Students share their experiences abroad and their thoughts on the future of Tohoku!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Support Our Kids Reunion at Tohoku Fukushi University

# HABATAKI Project Report



## Purpose / About the HABATAKI Project

## [Purpose]

Thank you for participating in the 3rd Support Our Kids Reunion and for your continuous support to Support Our Kids and to the children of Tohoku.

As you all know, "Support Our Kids" is a 10 year project which aims to support the independence of the children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and nurture them into becoming future leaders. With the support of embassies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we aim to make this happen through overseas homestay programs.

This year, we received even more support and added Switzerland and the Republic of San Marino as new destinations. Additionally, the participation of Japanese Red Cross Society and cosponsor by Tokyo Big Sight brought "STAND UP SUMMIT 2014" - this shows the vast amount of understanding and support towards our project.

A total of 227 students participated in the overseas homestay project. The students returned back to Japan and started the HABATAKI project, in which they created their own reconstruction activities. On the other hand, the Reunion serves as a stage for children to share and present their experiences abroad, thoughts about the disaster and future plans to help with restoration plans. This time, not only the students gathered but also their family, friends and supporters participated. I hope that the presenters will be able to genuinely present while the supporters attentively listen about their thoughts and experiences.

It is unfortunate that I cannot attend today but I will be there in spirit to support you all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December 21, 2014 Support Our Kids Committee Honorary Chairman Ian Kennedy (Former Ambassador of New Zealand to Japan)

## [About the HABATAKI Project]

The Reunion was organized to make it a stage for students to grow and shine. We asked the students to help think and suggest for a new title which eventually became "Reunion $\sim$  $\Re$ • HABATAKI  $\sim$ ". This name was suggested by Saki Itou, a student who participated in the 2nd New Zealand trip. Habataki in Japanese means to flap or flutter one's wings, therefore to fly. She said, "We were able to [fly], thanks to all the support we received. From now on, we plan to [fly] on our own and repay the kindness and support".

# **Program Overview**

## [Summary]

Details: December 21, 2014 (Sunday) 13:00~18:00

Location: Tohoku Fukushi University Keyaki Hall

Hosted By: Support Our Kids Committee

Cosponsor: Tohoku Fukushi University/3.11JUKU

Cooperation By: Japanese Red Cross Society

Participants: 200people (a total of 130 students)



## [Program]

#### [Keyaki Hall]

12:30 Doors Open

13:00 Opening / MC: Junko Akisawa (TBS Announcer)

- · Opening Speech Moritaka Shirai (2014 Reunion Committee / London Home stay 2012 Participant)
- · Greetings from Sponsor Tomoyo Miyazaki (New Zealand Embassy Executive Officer)



「ありがとう全世界、Thank you,world!」

Nanase Inagaki (Japan Red Cross Society General Affairs Manager)

#### 13:45 HABATAKI Symposium①

[Experiencing overseas home stay] Presentations



Thoughts on present and future reconstruction

#### 16:20 X'mas Special LIVE

Appearances: YANAGIMAN (Music Producer) / GILLE (Singer)

#### 17:00 Closing

- · Future activities Yukiatsu Akizawa (Support Our Kids Committee Executive Director)
- · Closing Speech Mutsumu Hoshi (2014 Reunion Committee / France Home stay 2013 Participant)



17:30~19:00 Social gathering







## HABATAKI Symposium 1 Presentations

With the theme "Experiencing overseas home stay", students from each homestay country presented their thoughts and experiences, as well as their gratitude for the support.



Our host family warmly welcomed us to Switzerland. They attended to us very well and even prepared Japanese food. We felt no language barrier and all we have are happy memories. We did a presentation at a school in Bern and the time we spent together will forever stay with us. We visited the International Committee of Red Cross in Geneva and learned many of their activities. With better understanding, we started to think more actively about volunteering. We also visited the Republic of San Marino and meeting the President was the most memorable experience we had. It was a great honor. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our supporters around the country, thank you.



Our team name is SAKIDS, and also our goal. S is for sponge, A for active, K for kansha (thanks), ID for itsu demo (always), and S for smile. We will do a little quiz regarding our stay in Canada. (cut) A farewell party was held at Chako-san's house and we felt very lucky to have many who took care and supported us. Thanks to Chako-san and many others for a great time in Canada. As an act of gratitude, we performed a traditional song called Soran Bushi at summer camp and farewell party. With this performance, we felt a strong sense of unity and helped us get through hardships. We would like to perform the same song on this stage today.



Our trip to New Zealand was made possible, thanks to the support of many companies, organizations, embassies and individuals - we like to think that you all invested in our future. As part of the Support Our Kids project, we would like to spread and improve it even more so we can meet your expectations. After having a chance to learn and experience a different culture, we realized the importance of breaking free from stereotypes and having individuality. We hope to be positive, admirable and flexible, like a leader, which we believe is what you all hope us to be.

# HABATAKI Symposium 1 Presentations

Each group had their own ideas and their unique presentations were amazing.



I don't need a script for this presentation! The love I have for Ireland cannot be measured and put into words! The best memory I have of this trip was our time at the language school. We met many individuals from different countries and I was astonished by their enthusiasm. They all raised their hands in class and stated their point of views and opinions. Upon seeing this, I feel more determined to become similar to them. Next year, I will be going to Italy for study abroad. I plan to reunite with those I met and catch up. Lastly, after experiencing the Great Tohoku Earthquake, I now hope to work in the United Nations in the near future. To fulfill this dream, I would like to make my experiences at Ireland into good use and work hard to contribute to world peace.



(Singing the French National Anthem - Piano & Mandolin) We received so much support and were able to spend a great 2 weeks in France. After attending the 24 hours of Le Mans, we learned the importance of keeping up and working hard. We also discovered the world of cars and racing. Through this home stay experience, each one of us gave serious thoughts about our future: "Be a doctor", "Be a challenger", "Be a pioneer", "Be a nurse", "Be an engineer", "Be a teacher", "Be a producer", "Be a dreamer". Thank you to all of our supporters and from now on, we hope to act as a bridge between Japan and France.



Three years have passed since the disaster and we are very glad to have come across Support Our Kids. The very first time we students met, I did not think we could get along. In the U.S., I felt very discouraged by the language barrier and culture difference. However, by careful planning, our 2-week stay was not just a trip but one with a sense of purpose. During our stay, we all shared our experiences during the disaster. There were things we could not say to others but by being with those who had the same experience, we opened up and felt a strong sense of unity. There are three things we learned in the U.S.: "Do action!", "See the world", and "Try anything". Our team goal is to"脱☆スモールワールド" (to get out of a small world) and act to contribute from now on.

# **HABATAKI Symposium**<sup>2</sup>

After the HABATAKI Project 2014 Report, a symposium was carried with the theme of "Thoughts on present and future reconstruction" with detailed suggestions regarding the reconstruction of their home town/s.

#### **♦ HABATAKI Project 2014 Report**



The HABATAKI Project carries on the activities of Support Our Kids and is a place for us to put our thoughts into reality. We have implemented 8 projects which were carried on and put into action.

♦Thoughts on present and future reconstruction ~What we can do for reconstruction~



"Reconstruction" is a big project to cover therefore, we have decided to concentrate on "local reconstruction". What do you think we can all do to contribute to local reconstruction?

As members of the HABATAKI Project, we planned a reunion BBQ this summer. We invited children who were affected by the tsunami and rented a closed school as the location.



I believe it is important to know your home town while contributing for reconstruction. There used to be a big canal in my home town that was destroyed during the disaster. We are currently working on its restoration and include new facilities such as a park for children to play at.





Maruto Co., Ltd Norio Ishiyama

I am very surprised at how distinguished and brilliant these students are. The Maruto company contributes by hosting sport competitions for children to enjoy. I also participate in the home stay program's training seminar and closing ceremony, as I believe it is important to keep the children at a close distance.

This year's Canada group plans to organize a "Disaster Prevention Camp" in the summer of 2018. In this event, we hope to share our experiences to the even younger generation and teach them how to cope when faced with a similar disastrous situation.





We started a Disaster Prevention Program at the Japanese Red Cross Society. We ask those who participated in this program to share what they learned in their own communities to spread the knowledge. I think this is very similar to the "Disaster Prevention Camp".

Japan Red Cross Society Nanase Inagaki

## [HABATAKE!] LIVE

Songwriter, YANAGIMAN, and the Support Our Kids Committee started HABATAKI Music Project to cheer up Tohoku and Japan. YANAGIMAN felt inspired by the students' thoughts and determination to be of someone else's help, and acted as song producer from June 2014. The lyrics of the song, titled "HABATAKE", thrives to cheer up and give hope to those in Tohoku, while pushing each other to "habataku".







#### ~Support Our Kids Theme Song~

#### HABATAKE!

Composer: Support Our Kids members/YANAGIMAN Arranged by: YANAGIMAN

目指す先は遠くて 思い通り行かなくて ちっぽけな自分が ただもどかしくて

たった一歩でさえ 踏み出すのが怖い時も 止められない気持ちが 僕らを駆り立てる

一人きりじゃなにも 起こせはしないけど 互いに手をつなげば きっと出来る

だから はばたけずっともっと はばたけチカラ強く 新しい時代を僕らの手で作るんだ だから輝けずっともっと輝けありのままに だい光で照らすんだこの先を

Wo Oh! Wo Oh! Wo Oh! Wo Oh!

現実はのろすぎて 時計はいつも忙しくて たどり着けない夢を 諦めそうになる

そんな時に気付くんだ 大事な事が何かを 譲れない想いを 心の奥の光を 弱さや脆さも全部 まっすぐに向きあって 想いのすべて紡げば きっと出来る

だから 声あげろずっともっと 声あげろ高らかに 新しい響きを僕らの手で 掴むんだ だから 飛び出せずっともっと 飛び出せ 世界中に 新しい光で照らすんだこの先を永遠に

羽ばたけもっと 限界のその先の景色を見るために 羽ばたけずっと チカラの限りのその先を知るために 輝けもっと 強く光って希望の道標となれ 輝けずっと その光はやがて世界を照らすだろ Wo Oh! Wo Oh!

Wo Oh!

Wo Oh!

だから はばたけずっともっと はばたけチカラ強く 新しい時代を僕らの手で作るんだ だから輝けずっともっと輝けありのままに 新しい光で照らすんだこの先を Wo Oh! Wo Oh!

# Photos<sub>1</sub>

◆HABATAKI Photo Exhibition hosted by the students ◆Presentation: Japanese Red Cross





◆Student Presentations



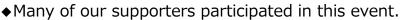


























## Photos<sup>2</sup>

#### ♦ Video Messages from supporters and ambassadors



New Zealand Ambassador H.E. Mark Sinclair



Ireland Ambassador H.E. Anne Barrington



France Ambassador H.E. Thierry Dana



H.E. Lauri Peters



Canada Ambassador San Marino Ambassador H.E. Manlio Cadelo



Former Boston Red Sox Coach Mr. Bobby Valentine



Yomiuri Giants Coach Mr. Tatsunori Hara



Wheelchair Tennis Mr. Shingo Kunieda



Singer Mr. Ethan Bortnick



Former NY Yankees Mr. Hideki Matsui

#### ◆X'mas Special LIVE



Japanese Comedian Duo . Bakusho Comedians



Song Producer YANAGIMAN



Singer **GILLE** 

#### At the Social Gathering





◆Snacks and drinks from sponsors











## Parents Association/HABATAKI Workshop

#### **♦** Parents' Association

We held the 3rd Parents' Association Gathering to report this year's activities and create a better network for all guardians. It was a very significant gathering as we talked about bringing up children and any changes in the students after their home stay experience.





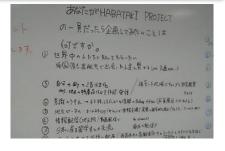


#### **♦ HABATAKI Workshop**

The 5th HABATAKI Workshop was held and concentrated on brainstorming about reconstruction. During the final half of the workshop, students rehearsed their performance of "HABATAKI" led by YANAGIMAN. We also took time to prepare the photo exhibition and practice the presentations, all led by the students.



















## Media

#### Featured and promoted on: NHK, TBC, TOKYO FM, Kahoku Shimpo Publishing

[2014]

December 10 Kahoku Shimpo Publishing

December 19 6:30 $\sim$ 6:40 A M

TOKYO FM Country-wide broadcast [Kronos~LOVE&HOPE~]

December 21 P M

TBC Tohoku Broadcasting News

December 22 A M

NHK News

TBC Tohoku Broadcasting News





TOKYO FM Kronos

The 3rd Support Our Kids Reunion HABATAKI Project

- Host: Support Our Kids Committee
- Co-organize: Tohoku Fukushi University、3.11JUKU
- Cooperation by : Japanese Red Cross Society

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