

COMPLETION REPORT

Activities in Malaysia and Indonesia in support of Japan after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

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The research conducted for this project has, at the time of writing, been successfully completed.

A total of 21 interviews were conducted in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Interviews were conducted by the main researcher (Julian CH Lee) with research assistants in Indonesia, and in Kuala Lumpur. The purpose of the interviews was to collect stories about what activities the interviewees undertook in their country in support of Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and why they undertook them. Interviewees were identified through newspaper articles, blog posts, and word of mouth.

Overall, interviewees expressed an array of reasons for undertaking their activities. A number of them were recipients of Japanese governments assistance and had studied in Japan. As a result of this, and because of the friendships they had made with Japanese people, many felt 'duty-bound' to respond to the disaster. Others, such as those from the hoshiZora Foundation, had many Japanese donors, and the Foundation also received start-up assistance from the Nippon Foundation. Others had a fondness for Japanese culture. Indonesian 'cosplayers' for example, wanted to express their gratitude for Japan's cultural contributions to the world. Many other interviewees had little direct connection with Japan, but nevertheless felt motivated to assist on humanitarian grounds.

Activities undertaken in support of Japan included fund-raising in shopping malls and in schools. Interviewees in Jogjakarta undertook a large one-day event called "Jogja Care for Japan" to collect funds and to express moral support. This event is described in one of the outcomes of this project, the YouTube film "For Japan: Our Sister".

Overall, the interviewees express respect and admiration for Japan and the Japanese people. The qualities attributed to them were also ones that interviewees felt should be emulated by people of their country. With respect to Indonesia and Malaysia, this project indicates that the general regard for Japan is positive, and that Japan's efforts at developing friendly relations in Southeast Asia appear to have had success. Also, the fondness of people in Malaysia and Indonesia for Japan's cultural products has 'soft power' benefits for Japan.

It is the opinion of this researcher (Lee) that this project was very successful. There is great value in the stories that were collected. Much of what followed the terrible events of 11 March 2011 have often been high-level debates and discussions. How and why ordinary people around the world reacted, and sought to reach out to Japan, have until not been well recorded. To have some of these stories on record now will be of immense benefit in the years to come.

Verbal Presentation

April 2014. RMIT University 'ASIA@RMIT' Seminar Series. *'For Japan, Our Sister': A short-film screening on how Indonesians in Jogjakarta responded to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.* Presented by Julian CH Lee. (see Appendix A).

Short Film

The short film, 'For Japan, Our Sister', is now available online. Website:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfdhkkIzXG4>

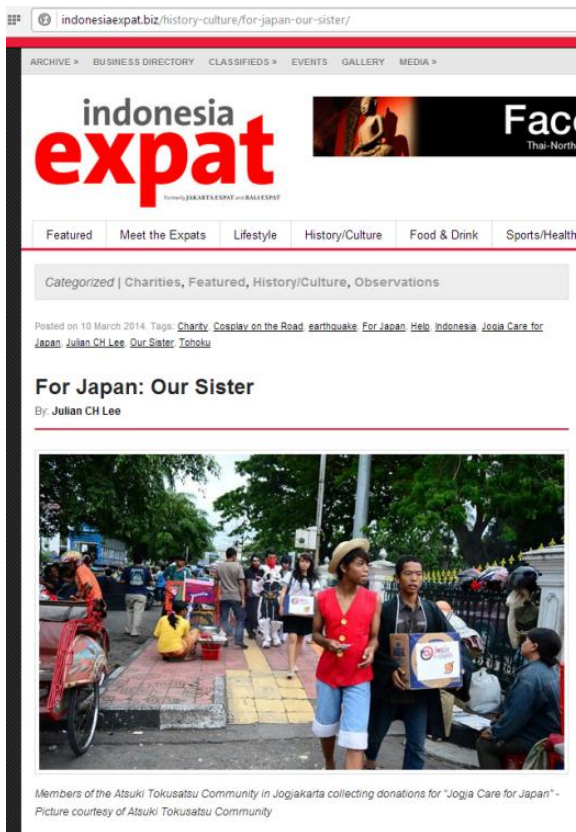
Article

Academic article

The following article has been submitted to an academic journal. I will update when there is further information on this publication.

Julian CH Lee. "We've experienced that too": Indonesian Support for Japan Following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

Non-academic article



indonesiaexpat.biz/history-culture/for-japan-our-sister/

ARCHIVE » BUSINESS DIRECTORY » CLASSIFIEDS » EVENTS » GALLERY » MEDIA »

indonesia expat from JAKARTA EXPAT and BALEXPAT

Fac Thai-North


Featured Meet the Expats Lifestyle History/Culture Food & Drink Sports/Health

Categorized | Charities, Featured, History/Culture, Observations

Posted on 10 March 2014. Tags: [Charity](#), [Cosplay on the Road](#), [earthquake](#), [For Japan](#), [Help](#), [Indonesia](#), [Jogja Care for Japan](#), [Julian CH Lee](#), [Our Sister](#), [Tohoku](#)

For Japan: Our Sister

By: [Julian CH Lee](#)



Members of the Atsuki Tokusatsu Community in Jogjakarta collecting donations for "Jogja Care for Japan" - Picture courtesy of Atsuki Tokusatsu Community

Julian CH Lee. "Looking Back at How Indonesians Responded to Japan's 2011 Earthquake". *Expat Magazine* (Indonesia), Issue 113. Website:
<http://indonesiaexpat.biz/history-culture/for-japan-our-sister/>

Julian CH Lee. "The New Wave". *The B-Side* (Malaysia), March. Website: <http://contentviewer.adobe.com/s/The%20B-Side/dc43599887d043fd8cff1e51c0f2a5da/my.bfm.thebide.2014.march/4710.html>

Second thoughts



The new wave

After disaster, an unlikely sisterhood
between Japan and Indonesia.

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By Julian CH Lee

Appendix A

The Graduate School of Business and Law together with the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies invite you to attend the first Asia@RMIT seminar for 2014.

Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2014

Time: 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Venue: Building 80, Level 5, Room 01

RSVP: aastha.swaroop@rmit.edu.au by **Tuesday, 18 March, 12 pm** (places are limited). Light lunch will be provided

Presenter: [Dr Julian Lee](#) (Global, Urban and Social Studies)

Title: 'For Japan, Our Sister: A short-film screening on how Indonesians in Jogjakarta responded to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011'.

Abstract:

In this presentation, Julian CH Lee screens his new short-film, *For Japan, Our Sister* (8 minutes). This film tells the stories of Indonesians from Jogjakarta who sought to show their support for Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. Through their accounts, an array of surprising connections with Japan emerge as they describe their motivations for showing their support. This film, which was made possible with support from the Sumitomo Foundation, was co-created with the Indonesian film-maker, Mahatma Putra. In addition to screening *For Japan, Our Sister*, Julian will describe the research that led to the film and some of its findings.

Weblink: <http://rmit.com.au/browse;ID=1yw5m6mg6hzs>