

Dear Raqs Media Collective,

I hope this finds you well.

Six months have already passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake on 1st January. Immediately after the earthquake, lifelines such as electricity and water were unavailable and remained so for a long time. Currently, electricity has been restored in almost all areas, but many households are still unable to use the water supply, due in part to leaks in their homes.

Construction of temporary housing is progressing at a rapid pace, but due to difficulties in securing land, only about half of the applications have been completed. Many people are forced to live outside of Suzu City.

In Suzu City, a recovery plan is being developed, and a round of explanatory meetings has been held. As an advisor to the Recovery Planning Committee, I would like to contribute to the restoration of Suzu City.

The Oku-Noto Suzu Yassar Project, which was launched after the earthquake, is working on building a system for long-term activities while helping with the inspection, first aid, and cleanup of the artworks.

We would like to report on our activity policy for fiscal 2024.

1. Repair and Removal of Artworks and Facilities created for Oku-Noto Triennale

In consultation with the City of Suzu and local residents, we will decide which artworks to repair or remove. After that, we will proceed with the repair and removal of the artworks and facilities. However, since this work requires a large amount of money, it cannot be done all at once. While securing various financial resources, we will proceed in stages over a five-year period.

2. Reopening of the Suzu Theatre Museum and Shiosai Restaurant

The roads collapsed due to the earthquake, making access to the Otani area difficult. Volunteers and construction workers are having difficulty getting in, but we are making efforts to reopen the Suzu Theatre Museum and Shiosai (tidal wave) Restaurant (designed by Ban Shigeru), whose buildings are safe, and provide meals to support the activities of local residents, construction workers, and volunteers.

3. Reconstruction Tours

With many houses destroyed and a large amount of waste, reconstruction is expected to take a long time. While media coverage of the Noto Peninsula earthquake is decreasing, we will strive to keep the earthquake from fading away by conveying memories of the disaster through the stories of local residents and organizing tours to help with reconstruction activities.

4. Creation of disaster archives

As houses are being demolished, items filled with memories of the local people are being discarded with nowhere to go. We feel that the strong community of Suzu owes much to the memories shared by the local community. While staying close to those who are disposing of their homes, we would like to collaborate with locals, artists, and supporters to record and preserve the "collective memory of the community" that will be useful for future community building. We are currently making a plan on archives and will announce it at a later date.

5. Oku-Noto Suzu Supporting Artists Exhibition

We will organize the "Oku-Noto Supporting Artists Exhibition" in early November in collaboration with Art Front Gallery at the Sarugaku Festival, which is held annually at Daikanyama Hillside Terrace. Artworks will be sold at the exhibition, and the proceeds will be used to fund reconstruction activities in Suzu.

The reconstruction of Suzu is a long road ahead, but Mayor Izumiya of Suzu City has high expectations for culture and the arts as one of the pillars of reconstruction. We would like to work together with the Suzu City and the local communities and people, and hope that the feelings of many people for Suzu will be linked to the recovery. We sincerely ask for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fram Kitagawa', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fram Kitagawa
Representative of Oku-Noto Suzu Yassar Project