

Facing disaster areas

Their Majesties visit areas struck by major natural disasters to console the victims and to give support to the rescue workers. They visit those areas as soon as local conditions make it possible by using all possible means of transportation from early in the morning until late in the evening. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, which resulted in more than twenty thousand dead and missing persons, Their Majesties made visits to the evacuation centers and the disaster-affected areas in seven consecutive weeks from March to May, where They offered Their sympathies to the people who had been affected by the disaster. While thus They promptly visit these afflicted areas, Their Majesties also closely follow the recovery process of these areas for a long time afterwards.



Emperor Akihito addresses the people in a video-message just after the Great East Japan Earthquake.
(March 2011)



Emperor Akihito comforts victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. (April 2011)



Empress Michiko comforts victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. (April 2011)