

# 5TH TOHOKU TRIP REPORT



## Aim of Tohoku Trip

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

In this report we would like to share with you **What we did** · **What we think and feel** · **Point we need to remember, share or tell about Tohoku** day by day.



## Day1, 28th March 2016

We (21 children from all over Japan and 5 International students from Indonesia and Nepal) meet Morioka station. And then on the bus, we made new friends and we could know about friends and know about world's fact by Quiz. We saw beautiful sceneries from the bus. For example, River, mountain and waterfall. After we reach Miyako city we found 3.11 Tsunami height's plate, and then we took photos. At dinner, we ate Chawanmushi, fish and so on.



We listened about Nepal earthquake. I thought "Nepal is different from Tohoku". Because, Nepal isn't recovery but Tohoku is started recovery. Nepal destroys by mountains but Tohoku had Tsunami. And then Nepal has difficulties communicating with other country. So, donation is difficult. Next, they don't have good access, because the road is broken.



Unless they sent the donation by helicopter. But it's expensive. So it can reach only sometimes. They have no electricity, no phone. So it's too difficult to know what people need in the village. I was so shocked about this news. Because, if I were them, I will be sad.



## Day2, 29th March 2016

We went to Taro area. We saw sea wall and we watched DVD.

We got three keywords.

"To change mind" "To carry the ball (take initiative)" and "Don't swallow information"



We made Ikasenbei.

We experienced traditional culture. We think amazing to make traditional snacks by hands. And it is very delicious.

Point we need to remember is "Protect oneself by oneself.(protect yourself)" Because, one's life may become dangerous too.

Point we need to share is "There were people who believe that sea wall would protect them but they lost their lives."

Point we need to tell is "Let's become who can act by oneself when some accidents happened (take initiative)"

At first, this sea wall was joined. But, it was broken. So, I thought that Tsunami was very strong. So, if Tsunami imminent, we have to escape soon.

The power of nature is very strong. It's very scary. But, we have to think about ourselves. We have to do more drill to save more people's lives.



## Day3, 30th March 2016



We started this trip with a long bus ride which was tiresome. But this was also fun because we could spend more time with each other and become more close to each other.

We visited several places, such as Otsuchi town, and Kamaishi daikannonn and got chance to hear from the local guides about the disaster. Otsuchi town is surrounded by two rivers so the damage of the tsunami was drastic. In the

town hall, about 300 people had gathered but only 30 of them could survive.

## Town hall in Otsuchi

We were very surprised by the statement of the guide. "Do not see around without imagining the town before the tsunami." He made us realize the importance of the word "importance". He taught us that we needed to make an effort to imagine and learn the reconstruction from the view of residents. After that, we went to do workshop with two local high school students. Though it was difficult to make a common decision and took time, we could imagine how the residents of the town felt about the reconstruction through the work. We need to find the most important thing for each other and try to save them by appreciating or greeting every day.

Kamaishi Daikannon was so huge and beautiful. It is 48.5 meters tall (7 storied).

## Kamaishi Daikannon

The other white Stupa looks mysterious and we could feel that our minds and heart became pure.

Finally, we moved to Oshima to get along with local kids on Day 4. The ferry that we got on was big and seagulls followed us. We fed them with snacks, such as KAPPAEBISENN. It was very fun and we could see the beautiful aspects of Tohoku.



## Day4, 31st March 2016

Today FTE (Fun Time with English)

Group time and cook and eat together was most fun. We cooked rice ball and soup. So delicious. In group time, we played many games like do-mi-ka-do and 31games and horse game. We like do-mi-ka-do game and horse game.

Today was fun because we played with Oshima friends in English. In morning exercise, there was no sounds but we sang and had a lot of fun. We cooked tasty lunch together. In fun time with English we learn many countries. In the afternoon, we translated Japanese poem into English. It was difficult. In Let's see Oshima activity, we went out and sang songs. It was fun day!



First Oshima friends were nervous but, they enjoyed fun games together. After communicating with them, we learned that in Oshima everyone is trying to remember the disaster which happened on 3.11. For example, teachers in the school are teaching what happened, what is important to remember to children.

Also, they are trying to get the normal life. According to a girl the situation is becoming better. This is what we need to remember and share.

For peaceful world

Oshima friends were very energetic and made us smile. Ojizo-sama (Michibiki Jizo) will protect anything. So, we wish that he will protect Oshima's peaceful, environment and people's smile.

We hope that in the world, people can have a peaceful mind and smile like Oshima people.



### Day5, 1st April 2016

I heard local people's story in Yuriage. I'm very surprised! Because, when the tsunami came, it crushed airport's airplane, helicopter, car... I'm shocked. I hope Tohoku's revival and peace!!!



After lunch, we listened to the volunteer guide in Yuriage area. We watched the movie of Tsunami, It's about an old couple, how to ask for help.

Next, the guide said, "People from poor countries were helping Japan during the disaster. One country

send their boots, and the other country give one person to five thousand yen.

She (the guide) said she want to repay of a kindness, so she is doing kataribe (volunteer guide).

I think the mutual help will save someone. I want to save someone too.

Comparing to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> trip, the construction near the ocean area has been proceeded. There were some places where we could enter last time, but could not at this time. I was very much surprised to see the places where nothing has been done after the tsunami damage. That made me think about there are still many problems which we can't solve even after five years.

Let's keep supporting Tohoku and all over the world.

