The earthquake that occurred off the Pacific coast of Tohoku on March 11, 2011, was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan, with a magnitude of 9.0. The earthquake, the tsunami it triggered and the subsequent aftershocks caused immense damage from Tohoku to the Kanto region, killing over 15,000 people and leaving more than 2,500 missing and over 6,000 injured across eastern Japan.

This year marks five years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. We look back on the road traveled and current situation, consider the issues at hand, and bring you the faces and stories of the people powering the efforts to restore the Tohoku region to health and prosperity.