

Volunteers

Work Wonders in Taean, Korea

Brochure depicts how a major oil spill has been cleaned up by the sheer determination of the people caring for the environment

This brochure, entitled “Volunteers Work Wonders in Taean, Korea,” has been published by the Government of the Republic of Korea to publicize how a major oil spill in the sea was successfully cleaned up by a large group of volunteers.

The oil spill took place when the tanker Hebei Spirit collided with a tugboat in Korea’s West Sea. The brochure describes what volunteers did, in coordination with the residents in the affected areas, in the face of an enormous environmental calamity. It was truly a human drama replete with compassion, struggle and ensuing exhilaration.

The brochure is composed of three Sections: 1) One Million Souls Form a Chain to Clean up a Massive Oil Spill, 2) Talk of Hope Emerges Finally, and 3) Setting Sail with New Hope.

Section 1 deals with how a coalition of relief operations was formed and how different entities - the Government, residents and volunteers - did their parts effectively.

Section 2 delved into how particular groups of people were motivated to participate in the clean-up effort and chip in their efforts. Featured in the section are members of diverse religious communities, students, homemakers, office workers and physically challenged people as well as the military and coast guard personnel.

Section 3 shows how the cleanup work contributed to helping the affected areas be restored to its natural state in such a short time, imbuing the residents as well as the whole nation with a sense of bonding and hope for the future.

It is hoped that the brochure will make all peoples of the world aware of the danger of environmental disasters. It is also hoped the Korean experience will get out the message that as impossible as a task may seem, an environmental crisis can be managed effectively, indeed, with the sheer efforts of caring people and public entities.