In the Wake of Disaster: The Japan LSA+ Visits Earthquake and Tsunami devastated Tohoku

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The Greater Context

- 3.11 (2011): The Great East Japan Earthquake
- 43 miles off the coast of Northeast Japan
- Magnitude 9.03 (most powerful ever in Japan)
- Tsunami of up to 133 ft in height, travelled up to six miles inland in some areas
- 16,000 fatalities; 2700 missing
The Lesser Context

- Dartmouth’s annual Language Study Abroad program (LSA+)
- 10 weeks each summer, in Chiba (outskirts of Tokyo)
- 2011 offering in Kyoto
- 2012 offering back in Chiba
- Optional volunteer component tacked onto the end
Three opted for the service component
The Location (part 1)

- Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture
- 3,097 fatalities, 2,770 unaccounted for
- Approximately 29,000 city residents lost their homes
- Neighboring fishing villages, particularly Yagawa
The Location (part 2)

- Empty lots in the city of Ishinomaki
The Location (part 3)
Fishing village of Yagawa
The Location (part 4)
Fishing village of Yagawa
People, Context, Culture

- What made this service component ideal for cementing the lessons of the LSA+?
  - Opportunities to interact with lots of different people
  - A thick context for language and action/interaction
  - An immersion in an utterly Japanese organization
People
People
Context
“Sea squirt” aquaculture (ホヤの養殖)
Context
“Sea squirt” aquaculture

(ホヤの養殖)
has been described by *Lonely Planet* as tasting like “rubber dipped in ammonia.”
Context
stringing shucked clam shells
Context
stringing shucked clam shells
Context
stringing shucked clam shells
Context

stringing shucked clam shells
Context

Manuel labor of various sorts
Context
Manuel labor of various sorts
Hard manual labor has its rewards
Hard manual labor has its rewards
Hard manual labor has its rewards
Culture in Context: organized group living
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[Image of a drawing and a photograph of a group of people standing in a public space, one person holding up a sign.]