

3rd Tohoku Trip Report

March 26th – 30th
2014



Member's List

Name	Gender	Glade	Address
Eka Suzuki	F	J2	Chiba
Haruki Fukuba	M	E4	Okayama
Hibiki Terao	M	E3	Hyogo
Hinako Hosotani	F	J1	Nara
Jun Terao	M	E6	Hyogo
Keita Odashima	M	E4	Chiba
Kotaro Oishi	M	J2	Tochigi
Kyohei Yamamoto	M	J2	Kanagawa

Name	Gender	Glade	Address
Marika Shimizu	F	J1	Tokyo
Miki Terao	F		Hyogo
Nana Okawara	F	E5	Shizuoka
Nanako Okumura	F	J1	Osaka
Rio Shimoda	F	J3	Hyogo
Satsuki Asahi	M	E6	Hyogo
Yua Suzuki	F	J1	Chiba
Yume Suzuki	F	J3	Chiba

Nickname	Gender	Nationality
Dhanu	M	Sri Lanka
Fauzan	M	Indonesia
Kat	F	Thailand
Linh	F	Vietnam

Nickname	Gender	Nationality
Mak	M	Botswana
Mandy	F	China
Nesya	F	Indonesia
Popoy	M	Philippines



Name	Gender	
Akihiro Chiba	M	Former Assistant Director General for Coordination of Operational Activities, UNESCO HQ
Hiroshi Shinagawa	M	Global Network Team Leader
Mika Adachi	F	Global Network Team
Yuko Manome	F	Global Network Team

Schedule

DAY 1 3 / 26	Meet at Sendai Airport Observe Yuriage area with volunteer guide Move to Hotel Orientation Summary / Diary Time / Preparation for tomorrow / Free time
DAY 2 3 / 27	Fun time with Yuriage Ami-s. Lunch and communication time Observe Minamisanriku town with volunteer guide Visit Sansan-Shotengai (Temporary shops) Summery / Diary time/ Preparation for tomorrow/ Free time
DAY 3 3 / 28	Fun time (cooking) with local people at Ofunato ibasho house Fun time with English with local kids Listening story from Ms. Satoko Kinno Summery / Diary time/ Preparation for tomorrow/ Free time
DAY 4 3 / 29	Observe Taro area Get on the Sanriku railway from Taro station to Miyako station Visit temporary house (Introduce country, lunch, free communication) Know about other earthquake Summery / Diary time/Impression time / Free time
DAY 5 3 / 30	Enjoy nature in Iwate (Jyodogahama) Impression

MAP



DAY1

The aim of Tohoku trip are

1. To expand the view and perspective by directly going to the real location and experiencing the reality.
2. To learn through communicating with local people.
3. To share to as many people in English about what you learned.
4. Think about what we can do

People from 8 country. People are 28 member go to Tohoku trip. I think people yuriage is brave because they have courage to talk about the earthquake.



Keita



First of all, I have one question. Do you know how many people were dead with tsunami? 15,880 people were dead with tsunami. Three years had passed from "higashinohon earthquake". Maybe most of you can know about the situation of recovery from the news or papers. But I think there is the most important things that we must know. That is a fact that many people in Tohoku were dead. And the people who dead in Tohoku is someone's father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandpa, grandma. Imagine that your family will go tomorrow. I think it will be very

sad. People in Tohoku tell the sadness so much. We must not forget that. At Yuriage district, we met with Mrs. Tanno. She also lost her son with tsunami. I think she was really sad. Too sad to do something. But, though she lost her son, she was thinking about the people who dead with tsunami. She made memorial for the kids in yuriage junior high school who dead with tsunami. She wanted people to touch the name of kids and kids in heaven. So the shape of memorial is very easy to touch. I want you to go Tohoku and touch their names. Mrs. Tanno is also working to save the memories of the earthquake. Now, she is thinking about to make the museum of higashi nihon earthquake and tell about the tragedy of earthquake and collect information about disaster prevention to young generation. So everyone, after this presentation, please tell the story you heard to many people, as many as you can.

Kyohei



The first sight of the Yuriage city instantly broke my heart. The city was so quiet that I can clearly hear the sound of the wind. There were not much left to see as the ruins were all cleaned out, but it is

the “Emptiness” that brought tears to my eyes. Seeing the place where thousands of household used to live, in such an empty scene made me shiver with fear. I kept picturing the 20 meters high monster wave swallowing the city and kept thinking how hard it would be for people who have lost their house their loves ones could possibly withstand the sight of this city. However, after meeting with the local people and hear their story, I realized that even they will always be a scar in the heart of Yuriage people, but they are now strong and have started to move on. I have learned not only about their painful memory, but also their hope for their city. Of course I will never be able to forget what happened to the people of Yuriage, but the sight of the “Emptiness” now also give me hope and dream for their future. Now I look forward to see what kind of city Yuriage will become in the future.

Kat

DAY2

On our second day, we visited 2 places.

We left our first hotel and went to Yuriage Ami-s. It is a place where people can enjoy knitting and become friends.



The Ami-s’ staff taught us to make “sakurambo”. We had lunch

together with the staffs and they shared many stories. After that we went to Minami Sanriku town by bus. It was a long journey, about 2 hours. We were guided by Sato san. He told us many stories about the place. The tsunami reached 28 metres, very high and scary. After the tour, we had a dinner at Sansan Shoutengai. Dinner was very delicious. Today was very special because we stayed at school. Now my friends will tell us more about detail.



Nesya



I announce “Yuriage Ami~s”. I liked make sakurambo. Sakurambo difficult cut circle, but “Yuriage Ami~s” staff help me. They are very kind. This is the sakurambu please see. One sakurambo is made by “Yuriage Ami~s” staff. One more is made by me. Made finish is so happy. And lunch, we had lunch with “Yuriage Ami~s” staff. “Yuriage Ami~s” staff tell story about Tsunami to us. Tsunami is scary because tsunami wave was very high, so everyone run high place like mountain and high building.

Nana

After Yuriage Ami-s, we visit minamisanriku town. The wave is clam. Some people were fishing. I felt so peace. But 2007 has earthquake at chili. This time tsunami height 3.4m. So, near the minamisanriku town



water gate height is 7m. But higashinihon daishinsai tsunami is three time higher. This tsunami victim was about thousand people. Next, we visited at Togura elementary school and junior high school. These school near the sea. Window glass is broken. Clock is stop. Third, we went bosai taisaku chosya. This built was big damage of tsunami. This built on survivor is seven people. Around the bosai taisaku chosya also dreadful sight.

Yua

After observe Minamisanriku town, we visited Sansan Shotengai to have dinner. At first, we ate ice cream there. It was so delicious and I became happier. Then, we went to Houraku Syoukudo and I ate ramen. Shop assistant taught us many things about Tohoku Foods. They were kind and I thought Tohoku people have warm heart. An oyster what I ate today is the most delicious I have ever eat. In this trip I ate many many yummy foods. When I ate yummy foods I become happy. I want to thank for Tohoku people.



Eka

DAY3



On the 3rd day, we had chance to meet and communicate with local people, especially local children. They are really friendly and hospitable. What impressed me the most is the positive and optimistic view towards the future. From young children to elderly people, no one could think that there was a serious disaster 3 years ago. People talked to us, helped us, played with us, had fun with us. I feel relieved and happy to see their smiles. I hope that they also feel the love that we want to spread to them and the message that "Tohoku people are not alone, they also have the support from people all around the world."

Linh

Today, I went to Ofunato ibasho house and had a fun time with local people. Eka and I are take charge of greeting. I was little nervous but I think I did my best. I ate local foods and other country's food there. I cooked "nabeyaki" with local people. It's looks like a pancake. It was delicious. Linh made Vietnamese food. It's raw spring roll. I ate it with source. Popoy made Philippine food "sinigan soup". It was so sour, but delicious. Local foods were delicious too. The pancake what I made was so sweet and yummy. Local people were very kind to me. They made me so happy. I want to meet them again someday.



Hinako

Today is a happy day. We cooked with everyone. I made spring roll myself. It is very yummy.



Hibiki



From today's trip, I have listened to what happened after March 11, 2011. From this picture, you can see the school ground and baseball field of a school in matsusaki. That became a place for temporary shelters of the survivors. We learnt that the government can only give the survivors the land and the people themselves need to rebuild their shelters from their own resources. We have learned the different hardships of living in the temporary house for over 3 years now. I admire the strength of tohoku people and their ability to move forward. For the tohoku people, thank you for being brave and you will always be in our prayers.

Popoy

On day 3rd, we met Ms. Kino. She told us many interesting story. Her job is to protect and fix pictures. She learned how to fix books and pictures in London. She studied graphic design too. She experience Higashi Nihon Daishinsai and tsunami. She was shocked because her hometown, Ofunato, was damaged by tsunami. She thought what she can do for her hometown. And she noticed what she can do is to fix pictures. Because picture is memories. If we lost pictures, it is difficult for us to remember memories. There was 450.000 picture in Ofunato. 420.000 pictures returned their owner. Ms. Kino told us about her experience too. She told us, "Don't be afraid, don't be shy, and just go!" I was moved this words. There are many opportunities around us. We should take action. If we do, we can do anything, I think.



DAY4

Today I talk about sanriku railway. Sanriku railway recovered. We took the train. Very interesting things earthquake are bad, but local people spirit is very strong.

Jun



Rio

I will present about overcoming the calamity by Miyako city locals. Despite the high casualties which include family and friends, the demolition of Miyako city by the tsunami, the difficulty of finding new permanent housing and trauma. They have very strong spirits and they have taught me a lot about overcoming difficulties by simply choosing happiness over depression. Thank you.

Mak



Today I will talk about Miyako city. Grandmothers in the city told us about Tsunami stories. They are not depressed. Local people are full of vitality in high good spirits. I didn't know so much about Tsunami before going to 3rd Tohoku Trip. But I thought that Tsunami is like a monster because I heard many stories about it. A grandmother says that the Tsunami was about 24m. It is 16 times as tall as my height. I can't imagine how tall it was. I hope that it will never happen again.

Haruki

Ok, I will talk about the precious time with local people. First we were separated four teams, and we go to other place each other. Today I will talk about "Kanan temporarily house" which I went to. Kanan temporarily house was a very quiet place. Only a few children were playing something. First we were waiting for local people for twenty or thirty minutes. I worried whether local people will come. But they came one by one. After all, about ten local people gathered for us. First, we began to introduce ourself. I was a little nervous but I could say. Then camp leaders introduced their own country. It was very fun. The local people seemed to enjoy. They always smiled. After lunch, one local people say "Let's make Osenbei!" So we started to make. It was very fun. We can cooperate with local. I was surprised to see the local people's skill. They are good at making senbei. After making senbei, we started to eat. We made three tastes, so we could enjoy three. They were very delicious. The time with local people was very fun.



Kotaro

Today I learned the earthquake in the world. China had a bad earthquake in 1976. There was no truck, car and airplane, so people use a hand only to help people. But there was a beautiful city. Sri Lanka was a tsunami. I was very very sad and unbelievable story. Tsunami provision will wish faster for the future. Thank you.



Satsuki

DAYS

It was our last day of the trip. After breakfast, we went to Jodogahama for sightseeing. We went on a board ride and we were followed by a lot of seagulls which were looking for food. We fed them bread and everybody enjoyed it. Tohoku is a very beautiful area which all of you must visit and experience.



Dhanu



In this Tohoku trip, we went many places and felt Tohoku's changes. The new buildings were built. The railway in Miyako city is starting. There weren't any rubble. These changes made us surprise and happy. But there have not complete revival yet. We think the revival takes much time. We want to make sure of Tohoku's revival. Everyone, please don't forget Tohoku. It is the most important thing.

Yume

During this trip, we learned that the most important thing for revival is to tell other people what the earthquake is, what the tsunami is and experience and SMILE everyday. So, we hope that we could make the people who met in this trip happy and smile. Let's make the future full of hope.



Nanako



I saw many grieve people and broken house, building. I thought the Tohoku area recovery early. But, now the area not recovery. I saw the children are very sad. So, I think I want to children are very happy and their life is free. Of course, I want to expect for children very happy too. I learned many important things in this trip. So, I want to remember the many important things. I want to teach the Tohoku's story and Tsunami fear for next generation, and I heard many things. I want to tell it's for next generation.

Marika

Impression

Eka Suzuki



This trip was 3rd time to join but this trip had a big impact for me. In Yuriage area, I met Tonno-san. Her son passed away because of tsunami. Maybe she had a hard time, but she always had a nice smile and taught us the reality. I think she has strong heart. And I met Yuriage Ami~s in Yuriage. Chiba sensei said "I had a grudge on tsunami at first, but because tsunami occurred I could meet many people. Many people who came from many countries and many area come to Tohoku. I want to thank that" And then, in Ofunato I met many local people and communicated a lot. Tohoku kids are so pure and cheerful. I got power from kids! And in Miyako I visited temporary house. And kids who lived in temporary house were so kind and powerful. I got smile from Tohoku people, too. Volunteer guide who I met told us every day is important and please don't forget about Tohoku. I love Tohoku and Tohoku people. After going back to Chiba, I want to share my experience and my feelings. I want to treasure my life and make the most out of it.

Haruki Fukuba



I had fun in Tohoku trip, because local people talked about Origami. And Fauzan says Arigatougozaimashita is very interesting. I learned that is important to thing from Ms. Satoko Kinno. I think local people happy. Because they smile a lot.

Hibiki Terao



Thank you for playing with me.

Hinako Hosotani



In this Tohoku trip, I am happy and sad. Happy when I made new friends and had fun time with local people and knew each other. I also spoke to many camp leader too. Sad because many people were dead because of earthquake and tsunami. I am so angry to tsunami because it killed many people. I am so scared if it was my family or friends, but it is impossible to hold back nature disaster like earthquakes. I think the most important thing is people help each other. I wish for Tohoku to revive soon.

Jun Terao



Tohoku trip is enjoy because made new friends. Fauzan is Arigatougozaimashita Mataokoshikudasai. And in the bus I talked a lot with my friends. Sashimi is very very yummy. I was surprise tsunami story. I want to do my best from today.

Keita Odashima



I think very happy and fun with Tohoku trip. Because trip was make new friend and study English and study earthquake. Next, people is kind. Especially yuriage amis people and Ibasho House people and temporary house people and camp leader. Camp leader is very very kind. I will come next Tohoku Trip. Because I will make especially memory.

Kotaro Oishi



Through 3rd Tohoku trip, I felt many things. I want to tell all but I don't have time to say so I will tell you most important things what I thought. First day, we went to Yuriage. It's the first time for me to see Tohoku. So I was very surprised to see that. But I think I must accept the fact and it's important thing. Through accepting the fact is very important. We must take action like volunteer or communication. What I want to say is we must do act, not only accept. So, we also went to volunteer or talk with many local people. This is what I wanted to do. I wanted to make the local people happy. The money which I can make or contribution is limited, but the smile which I can give is non-limited. Now, I'm very happy too. Though, my living town, Tochigi, is near Tohoku, Tochigi doesn't have any temporary house. We can't overlook them. We must think and act with local people. I think it's essential thing. And I have another important thing, It's sharing the information with many people. We must share with world's people. If you don't, the memory of earthquake will fade away. Next year, I will go to Canada for studying abroad. Most thing I want to do is study, but I want to tell the memory of earthquake and Tohoku trip too. Thank you.

Kyohei Yamamoto



In the first day of his trip I heard a story from Ms. Tanno. She talked about people who dead by tsunami. And I also saw memorial for the student of Yuriage junior high school. Then I realized that the many people was dead by tsunami. Everybody was someones family. I think it is too late, but I could realize this. So I won't forget this forever. On the other hand, then I learned many many things during this trip. The people in Amis told me about tsunami and also give me a lot of power to do something. The paper conservater Ms. Kinno told me about paper conservation and importance of picture. And a woman in the temporary house told me about situation of Tohoku and some advises of our future and more. All the people in Tohoku was very kind. And I won't forget everything I learned in Tohoku. In the future, I want to become a person which can help people like Tohoku's people. And I want to come Tohoku again soon.

Marika Shimizu



This trip is first time for me. So, the first day, I'm very strain. I saw Tohoku area. I was very shocking, and sad. We listened to many people's stories. I understand tsunami is very fear. I saw many broken house and building and the people was sad in Tohoku. I saw them very sad because I saw very broken town at first. I thought the town recovery early. I met many kids. We enjoyed talked and played with them. I'm very fun. Next year I want to join Tohoku trip.

Nana Okawara



Tohoku trip.

I learn little spoke English because Camp leader was help me. I went Tohoku for the first time, so I don't know Tohoku. But I experience knitting and listen by Tohoku. Therefore I know Tohoku. For example, not everything by building by earthquake. Then I think sad by earthquake, but I enjoyed Tohoku Trip because I played with many kids at temporary house, and I fun time with local people at ofunato Ibasho house. For example, made Nebeyaki, Onigiri, and Namaharumaki. This is very yummi. Next year I involvement by

Nanako Okumura



This trip is the third time for me. The most impressed thing is the story which Mrs Tanno told us. She is representative of "memories of Yuriage". Her son passed away because of the tsunami, but she told us even the story about her son. So, I will never forget the story which she told us. Her son was the first grade in Yuriage Junior high school. Also 13 student passed away because of the tsunami. I pray for their soul. Also, I'm surprised that we couldn't see any rubbles. So, revival advances a little but surely I'm happy to know it. I hope that the revival will advance more and more. During this trip, I learned that the most important thing for the faster revival is to tell people what is the earthquake, what is the tsunami and to smile everyday. So I hope that I could make the people who met is this trip happy and smile. I want to go for revival with Tohoku people.

Rio Shimoda



This is the third time for me to visit tohoku. I am happy to join this trip and meet everyone. I met many local people. They were so kind. And they smiled at us. Their smile moved me. Many people told us many important things. For example, "we should protect ourselves." "don't be afraid, don't be shy, just go." Their words encouraged me. I want to do many things in the future. O, Mrs. Kinno's story was very interesting for me. I think we should take action. Mrs. Kinno took action, too. And she did what she could do. she helped many people. I want to be like her. I learned how was the earthquake and tsunami. The nature disaster are very terrible. We cannot stop it. But, to reduce the damage is possible. I think we should think about her to reduce the damage and to protect ourselves. Let's take action! And I want to thank many people who supported me. "everyone, thank you."

Satsuki Asahi



This time Tohoku trip was very fun. Because I make a new friends. I learned about tsunami. It was a scary monster. It was nothing in Tohoku. I was very sad. But Tohoku people says smile is power for Tohoku people. I wish the Tohoku will be fast recovery. Thank you.

Yua Suzuki



This time is my first Tohoku trip. So, before Tohoku trip, I am nervous. But now I doesn't nervous because I can talk easily with everyone. Everyone was gentle. I was deeply impressed by Tohoku people big warm hearted. Anywhere Tohoku people greeted with a smile. First day, we met Ms. Tanno. Ms. Tanno told us tsunami damage at Yuriage area. Second day, we goes おみーず。 Ms. Chiba taught knitting. Mr. Sato told us Minamisanriku town damage for earthquake. Day three, we made two country foods with local people. And Ms. Kinno told us many things. Day four, we taked Sanriku railway. Sanriku railway passenger were wave hand at get off a railway. Next we visited temporary house. Temporary house grand father told us damage of tsunami. Grand mother taught made osenbe. Every Tohoku people treat us kindly.

Yume Suzuki



I joined Tohoku trip the third time. This time, I went to Yuriage area, Minamisenriku town, Ofunato city, Taro area in Miyako city. I went to many place but I can't forget any experience. I learned and felt about 2 things. First, Tohoku's changes. The place which has changed the most is Miyako city. The new buildings were built. The railway is starting. These made me surprise and happy. Other area is also the same. But there have not complete revival yet. I think the revival takes much time. I want to make sure of Tohoku's revival. Second, Tohoku's people heart. All of them have bad memories. But they smiled all time. When I danced and played with them, they looked very fun. It made me very happy and gave bravery. There heart is very strong. I want to become like them. The 3rd Tohoku trip, I learned many things, I'll be high school student. I will be hard, but I want to have kind heart like Tohoku's people. I'll never forget about Higashi Nihon Daishinsai. I love Tohoku. I love Tohoku's people. I love Tohoku's nature. So I'll continue to come tohoku. Thank you everyone.

Dhanu



Tohoku trip 2014 was my first Tohoku trip. Even though I had seen and heard about the Great East Japan Earthquake through television and internet, I did not have the broad idea about what has really happened. It was the Tohoku trip which gave me the chance to witness the reality in my own eyes. Though 3 years has passed, the traces of the disaster are still remaining there, just like scars from a bad wound. Places which used to be beautiful cities were washed away and left with nothing. Areas like Yuriage, Ofunato and Minamisanriku used to be very active cities filled with energy. But everything vanished in split seconds.

The motive of Tohoku Trip was to witness the current situation in those affected areas and think on what we can do to make the situation better. Our contribution should not only be limited to supporting with goods. As we all saw during the time we spent with local people, our smile can make a huge positive impact. We exchanged our cultural experience while creating the EIC environment which was full of fun.

While we gave a lot of laughter and smile for those people, they taught us how to smile even when everything has gone wrong. Despite the fact that they lost their house, their loved ones and their lovely home towns, they still stand strong and smiles back at their destiny. That is the most inspiring thing that I saw during the 3rd Tohoku trip. We all should spread the message about Tohoku among our friends and then to the world. If we all can raise our voice for them, those strong people will become much stronger. Thank you everyone who is behind the Tohoku trip and please make sure it keeps continuing.

Fauzan



After EIC 2013, I have been waiting for the Tohoku trip. Because I had so much fun on the camp, so I want to meet more smart Japanese kids and also camp leader. At that time, I was afraid I couldn't join the trip because the schedule was not fixed yet, and I will graduate on March 2014. I have to say thank you very much for giving me opportunity to join even though I couldn't attend APN.

This Tohoku trip was my second trip to Tohoku, but the first time for me to go with Kumon's kids. I really enjoyed the trip. We had fun and learned a lot from this trip.

3 years have passed since earthquake and tsunami hit Tohoku. On that day, I was preparing myself to come to Japan. I saw the news on TV and it was so horrible. When I visited Tohoku, I can feel the sadness. Empty land, some abandoned houses, and ruins left sad memories. The story that we heard from the guide, made me realized that people in this area lost so many things. But, Tohoku's people are strong. They can continue and build new life without forgetting the disaster and share the story to the world, so world can learn from what happened there.

Not only information about earthquake and tsunami, I also learned "something" from the members. I got new friends and lot of memories that I won't forget. The kids that always help camp leader in translating from Japanese Language to English, singing and playing game on the bus, and also taking pictures everywhere. I still feel the warm heart and kind people on the trip. I hope we can still be in touch wherever we are. Don't hesitate to send me email. Thank you very much everyone. "Arigatou Gozaimashita." ☺

Kat



The Tohoku trip was an amazing unforgettable experience for me. I got to visit the disaster areas and had a first-hand experience communicating with the local people. From this program, I learned about the massive destruction power of the natural disaster monster, Tsunami and also got a chance to see in the live at temporary house after the incident as well. It was a very worthwhile educational trip, which I believe truly helped broaden my knowledge about natural disaster.

Apart from being an amazing educational trip about natural disaster, I also feel that Tohoku trip is the perfect opportunity for kids to put the language skill they learned and practices into use. Throughout the trip, the kids had many chances to uses their English skill in a real life situation such as translating JAP-ENG conversation during exchange events etc., which I truly believe it helped improve kids confident and their speaking skill greatly. Unlike, EIC where it was aimed to improve the kids confident through fun activities and learn about the different cultures, Tohoku trip is like the next step for EIC participant, where kids can put the confident they got from the camp into real-life situation.

I would recommend this trip to all EIC participants who want to learn about the Tohoku disaster, along with challenging their English skill as well.

Linh



Five days spending in Tohoku area was a priceless experience to me. What happened during Tohoku trip was beyond my thoughts, my imagination, my preparation and my expectation. Before the trip, I had never thought that thousands of people are now struggling with the lives in temporary houses nor I had never imagined that the tsunami level reached the height of 20 meters. At first, I was so shocked to listened to the stories of volunteer guides in every places I visited. They told us very details about what happened on March 11, 2011, they told us how people fight for the lives and run away from the tsunami, they told us how tsunami destroyed the cities and left the pain for people behind, they told us how difficult it is to forget the bad memories, to overcome the pain of losing relatives, to struggle with temporary life and insecure future... Yet, on the other hand, they showed us smiles, they showed us bravery, they show us belief in the future. Tohoku trip members were welcomed everywhere we visited. We talked, we cooked, we played, we had fun together. From what I saw, I heard, I touched, I just admired and respected those people!

As a member of Tohoku Trip, I feel proud! Even though our trip is really short and we could not do much to help directly improve people life nor solve complicated issues after tsunami, we brought joy and happiness to local people. I believe that local people could feel that they are not alone, they are always supported and cared by many people around the world. I hope that this trip can be continued many years after, it does have a great meaning and huge impact on participants and society in general.

Lastly, I appreciate each and every people effort that made this dream trip came true and successful: GNT members, fellow camp leaders, EIC kids, volunteer participants, volunteer guides, volunteer local people. I did have an enjoyable, memorable and very meaningful time. Thank you very much!

Mandy



This is my first time to step on the land of Tohoku area, which suffered from earthquake and tsunami on March 11th, 2011, and every single day onwards. Accompanied with Kumon kids, 7 other camp leaders and 3 EIC team members, we completed our 5 days journey and exploration in Tohoku by visiting sites which destroyed by tsunami, temporary house where survivors have been settled, and ibasho house which is like a community center for residents to share and recover. During these 5 days, we get to know the starting and recovery caused by this natural disaster. It is a devastating, yet cheerful, hopeful and interesting trip.

Through listening to local people's story and observed their current living condition, I realized that, most of the tohoku area are still under construction, and will take a quality time to rebuild as it was before. People there are still facing residential and utility inconvenience. Meanwhile, pending issues like positioning, financial support for survivors' future residence still exist. Even though there are tons of problems in front of their faces after this tremendous natural disaster, tohoku area in my eyes is a vivid, lively area, and people there are all friendly, brave, and positive towards harsh life.

Among this trip, what impressed me the most is Tanno san, chairwoman of Yuriage survivor committee, mother lost her beloved son in tsunami. Her story is heartbreaking, but the way she described it was powerful, impressed, touching and thoughtful! I do admire the strength she holds to overcome the post-trauma and the way she keeps her life carrying on. I tried to put myself in her shoes, wonder what I would do if I lost the loved ones all out of a sudden. I am sure that I

would not hold up myself so well while talking about my experience in a short time, and soon devote myself to contribute on recovery like Tanno san. She is using a positive attitude and female power to overcome and compensate the loss. Compare to her, what I had in life is just too little to mention. To be alive is already a gift. I regain the passion and belief towards life and become more devoting and mentally stronger. During this trip, I also picked up my connection with kids. Their talent and potential is far beyond my expectation. They used their sensibility every day to observe and feel. Thank you for giving me this precious chance to join this trip, and I did take use of it for self-development and completion.

Mak



Having to have participated in the 3rd Tohoku trip was an experience that had a very huge impact in my life. This is because having to visit the affected area and experiencing the reality of how devastating the tsunami was is better seen than heard and no matter how many time one visits Tohoku, it never seem to strike one on how devastating the 3/11 tsunami was. The schedule made it possible to observe various tsunami stricken areas, which is something I appreciate from the GNT. The interaction with the local people was a also an amazing experience as most could freely tell us about their experiences and how they have chosen to life a positive life full of happiness. Tohoku people were very welcoming and warm hearted with admirable hospitality.

I believe that this trip makes us refreshes our minds about the severity of the demolitions the 3/11 calamity caused and it also remind us to never underestimate Mother Nature. Through this trip the victims of this disaster are not forgotten and should know that we will keep them forever in our hearts. It also teaches the next generation of the high possibility of disasters of this magnitude occurring and that if they do what are the best precautions to take. Having to have been a participant of this trip made me an ambassador with the sole responsibility of letting the world know the realities of this disaster (bare witness) and to also reject the false notions regarding the 3/11 calamities.

Nesya



Tohoku Trip will be something that I will not forget. The trip has allowed me to understand more about both the past and present condition of Tohoku. Before joining this trip all I knew about the Tsunami was only from news and friends. Every time I heard about it my heart would ache and I would felt pity to the victims of the disaster. Nevertheless getting to communicate with the locals, the survivors of the disaster, has changed my thought. For once I felt so helpless to know what they have went through. All this time I only felt pity but was not able to do anything. I think I should pity myself for not taking much action. Everyone in Tohoku was struggling, they have to fight for their loss, fight for the remaining family, fight to grow and fight their fear.

This trip has facilitate both the Kumon family and Tohoku people to mature. It aids us to appreciate the little things in life. The visits have provided us insights on how we can help them through volunteer visits. The trip itself has encouraged me personally to spread the news and motivate people to pay a visit.

As for the Kumon kids, I cannot express with words how I am very impressed to know that they have grown and taken their responsibility in the society. It is amazing that as kids they are already willing to participate in such volunteer trips. I think this trip has succeeded its purposes and I believe it will nurture throughout the years. Kumon should be proud of the fruits they bear for I am sure they will be leaders of their generation.

Popoy



Participating in the 3rd Tohoku Trip made me feel and realize a lot of things. I am actually not good with words and writing this impression cannot encapsulate all the emotions my heart felt during the trip.

Before the trip, I honestly thought that everything was alright for the Tohoku survivors since a lot have this misconception that Japanese people recovers fast. I remember looking at photos taken after the disaster wherein roads and railways are re-built in a matter of days. I held this same feeling until we went outside the Sendai airport during the first day. Almost no trace of once a lively town was left in the roads our bus passed-by. Then, as we watched the documentary video in our first stop, worrying feelings that I felt for my family and friends in Japan during 11 March 2011 came back to me in an instant. On the other hand, I saw how strong the fighting spirit of the Tohoku survivors. They reminded me to go back to the core of things that I should treasure the most – family, friends and good times spent together. They also made me feel thankful for the little things like how simple talks or cooking and eating lunch together can turn into memories you can keep for a lifetime. I am thankful for this trip and everyone who organized it because it gave me the opportunity to bring smiles to a lot of people even through small means.

One more thing, the trip made taught me several problems the Tohoku survivors are facing right now. For example, survivors who cannot return to their previous lands, people who have been living in temporary houses for over three years, and people who just throw large garbage in vacant areas at night. These problems and the way the Japanese people and government deal with it can be related to recovery efforts of other disaster stricken areas. Like Central Philippines, which suffered from a large earthquake and typhoon last year.

The maturity of the kids is very impressive too. Whenever I try to look back at my young self, I could definitely say that the kids in the trip are way more compassionate, intelligent, and responsible for their age. They became the total opposite of what I was expecting. I honestly felt like I was the one being taught and guided by them during the trip. I want to thank KUMON for rearing good-hearted kids. I definitely look forward to continue bonds of good friendship with them and meet with them in the future.

Finally, the most important lesson that the 3rd Tohoku Trip taught is to value life because being alive is a huge opportunity to overcome any hardship. Living means you can still do something, even a little, and bring a positive change to what you are facing right now.



Dream Jiichan (Akihiro Chiba)



Dream Jiichan is extremely happy to be able to participate in the 3rd Tohoku Trip of KUMON EIC.

It was a pleasant reunion with those members who have participated in the past trips. I was impressed with the remarkable progress they made in the command of English but more importantly in their quality of leadership and support to new members. It is evident that their participation in the Tohoku Trips has provided them with the opportunities to facilitate their personal growth and confidence building.

I was also happy to meet new members. Majority of them are promising elementary school children and I was filled with a joyful thought that they too would make similar progress in the near future.

While the region has made a certain progress in the recovery from the disaster of Tsunami and Earthquake, many people still suffer from the trauma of tragedy deep in their heart. It was a precious experience for the children and the camp leaders of the Trip to learn directly what such trauma means for the life of the people and the courage they need to overcome difficulties. They have formed the strong bond of solidarity to live together and support each other. The young members of the Trip were warmly and cheerfully welcomed while some people had lost their children of the same age in the Tsunami. The members of the Trip were all impressed by their remarkable human quality.

The Tohoku Trip and other study programs are the concrete form of action to learn the reality and to form therefrom in the mind of young people the will to promote human solidarity and mutual help; essential first step to achieve the world peace. Dream Jiichan strongly advocates that EIC, APN and Tohoku and other study programs should be strategically placed in the global strategy of KUMON's lofty mission to contribute to realize the Peace of the World.

おまけ

2014.3.2 3rd Tohoku Trip 1st Meeting



2014.3.28 Yume and Eka's Birthday ☺





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