



The Philippines and Typhoon Haiyan **The winds of change**

A month later, the worst-hit town looks to the future



1) COSTA BRAVA, a coastal settlement in Tacloban, may have been **tempting** fate with its name. It **is flanked by** the open sea on one side and by a bay on the other. When a wall of water from typhoon Haiyan hit it soon after dawn on November 8th the destruction was quick and devastating. This was one of the poorest parts of town, and the **flimsy shacks** and jerry-built houses offered little resistance. Costa Brava

was literally **flattened**. One of the few remaining residents, known as Mr Butz, estimates that almost half of the people here lost their lives that morning. They had been advised to leave, but many made their own disastrous misjudgments about the severity of the storm and stayed. Mr Butz himself lost four children.

- 2) A month after Haiyan, the other worst-affected coastal areas remain **desolate**. Much of the land around Tacloban, the town that bore the brunt of the storm surge, resembles old photographs of a first-world-war battlefield: hundreds of broken trees; craters of mud and debris where houses once stood; **upended** cars and vans. Although most of the bodies have now been cleared away, corpses are still being discovered. The death toll in Tacloban itself is now thought to be about 2,500. Overall, the figure stands at about 6,000, with a further 1,800 or so missing.
- 3) Yet even after this **hammering**, Tacloban shows signs of recovery. Electricity has been restored to parts of town. The number registered at official evacuation centres has fallen rapidly to just 18,000 (out of an original population of about 220,000) and street-markets are trading again. The roads are largely clear of debris.
- 4) Much of this is because of the rapid influx of foreign aid. In the days after Haiyan struck, civil administration broke down and looting was widespread. But now a formidable logistical pipeline covers basic needs. In total across the country about 3m people still need emergency food aid, but that is being distributed well, as are rice seeds for the coming planting season. Few signs of **malnutrition** and no outbreaks of the diseases, such as **tetanus**, that can often follow such disasters have been recorded.
- 5) Indeed, the city authorities are already as concerned with preventing future disasters as they are with mopping up after this one. Many have paid tribute to Filipinos' resilience in adversity, but the task now, argues Tecson John Lim, a senior city official in Tacloban, is to "rebuild a better city". Most important, he wants to stop the construction of new homes within 40 metres of the seashore. This could mean the end of places like Costa Brava.
- 6) Many fishermen will be **loath** to leave their coastal homes. But the authorities hope the scale of the disaster may persuade them to move to new settlements, such as one being built inland, 8km (5 miles) up the coast. Tacloban has asked the central government for 18.5 billion pesos (\$426m) for such works. But the city is governed by a different political party from that of President Benigno Aquino, and officials in Tacloban fear this may influence the **disbursement** of funds. Such political differences have undoubtedly **blemished** the national relief effort.
- 7) But the emergency-relief operation itself may have **sown some seeds** of a better future for the city, if the momentum can be maintained. The UN Population Fund, for example, has been running an **outreach** campaign to attract pregnant and breast-feeding women to its mobile clinics for advice and monitoring. On December 13th, for example, 470 women came, far more than normally attend any sort of health centre. From this, one doctor hopes, Tacloban's mothers may learn the benefits of seeking medical help, so that the murderous Haiyan will have brought at least one **fortuitous**, lasting benefit.

[12/21/2013/The Economist]

tempt: ひきつける flank: 側面に立つ flimsy: 薄っぺらい、壊れやすい shack: 掘立小屋 flattened: べしやんこになった desolate: 荒れ果てた、荒涼とした upend: ひっくり返す hammering: 攻撃 malnutrition: 栄養不良 tetanus: 破傷風 loth: =loath 嫌々の disbursement: 支払(金) blemish: 傷つける、損なう sow seeds: 種をまく outreach: 支援活動 fortuitous: 偶然の、思いがけない

☆Ice breaker for active discussion☆

1. What is the present situation in the Philippines after the typhoon? How devastating was the disaster?
2. Have you donated something for the typhoon victims in the Philippines?
3. What is your image of the Philippines and the Filipino people? Do you think this has something to do with the speed of recovery of the country?
4. Have you ever encountered any natural disaster? Please share your experience.
5. Are you preparing for any possible natural disaster?
6. Please explain the picture in the article. What do you think this represents?
7. Make sentences using the following words : flank, desolate, upend, malnutrition, loth, disbursement, blemish, sow seeds, outreach and fortuitous.

Haiyan (ハイエン) は中国が名づけた名で、海燕(うみつばめ)の意味です。日本では台風30号と呼ばれます。以前はアメリカが英語の人名をつけていましたが、2000年から北西太平洋と南シナ海の台風に関わる政府間組織の台風委員会が参加国・地域が提案する固有の名の使用を開始しました。9月に Usagi という名の台風もありましたね。