3 Promptly recover lifelines from damage caused by disasters

It's also one of the EBARA Group's important responsibilities to promptly and securely recover water and waste treatment facilities damaged by accidents, concentrated heavy rains and natural disasters such as earthquakes and make efforts to resume our sound social life. We introduce two case examples out of the disaster-relief activities conducted by the EBARA Group in 2007.

Restore water treatment facilities

On August 20, 2007, an unprecedented regional thunderstorm with a rainfall of 44 mm per hour flooded a part of the sewage treatment plant, in the Johoku water quality management center of the Kanazawa Water and Energy Center, Ishikawa Prefecture, and caused an outage of the plant's system.
The EBARA Group received a request from the Kanazawa City municipality to help recover the system and immediately organized a disaster recovery team. Under the directions of the Kanazawa City municipality, our team dismounted and adjusted the driving part of the plant machinery and equipment, measured the insulation resistance of the motor, disassembled and dried the motor, and removed, prepared and replaced unusable equipment. We actually completed the recovery work in two months, much faster than the predicted period of six months.

2nd water treatment piping gallery

Recovery work (checking and installing the motor)

Restore the waste treatment facilities

The Niigata Chuetsu-oki Earthquake occurred on July 16, 2007 and was centered in the Jochuetsu offshore area, Niigata Prefecture, and registered a magnitude of 6.8, or upper 6 on the Japanese intensity scale of 7. In the Clean Center Kashiwazaki in Kashiwazaki City, a stack of waste incineration facilities and some equipment in the plant were damaged by the earthquake. The EBARA Group received a request from the Kashiwazaki City municipality for some temporary work and immediately established a disaster recovery project team to start that work. The stack was broken at a height of about 18 m above the ground and, in cooperation with the Kashiwazaki City municipality, we rapidly took measures to prevent the stack from collapsing and a second disaster which could have occurred because of aftershocks or typhoons.
To resume the operation of the facilities as soon as possible, we needed to dismantle the stack and rebuild it. The project team started dismantling the broken stack under perfect pollution control just after the aftershocks ended. They worked on the recovery work such as installing a 35-m temporary steel stack and checking out and repairing machines in the facilities. They were able to resume operating the waste treatment facilities on November 15, about four months after the earthquake.

Stack which was broken at a height of about 18 m above the ground (near the top of the building) (just after the earthquake)

Building on which a temporary steel stack was installed (after the disaster recovery)