

# Post-TSUNAMI

## The meaning of *Ikiru*, what is it to survive?

The Japan Professional Photographers Society (JPS) will present an exhibition of photographs taken during the first year after the earthquake and tsunami that struck northeast Japan on March 11, 2011 at Photokina 2012 in Cologne, Germany (September 18-23). The theme is *Ikiru* (in Japanese, “We Survive!”).

This exhibition and the published photo collection *Ikiru* on which it is based are an effort on behalf of JPS members to contribute to the recovery of the region affected by the earthquake and tsunami. The photographs included in both reveal through these photographers’s eyes how people in the region are transcending their anguish and getting on with their lives. The exhibition was shown first in Tokyo in March 2012, one year after the earthquake and tsunami. From the end of March through April, it was shown in Sendai, a city severely affected by these events. The visitors who flocked to see the exhibition in both cities were deeply moved by what they saw. Five hundred copies of the photo collection *Ikiru* were contributed to public libraries throughout the afflicted region. The exhibition at Photokina will be the first showing outside Japan.

This exhibition conveys the heartfelt gratitude that we in Japan feel for the outpouring of support, assistance and encouragement we received from all over the world following the earthquake and tsunami. It is our hope that people from all over the world will take the opportunity to see these photographs at Photokina, the world of photography’s greatest biennial celebration.

### ©Location

Event: Photokina 2012, Tuesday, September 18-Sunday, September 23, 2012 (organized by Koelnmesse)  
Venue: Photokina 2012, Cologne, Germany  
Organizers: Japan Professional Photographers Society  
Sponsor: TAMRON Co., Ltd.

### ©Exhibition

Works: Around 100  
Photographers: 73 (professionals and amateurs, including JPS members)  
Editorial and layout: JPS

### ©Press Meeting & Vernissage

To be held on the first day of Photokina 2012  
Date and time: Tuesday, September 18, 12:00-13:00 p.m.  
Place: "IKIRU - Post-Tsunami - Photo Exhibition Site in Hall 5.1 at CologneMesse

### ■The Exhibition

Since March 2012, starting as Japan approached the first anniversary of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami, this photo exhibition has been presented in Tokyo and in Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture, one the areas most affected by the disaster. The exhibition is divided into three parts, “The Disaster,” “Our Home,” and “We Survive.”

The first part, “The Disaster,” is composed of photographs that could only have been taken by residents of the affected areas and have not previously appeared in the mass media. They are a vivid record of the terrifying scale of the tsunami.

The second part, “Our Home,” is composed of photographs taken before the disaster, where visitors will glimpse the world that the survivors hope to rebuild. These photographs are more than a collection of photographs from the past. They are, in themselves, a record of facts without which the scale of the disaster cannot be understood. Many are printed from film or negatives recovered from containers swept away by the tsunami.

The third section, “We Survive,” is the heart of the whole exhibition. Here we see the difficult conditions in which people have survived for the last year, as they struggled to get back on their feet and rebuild their everyday lives. This is the struggle to which the book title, *Ikiru* points. As photographers who have intruded into their, taken their pictures, documented and exhibited their struggles, we hope to contribute to their success and to the larger community of which we are all part.

- Tokyo Exhibition: Friday, March 2-Thursday, March 15, 2012 at the Fuji Photo Gallery Shinjuku
- Sendai Exhibition: Tuesday, March 27-Sunday April 8, 2012 at the Sendai City Museum Gallery

■The Japan Professional Photographers Society

Name: Japan Professional Photographers Society

Founded: May 12, 1950;

President: Takeyoshi Tanuma

Address: Suite 303, JCII Bldg., 25 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0082, Japan

Objectives: To promote creative activities related to photography by fostering photography as hard, hosting exhibitions related to history and photographic expression, copyright education, providing recognition for technological advances and outstanding creative work, publishing books and society journals and, thereby, contributing to the development of Japanese culture.

Membership

Regular members: 1,707 (as of April 2012)

Supporting members: 53 companies

Honorary members: 13

■WEB Site

<http://www.jps.gr.jp/ikiru/>