**Atsuko Charter Company**

Atsuko Isle, is a beautiful volcanic island that has just been turned over from the Japanese government to your team, the Atsuko Charter Company (ACC). The Japanese did not want Atsuko Isle anymore because it was too difficult to decide how to build on the island. While they tried many endeavors, the terrain was too tough to produce any worthwhile crops, and the people were running out of food. It was too costly to fly things in.

Nevertheless, Atsuko Isle, while small in size, is vast in beauty. It lies off the coast of Japan, in the midst of the well-known Ring of Fire, leaving it prone to seismic and volcanic activity. The location of the island is 34˚ 4’ N, 139˚ 33’ E. The elevation of Atsuko Volcano is 743 meters above sea level (about 8 times as high as your rockets flew). If you were to drive around the whole island, it would take about half an hour.

You, the members of the ACC, must decide what is the best way to develop the island. You have an anonymous yet enthusiastic financier from the United States who will pay for what you need to do. The only thing she asks of you is to decide what percentage of each dollar will be spent on each business venture. You must decide the development plan of Atsuko Isle by midnight tomorrow, so there is no time to waste. If you do not reach a consensus by that time, she will give the island to her bratty grandchildren, who have plans to turn it into an alligator farm. Your benefactor hates alligators even more than her grandchildren, so she really needs you to finalize your plan so she doesn’t have to fund any endeavor involving toothy reptiles.

So far, here is where we stand… there is a small settlement on the west side of the isle, with about 500 people who urgently need work (and who don’t want to raise alligators). On the west side, there is a small airstrip where propeller planes can land. Ships can dock on the south shore to deliver materials, electronics, and supplies. There is a tiny school for the 200 island children. There is one store, a bank, a post office, and other small businesses. Until now, the islanders have tried their hand at everything from rice farming to making coral jewelry, but have not been economically successful. They are hoping that their future will be brighter with the ACC.

Your Benefactor assembled you for your expertise, so that you could successfully lead the ACC to a decision that will protect Atsuko’s beauty and allow the islanders to prosper. Her team consists of the following people:

The Locals

L1. Mayor Me-me-me-me has lived on Atsuko her whole life and feels quite important enough to name all the buildings after family members. She desperately seeks fame on her tiny isle, and is in the process of commissioning a statue of herself to welcome visitors at the airport.

L2. Clyde, the City Manager, needs more funds to repair the airport and the roads that are full of potholes. She also wants to build a hospital because there isn’t a place for medical emergencies or babies to be born. In her dreams she would buy a fire truck as well.

L3. Nitti Spannah, the City Planner as well as chief architect of Atsuko Isle, wants to make sure that all new buildings are built to her strict standards. She does not want there to be another earthquake that flattens all the little houses in the village. Not to mention that pesky volcano! What if that one blows? Although it hasn’t erupted in 100 years, there is always that little feeling in the back of her mind, so she wants to be safe.

L4. Old Ozzie, the unofficial spiritual medicine man of the island wants to make sure that the developers do not make the giant catfish mad. Atsuko Isle rests on the back of the sleeping catfish. Old Ozzie was alive when the volcano blew 100 years ago, or so he says, but no one else can verify that information because everyone else who was there has long since died.

The Scientists:

S1. Vladimir Newton (“Newt” to his friends) has a PhD in biology. He is passionate about making sure that all creatures on earth can survive and thrive. He has noticed that the Snow Monkey population in the hot springs near the crater of the volcano seems to be dwindling.

S2. Spockster Spocksdotter, a renowned volcanologist, has just come from her native Reykjavik, Iceland, where she saw first-hand the damage from the spewing of ash from that volcano. In her words, “All of the peoples walking around in gray and white. Everything gray. Looks like they wearing pigeon feathers instead of clothes.”

S3. Shakey Ground is a seismologist who is very worried about the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan and is trying to find out if there is any seismic activity on Atsuko. She brought her seismograph and it started to show activity. She went to get Nitti Spannah, and when she returned, the seismograph was gone! Was it stolen?

S4. Mellow Marina is a marine biologist who is afraid that local people are selling coral and using terrible fishing methods that will destroy the marine life. She realizes that the locals need a sustainable way to make a living and is looking to find out if anyone can come up with a better idea than destroying the reef.

The Entrepreneurs

E1. George Geronimo is an adventurer who has big plans to setup the world’s longest zipline from the top of the crater all the way down to the ocean. Tourists will have a choice of hiking the 743 meters to the top of the volcano or taking a helicopter (for an extra $500/person). He will need to clear the path from the top of the volcano to the ocean.

E2. Yolene Under enjoys SCUBA diving in exotic places around the world. She is especially fond of corals. She is eager to get more tourists to the island to sign up for her tours. The tours will include SCUBA, SNUBA, and snorkeling. There will even be glass bottom kayaks for those guests that don’t want to get wet. Jolene hopes that this type of tourism will help people realize they need to preserve the marine life. She also wants to employ the locals to make souvenirs to sell at her dive shop.

E3. Conroku Hiltomoto is eager to build a 5 star hotel with 300 rooms, each with views of the ocean and the volcano – the hotel will be built halfway up the volcano. Conroku plans on blasting the rock to clear a 2-lane golf-cart highway to get vacationers from the airport to his hotel. He says that the hotel will employ 100 Atsukoians.

E4. Selwyn Soother wants to revitalize tired travelers. This would be the only spa resort between Japan and Hawaii and would be a welcome spot for tourists after their full day of activities around the island. He plans on making use of the natural hot springs, and clearing the land around them so that the spa visitors get a better view of the ocean. By clearing the trees, he will get rid of that pesky wildlife, including noisy birds and those snow monkeys that use the hot springs now.

E5. Crystal Crater is a gemologist but doesn’t want anyone to know who she really is. Crystal has heard that there are rubies in the volcano. She wants them all but doesn’t want anyone else to know they are there. She would like to bring her mining company to the island but has to figure out how to get permission without letting anyone know about the rubies.

E6. Tim Berr has just recently arrived on the island and has been seen hiking around the volcano. He is a little shady and doesn’t say much. What he isn’t telling people is that he is an executive from the company of Pottery, Crate & Sonoma, has found a pristine stand of mahogany on the north shore that will make excellent chairs to be sold in high-end furniture stores.