



## **Support Our Kids New Zealand Program 2023**

# **Photo Report**



**December 2023  
Support Our Kids Committee**



# New Zealand Program 2023 Overview

P R O G R A M E

## Prior training

May 19,2019 (Sun)	1st Prior training
June 23,2019 (Sun)	2nd Prior training
September 8, 2019 (Sun)	Reunion Prior training
November 16,2019 (Sat)	Reunion Prior training
November 17, 2019 (Sun)	Reunion
November 4/5,2023 (Sat/Sun)	3rd Prior training
November 17,2023 (Fri)	Departure Ceremony

travel ban



## Travel Duration November 17 (Fri) - 25 (Sat), 2023

Location	Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland
Participants	6 university students from Miyagi and Fukushima
Activities	Japan-New Zealand Business Conference (JNZBC), 3.11Disaster Presentation, Visit to the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand, visit to the Mayor of Christchurch, Visit to Parliament House, visit to local companies, exchange with Auckland University students, All Blacks experience, visit to Te Papa Tongarewa Museum, Maori cultural experience
Cooperation & Support	New Zealand Embassy, Japan-New Zealand Business Conference, TULLY’S COFFEE JAPAN Co.,Ltd., Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (CAPE), Air New Zealand, PBees, Sapporo Noodles, arklinc Co, Canal Cafe, i-corporation Inc. Mr. Ian Kennedy, Ms. Setsuko Kennedy, and Ms. Mia Evans, and many others...

I T I N E R A R Y

Date	Activity		Location
	AM	PM	
17/11 (Fri)	Departure Ceremony	18:30 Departure (NZ90/Narita)	
18/11 (Sat)	Arrival in Auckland, transter	Arrival in Christchurch	Christchurch
19/11 (Sun)	Preparation session	JNZBC Conference JNZBC Welcome reception	Christchurch
20/11 (Mon)	JNZBC Conference	JNZBC Conference JNZBC cocktail reception	Christchurch
21/11 (Tue)	JNZBC Conference	JNZBC refrection	Christchurch
22/11 (Wed)	Mayoral visit TAPA workshop	Tourism Discussion(H.I.S NZ) Fly to Wellington	Wellington
23/11 (Thu)	Embassy Japan visit Te Papa Tongarewa Museum visit, Parliamentary visit		Wellington
24/11 (Fri)	Fly to Auckland	All Black Experience Exchange with Auckland Uni students	Auckland
25/11 (Sat)	9:55 Departure (NZ99)	16:50 Arrival (Narita) Closing Ceremony	



# Prior training / Departure Ceremony

As part of the prior training, we organized and hosted the Support Our Kids booth at the GTF Green Challenge Day in Shinjuku Gyoen, an eco-event co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment on November 4 (Sat.) and 5 (Sun.), 2023.

(exhibited what we learned about renewable energy, forestry, fisheries, and tourism, which were the themes of the Japan-New Zealand Business Conference, conducted an environmental survey, sold New Zealand eco-friendly products with the cooperation of PBees, and sold new Miyagi rice produced by Support Our Kids alumni, Mr.Yamashiro. )

On November 14, we also had an online study session with the Ministry of the Environment on treated water in Fukushima and renewable energy initiatives in Japan.



## GTF Green Challenge Day



We had many visitors.  
Thank you for supporting us!

On November 17, 2023, a departure ceremony was held at the New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo. Mr.Gareth Pidgeon(Deputy Head of Mission) and Ms.Miyazaki(Executive Officer) from Embassy of New Zealand, and Mr.Maruhashi(Vice President) and Mr.Kobayashi from TULLY'S COFFEE JAPAN Co.,Ltd., were also present to encourage the participants before their departure for the trip. Each of the six participants set their own goals and the group's goals for the trip.



## Departure Ceremony







# Activities① Japan-New Zealand Business Conference

We participated in the "Japan-New Zealand Business Conference", where Mr. Ian Kennedy, Honorary Chairman of Support Our Kids, is chairing the New Zealand side of the conference. It is a very important forum where leading business people from both countries come together to discuss the development of both countries and how to improve the economy and culture. We were specially invited to participate as representatives of the youth of Tohoku.



## Welcome Reception Cocktail Reception



With New Zealand Ambassador Mr. Hamish Cooper and the conference organizers



We also handed a disaster prevention pouch to the former mayor of Christchurch, Ms. Lianne Dalziel!

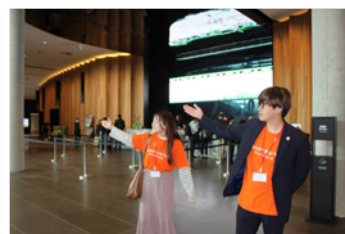


## Sessions

With the theme of Intergenerational Action, we had valuable presentations on renewable energy, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and innovation and design.



We were able to ask questions about tourism and disaster prevention x VR!







# Activities② Christchurch City



## Mayor of Christchurch Formal Visit

meeting with Mayor Mr.Phil Mauger about the reconstruction and also made disaster presentation.



## Maori Culture Experience

Traditional Oceania Tapa Cloth Making Workshop



## Local Companies Visit

Visited H.I.S NZ. We learned about New Zealand's tourism industry.



## Supporters Visit

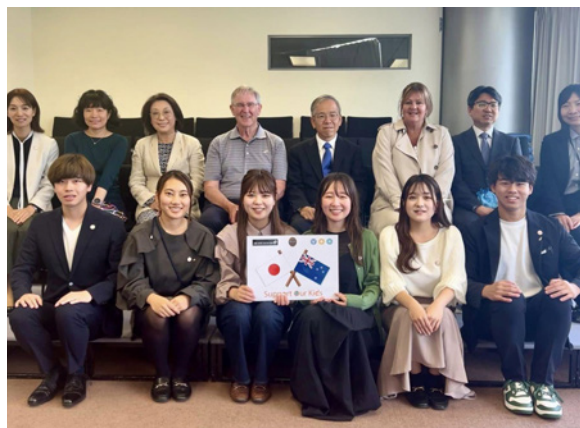
We were invited five star hotel "the george" by Toranomom Jitsugyo Kaikan.







## Activities③ Wellington City



### Embassy of Japan in New Zealand Formal Visit

Ambassador Mr. Ito and First Secretary Mr. Takada gave a special lecture on the relationship between New Zealand and Japan. A presentation on the earthquake disaster was also held.



### Te Papa Tongarewa Museum Visit

We learned more about Maori history and culture.



### Parliament Building Visit

Participation in a tour of the Parliament Building.



### Visit to Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's home

Ms. Kennedy treated us to special dinner. SOK alumni who is studying in New Zealand also came to meet us.







All Blacks Experience

Visited a Rugby facility to experience and learn New Zealand's national sport, rugby.



Oakland University Student Exchange Farewell Party

At the members-only THE NORTHERN CLUB, we exchanged with students from the University of Auckland who are studying Japanese.

At the end of the event, we expressed our gratitude to Ms.Laura (CAPE) and Mr.& Mrs.Ian for their hospitality. Consul General Mr.Matsui and many supporters also joined us.



Judith Collins, the attorney-general and Minister of Defense, also joined us!







## Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was held at Tully's coffee Tokyo Station Yaechika store.

**Date** November 25, 2023 (Sat) 7pm  
**Venue** Tully's coffee Tokyo station  
**Program** Participants & Guest Speeches



What I gained through this program was a new sense of values. In particular, we were able to participate in the "Japan-New Zealand Business Conference" and talk to people working in various industries, which we were not able to experience three years ago. I individually asked a person working in the New Zealand fisheries industry about the release of treated water from Fukushima. It was good to hear from local people from another country's point of view and how it is reported in New Zealand. It took courage to speak to them without hesitation, but I felt as if I had become a member of society by talking about the disaster and their businesses with the business leaders.

I am now in my third grade of university and looking for a job. In Japan, I was bound by the formalities of going to university, getting a job, and working in the same place for the rest of my life. However, people in New Zealand had the goal of always making changes and developing themselves, such as finding a job and then re-entering university to deepen their studies, or experiencing many different types of jobs in order to build their careers. I was very attracted to the New Zealand environment that accepts such diversity and the way of life of each individual. My personality sometimes worries me because I feel that I have to do things perfectly, but I was able to change that axis by interacting with many people in NZ. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy said, "It's okay to be wrong. You guys can do anything. You are our hope for the future." I remember I was really happy to hear those positive words.

In my presentation on the earthquake disaster, I also gave a speech on the nuclear power plant accident in my hometown of Fukushima. I myself have been living away from my hometown recently, so my awareness of the reconstruction effort has lessened, but it was an opportunity for me to think about it again. Listening to each member's experience of the disaster made my heart ache, and I strongly felt that now that I am an adult, I would like to think about what I can do as a "reconstruction ambassador" in the future.

I also felt through this trip that the people of New Zealand have a very positive image of Japan, and that they are usually exposed to Japanese history and culture. I would like to raise the awareness of friendship from Japan to New Zealand more, and I hope that many people will get to know New Zealand.

At the end of the tour, we had dinner at Ian's house and met Momo-san, a NZ alumnus of SOK, who made a big life shift and is now studying abroad because of SOK. I also strongly felt that we would like to connect what the alumni have done for us to the future. I realized that this was a very special program, filled with so many people's thoughts and hopes. I was touched by so much love, and I would like to be a giver myself someday. Thank you very much.

Kanan Hirota (Fukushima)





# Participants Report

I was able to achieve the goal that I had set three years ago, which was to distribute all of the disaster prevention pouch. We almost gave up on the trip due to the pandemic, but thanks to the efforts of all supporters, we were able to go to New Zealand. In particular, at the Business Conference, I was able to hand the disaster prevention pouch to influential people whom I would normally never have the opportunity to meet, such as the heads of various companies and consuls, and was able to talk face-to-face with them about the importance of disaster prevention awareness.

At the beginning, I could not keep up at all with the Business Conference, and I was reminded of how small community and narrow perspective I had been living in. However, thanks to many people who were interested in SOK and spoke to us, and the atmosphere of acceptance of allowing us, as conference participants, I could have our own opinions on each of the topics. On the last day, I was able to express my opinions and questions on the Innovation Design session. I was very nervous, but I was encouraged by Mr. Ian and many others who told me that my questions were good ones, which gave me a lot of confidence. It was just a small thing, but it was a great experience for me to realize my positive attitude and a little bit of courage that I had not noticed before.

I was very inspired by the adults I met during this program, all of whom were proud of their careers and seemed to be enjoying their work, and all of whom had high expectations for the future. I realized that the efforts of these adults support our lives both directly and indirectly, and all of them, who are active in various fields, are role models for me, and I want to become such a person.

In addition, I have developed a deeper relationship with the members who participated in this program in the four years since we met. Until now, I have often suffered from my inability to do everything perfectly, but now that I have a relationship with a trusted member, I am able to accept even my incomplete self.

Meeting many people during this program was the best gift I could have received, and it has become a lifetime treasure that I would not trade for anything.

My school year is sometimes referred to as the devil's year, when the earthquake, pandemic hit us at every milestone. However, I believe that this program has strengthened our desire to make the future better with our own hands, which we were able to gain because we overcame these experiences.

During the program, every day was really fun and intense. I really felt that I would definitely like to go back to New Zealand again, and at the same time, I strongly felt that I would like to see more of the world. As a youth from Tohoku and a member of SOK, I would like to continue to be active as a contributor to society.

Yuri Ito (Fukushima)

■ I realized again the importance of sharing my experiences of the disaster.

Although actually experiencing the earthquake was an unpleasant memory, I think it is important to share with many people how to respond and what to do in case a similar disaster strikes again. I was able to prove through this program that I could convey this in my earthquake presentation and in English, which gave me confidence in my ability to communicate not only in Japan but also to people overseas.

■ I want to be a person who inspires others.

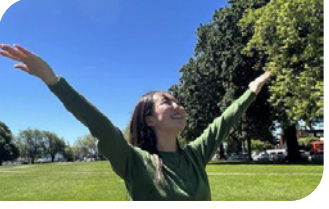
I feel that crying in front of others, or crying from the heart, is something that doesn't happen very often. At the New Zealand program, I was so moved by the warmth and kindness of many people that I cried many times. I felt that I would like to be the kind of person who can inspire others, make them happy from the bottom of my heart, and sometimes make them cry because they are so happy. I would like to challenge many things from now on and think about what I can do to inspire people.

■ I figured out the path I was going to take.

I decided that I would definitely come back to New Zealand. To achieve this, I will improve my English and find a job when I actually come to New Zealand. I want to make effective use of the network of people I gained from this program and make more friends regardless of whether they are in Japan or overseas. I want to visit many places. And I will become a person who can inspire dreams in children, ambitions in youth, and pride in adults. I will never fail to do so.

Noboru Nagao (Miyagi)





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