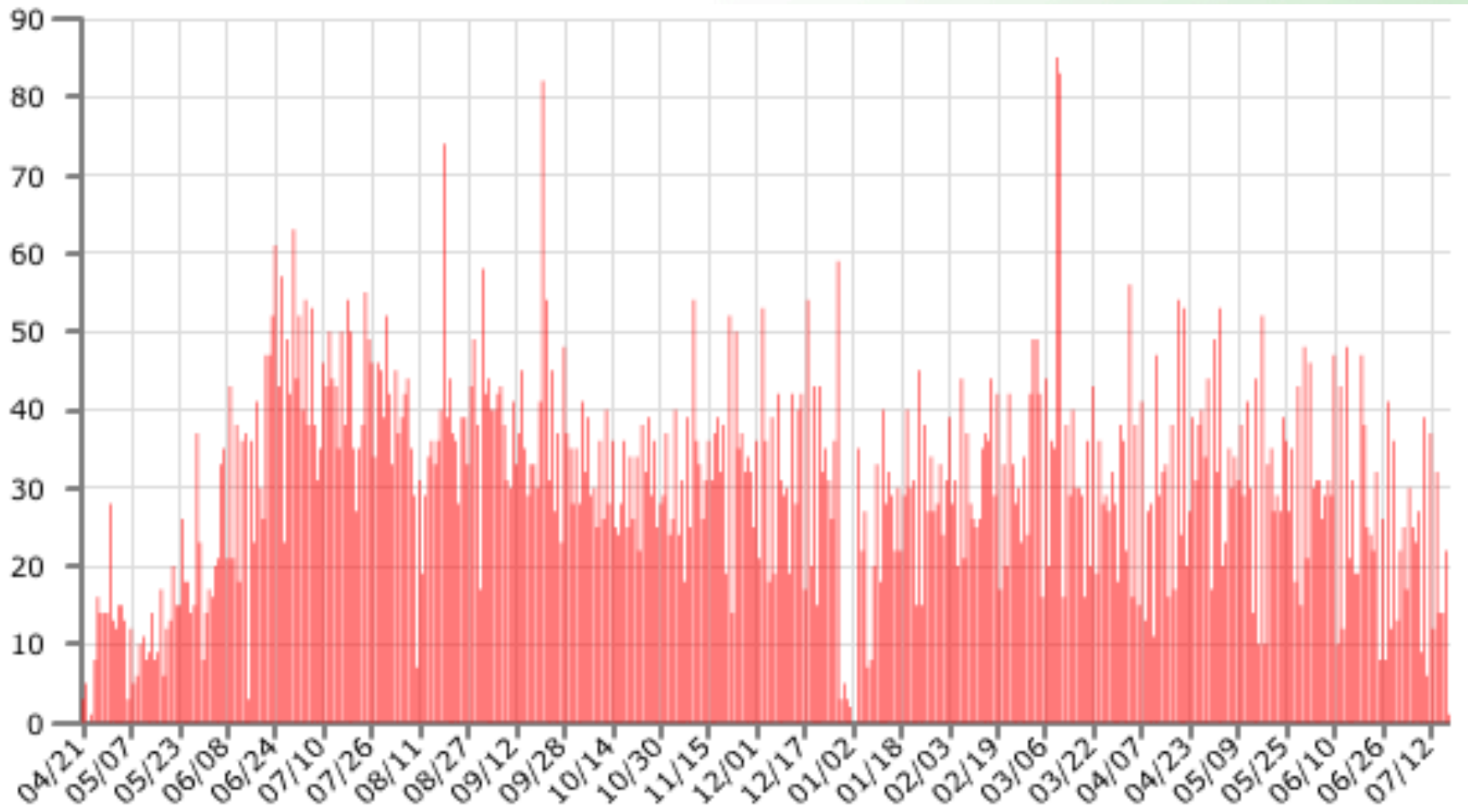
Is the Internet useful for recovery and/or reconstruction from the disaster?

Useful?

- Deny:
  - Lost infrastructures
  - Less important than meals and beds
  - Low S/N ratio

- Positive examples:
  - Safety confirmation with Facebook
  - Collecting info on Twitter
  - Google Crisis Response

The Internet as a support foundation

- Not only for DIRECT using by victims

- Supporters should use it practically
  - Calling for participation
  - Making supporting communities
  - Matching between needs and helps
- The Internet gave the platform for them

Utilize the networks more

- Collect and arrange information at remote places
  - Online activities on robust infrastructures
- Then, send the organized information to the afflicted area

- Not only devices, but skills should be supplied
  - Is there "information volunteers"?
  - Supports as totally packaged services

More and more

- Readiness for large scale blackouts
  - Emergency power supplies, and so on

- Substitutions for lost infrastructures
  - Alternative lines, wireless devices, satellites
  - Enhancement of recovery (but how?)

- Restore channels between bastions quickly
  - Emergency response team for telecommunication

In Indonesia

- Within a month after the Sumatra tsunami (26 Dec 2004)
  - Indonesian ISP Association send a taskforce
  - Set wireless backbones and Wi-Fi spots
  - Rebuild 2 ISP companies, put a media center
- *airputih* Foundation http://airputih.or.id/
  - Cooperating with government and army against disasters
  - Tasks: channels, announcement, management

From a letcture by Valens Riyadi

conclusion

Summary

- Groups installing network devices were rare.
- Groups supporting other supporting groups were also rare.
- Our tweets on the principles are acclaimed.
- Do-not-work-hard groups are needed from some kind of people.

After all

- Remember the tsunami afflicted areas, at least once in a while

- Once you remember, tell your friends

- And visit the areas, if it's acceptable for you