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**NATIONAL DISASTER HELP DESK FOR BUSINESS
OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI IN JAPAN
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION**

*Companies with Interests in Japan Can Call 1-888-MY-BIZ-HELP to Access Resources
Provided by U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center*

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 17, 2011 – In the aftermath of last week’s devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, many companies in the United States are seeking ways to help their colleagues and employees in the region, as well as advice on the status of international relief and recovery efforts.

Businesses can pose specific questions and access a wide range of disaster relief and recovery resources by contacting the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center’s (BCLC) [National Disaster Help Desk for Business](#) toll-free at 1-888-MY-BIZ-HELP (1-888-692-4943).

The 24-hour Help Desk is supported by the [Office Depot Foundation](#) – the independent, non-profit foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot (NYSE: ODP) – and is designed to enhance community economic recovery after a disaster. It provides on-the-ground coordination of information among businesses, local chambers of commerce, nongovernmental and non-profit organizations, government responders and disaster recovery specialists. Businesses are encouraged to call the Help Desk if:

- They have interests in the impact area and want help coordinating with U.S.-based NGOs and U.S. government aid agencies.
- They want information about recovery best practices.



- They want to support the recovery process and connect with chambers of commerce or businesses in the impact area.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Japan,” says Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are grateful that we can play a useful role in offering much-needed assistance following this tremendous tragedy.”

The Foundation, which has provided leadership for the National Disaster Help Desk for Business since its inception, is supporting the program financially once again in 2011 – for the fifth consecutive year. In addition, Wong serves as co-chair of BCLC’s Disaster Assistance and Recovery Working Group.

“After a disaster, the Help Desk provides answers to a wide variety of questions very quickly,” notes Stephen Jordan, senior vice president and executive director of BCLC. “The Help Desk is staffed by disaster response professionals who are committed to accelerating the ability of victims and disaster aid providers to connect and get help.”

Over the last four years, the Help Desk has fielded more than 12,000 inquiries, of which about 50 percent came from small businesses.

In addition to the toll-free number (1-888-MY-BIZ-HELP), the Help Desk can also be reached at BCLChelpdesk@uschamber.com. For more information, visit <http://bclc.uschamber.com/programs/disaster/national-help-desk-business>.

The Office Depot Foundation also offers disaster relief, recovery and preparedness resources on its website at www.officedepotfoundation.org, including the [Disaster Resistant Business \(DRB\) Toolkit](#) – a downloadable software package designed to help businesses of all sizes to build their emergency program, including creating or enhancing their company’s disaster plan.

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About the [Office Depot Foundation](#)

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation (tax exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)) that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care[®], the Foundation supports a variety of programs that help children succeed in school and in life; enable civil society (non-profit) organizations to become more efficient and effective; assist people and businesses in preparing for disasters, as well as recovering and rebuilding afterwards; strengthen local communities through grants, product donations and volunteerism; and encourage community development through entrepreneurship and economic innovation.



About the [Business Civic Leadership Center](#) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
BCLC is a 501(c)(3) affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is a resource and voice for businesses and their social and philanthropic interests. Its mission is to advance the positive role of business in society. The U.S. Chamber is the world's largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region.

