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A large-scale underground experimental facility is built under the Kitakami Mountains. It is the only one of its kind in the world. An international research city forms as a place where researchers from all over the world gather. This futuristic city may sound like something out of a science fiction novel but there is a real possibility of it happening in Iwate. The plan for the International Linear Collider states that the Japanese candidate site will be decided in the summer of 2013. What will this mean for Iwate? And what effect will this have upon us? This special feature will talk about the connection between the sciences and the internationalization of Iwate.

◀ **Interview** ▶ President of Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo **Dr. Masato Murakami**

—When did you first become interested in foreign countries?

When I was in high school, I studied abroad for one year in an American high school. I had never been outside the prefecture before so all of my information came from books and the like. At the time, America was leading the rest of the world and I had a vague hope that I would get to see the world. I was able to experience real American abundance, which was different from all that I had heard and read about. It was also very useful to talk with other high school students from all over the world. I think the most important thing for Iwate's internationalization efforts is to understand the diversity of the world. My study abroad experience in high school was a truly great way for me to do that.

—Why did you become interested in the sciences?

Ever since I was a small boy, my father told me how important the sciences were. The progression of science will lead to easier lives - I was interested in a career in science so that I could contribute to society. There were simple experiments in the appendices of my science magazines so I looked forward to receiving them every month. It was all still so new, so I was always impressed - "That's so cool!"

—Please tell us about Iwate's current efforts to attract the Linear Collider to the prefecture.

Everyone wants to know what the building blocks are that make up all of the things the universe, us humans included. As science progressed, we discovered that everything is made out of atoms. Atoms are also called elements. Atoms are comprised of electrons and a nucleus, and the nucleus is made of neutrons and protons. Electrons are fundamental particles, but scientists discovered that protons and neutrons can be broken down even further. They thought that if they crashed protons and neutrons together to break them apart, their

fundamental particles would come flying out, so they started experimenting. In English, "to collide" means to crash together so we call the machine that crashes particles together a "collider." Scientists devised an accelerator machine to perform the experiments. They

looked very closely at the results of crashes in the accelerator, and they found that protons are made up of many particles. Whether those particles are the smallest possible fundamental particles or not, we still do not know.

But there is a theory. The field of elementary particles has progressed with theories and experiments since Dr. Hideki Yukawa, a famous theoretical physicist. In a theory also contributed to by Japanese researchers, there is supposedly a particle called the "Higgs particle," the last remaining fundamental particle. CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) has discovered traces of the particle, which was a momentous event. Scientists can search the remains of collided particles, but the Higgs particle often joins with other particles so it is very complicated. Experiments and analysis are also difficult. This is why CERN has said that it thinks it found the Higgs particle, but it cannot say for certain.

There will be no progress unless scientists figure out the fundamental building blocks of everything on this planet, so they are working very hard to understand this particle. Currently, circular accelerators have been constructed with the cooperation of many countries. You must have a very large distance in order to accelerate particles - the distance between the Earth and the Sun is not even enough. But

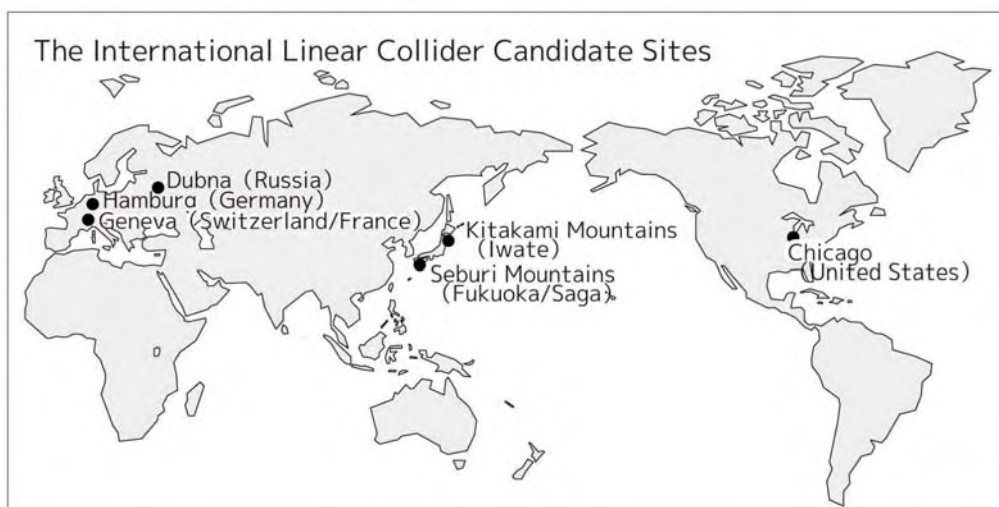


there is no end to a circular structure, so you can loop particles around many times with no limit to the acceleration. Particles are extremely small so they are collided in clusters, but that makes it very hard to analyze the results of a collision. It is also difficult to have thousands of researchers cooperate in operating the experiments and analysis. If possible, it would be easier to collide two fundamental particles together and then see what happens. A line-shaped accelerator – a linear collider – would make that possible. A linear shape would make experiments easier to control, and make it possible to collide small particles that scientists have not been able to collide before. I hope that the researchers of the world make this experiment a reality. Finding the Higgs particle is only the beginning, not the end. If and when scientists find the particle, they must then analyze its properties. If they can use a linear accelerator to collide fundamental particles, it will be much easier to analyze them. The only thing that will make that possible is the Linear Collider. Once the researchers of the world find the Higgs particle, the Collider is the next step. And Iwate is ready to be home to that next step.

—What kind of future will the Linear Collider lead to?

Finding the origin of all things will have a direct effect on the energy crisis. New types of energy may be discovered. We must always keep in mind how new discoveries may be practically applied, but the best thing about science is that scientific advancement leads to humans living richer, better lives. Humans crave to understand the unknown. The Linear Collider will be a place that answers those questions. It is important to plainly discuss its usefulness, but from a global perspective, the fact that a machine in Iwate Prefecture may help humanity unearth a new discovery is huge. Also, if you look at CERN as an example, researchers from all over the world have gathered and brought their families with them. From that perspective, Iwate may become a progressive example of internationalization that Japan has never seen before. That is a tremendously big deal for Iwate.

—Once an international technological research city has become a reality, it will lead to the development of a younger generation with an interest in the outside world. Aside from living environments or language barriers, what are some things that we have to be aware of?



—Why was Iwate chosen as a candidate site?

A long tunnel must be dug in the ground, and that ground must be strong against earthquakes. Candidate sites were searched for throughout the world, but the only candidate that truly fits the geological conditions (concerning the bedrock) is Japan. Within Japan, there are only two places with bedrock stable enough for the equipment during an earthquake, and they are Iwate Prefecture and Fukuoka Prefecture. I have not looked closely at Fukuoka Prefecture's data, but I have known since I was a boy that Iwate's Kitakami Mountain region has strong granite bedrock. I think Iwate is perfect as a candidate site.

It's not a matter of whether you are good or bad at English – you must be able to understand other people. People are diverse. According to a certain economist, in the past, when American companies would devise a global strategy, they would go to other countries to try to instill their own values into others. But this only drew ire and rejection, and many of these companies failed in the end. You must truly understand the differences in

culture and customs between countries, and work your hardest to integrate into the community, or "internationalization" will be extremely difficult. There are examples of this in the past. Language skills will eventually come if you are capable and flexible, but trying to understand other people is how you really communicate: this is the most important thing, in my opinion. Currently, my university plans events where students can meet people from other cultures. In the past I planned events where Japanese students and foreign students from Southeast Asia would go on an overnight trip to observe a Japanese factory. A Japanese student and a foreign student would stay together in the same hotel room. Even though their customs and religions are different, the next morning they

would be the best of friends and communicating in basic English. The Japanese students would say, “I’m so glad I got to hear things about Thailand and Vietnam that I never knew before.” They became friends, and I just thought that youth is so amazing. Your point of view can change in a single evening. It was a great experience.

—The percentage of foreign students in Japanese universities is growing. Can you tell me about their reception?

I think that universities should accept as many foreigners as they can, including foreign exchange students. What makes that difficult is the fact that the paperwork and procedures are all in Japanese. We have an international exchange center with staff who can communicate in other languages, but I think the university as a whole should be like that. Japan is delayed in this regard.

—Foreign students move to other countries to find an environment where they can perform their research. Can you tell me about Japan’s efforts on this front?

It is often said that innovative research is born from America, but that is because America takes in researchers from all over the world. Those researchers gather at tea time and come up with original ideas from their discussions. If they stayed in their own country, they may not be able to come up with ideas that break the mold, but a lot of the time talking with people with different historical perspectives leads to the birth of new ideas. This is particularly important in the sciences.

—What are some specific steps Japan could take in that area?

Currently my university tells its students to study abroad, even if it’s only for a short time. We are moving forward on improving our system and other measures so that we can invite students from other countries. If you look at it from a global perspective, there are hardly any foreign teachers in Japan. Academic fields are actually easier to make more international, so there must be more done to encourage foreign people to work here. Private companies are now globalizing at an extremely fast pace, which has led to my university moving forward on globalization. Students with no global perspective will find it hard to find work, so we must respond to this. Nobody will change if there is no need to change. Put in other words, now is our perfect opportunity to change.

—What is necessary for going abroad and interacting with people from different countries?

I am actually quite shy around new people, and I’m better at independent research than exchanging ideas with different people. But I suppress that fear and try to interact with as many people as I can. It was hard at first, but I’ve worked to overcome that obstacle. It’s fun once you start speaking to someone. Once you make friends, it just grows from there. An international network is necessary for scientific research. If you listen to people who have attained groundbreaking results, you’ll find that they took advice from many other fields.



Dr. Masato Murakami

Murakami was born in Morioka City in 1955. While he was a student at Morioka Daiichi High School, he spent one year in San Francisco as an AFS exchange student. After graduating from Tokyo University, he finished his doctoral program at the same university. He was hired by the Nippon Steel Corporation and he was involved with research on superconductivity and shape-memory alloy at the No. 1 Laboratory. Following that, he became a director and then general director at the Superconductivity Research Laboratory. He also was a professor at Nagoya University and Iwate University. In April 2003, he became a professor at Shibaura Institute of Technology. In April 2008, he became vice president, and became president of the Institute in April 2012.

He succeeded in being the first to determine that humans could levitate through superconductivity, and received the Nikkei-BP Award and the 1991 World Congress Superconductivity Award of Excellence. He also developed the strongest superconducting bulk magnet in the world, and published his research in *Nature*. That article is one of the top ten most-quoted articles in the field of superconductivity.



Office of Policy Promotion, Department of Policy and Regional Affairs, Iwate Prefectural Government

Chief in charge of ILC Promotion **Hisashi Odaira**

There are 6 candidate sites for the International Linear Collider (from hereon, "ILC"), including the Kitakami Mountains of Iwate Prefecture, and the Seburi Mountains (Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures). Iwate Prefecture is working hard to attract the ILC to build an international research and technology city with the ILC at the center. We asked Mr. Odaira of the ILC Promotion Section of the Prefectural Government to see what this means for the people of Iwate Prefecture.

A Multi-national Science City

Around 3,000 researchers would come from all over the world if a research facility is constructed in Iwate, and including their families this would be approximately 10,000 people. The ILC will be an academic research facility, so there will not necessarily be any new industry developed. But there will be these scientists and researchers and a world-class research facility, so we can surmise that good effects will spread to the regional community. The candidate site is on the eastern side of the Kitakami Mountains, so it is comparatively close to Rikuzentakata and other disaster-affected areas. We are planning ways to optimize the good effects from the ILC on industry to aid in the reconstruction of the affected areas. One of our plans is a science and technology industrial park. At this park, we'd like to develop programs focused on human resource development and mutual research. A 10,000-person increase in population will lead to an estimated 2,100 new houses being built. This would not be a walled-off community of foreigners, but a coexistence with the Japanese community. Our concept is a world-class, cutting edge urban area that will be a leader in scientific creation and technological innovation through the coexistence of people of many nationalities.

The ILC and the Reconstruction

The electrical industry is now focused outside of Iwate Prefecture. We must think of a replacement for that industry. The ILC will be a cutting-edge accelerator machine. People might not know just what an accelerator is, but even currently the scale of the accelerator industry and its related industries in Tohoku is 6 trillion yen, and contributes to the industrial fields of radiological technology, tire manufacture, medical equipment, and even shampoo. The accelerator industry has become a necessity to our lives. The construction period of the ILC will be 10 years, and the operating period will be 20 years – the positive effects on the economy from both the construction and operating periods are estimated in around 4.3 trillion yen in induced production value, and around 250,000 people hired in relation to the project.

Cost of the ILC

The cost of building the ILC will be around 800 billion yen. Half of that cost will be borne by the host country, and the rest by the U.S.A. and other countries participating in the research. However, it will be necessary

for local municipalities to take on the costs of new roads and community centers to a degree. We are planning to spread the word throughout the region to encourage private investment and the like. Currently, the prefecture's greatest concern is the reconstruction effort. Iwate's Reconstruction Plan is ongoing for the 8-year period that started in 2011. Next summer, either Fukuoka or Iwate will be selected as the ILC candidate site within Japan. The soonest construction would start is 2018, and the accelerator will be turned on at some point after 2025. After our reconstruction has ended, new industry will come to Iwate. We are trying our hardest to be the ILC site, because this is something we must do. We want to create a new Tohoku with the ILC at its nucleus to reinvigorate the region.

The Need for the ILC

There are many ways for Iwate University, Tohoku University, Ichinoseki Vocational School, and other regional entities to participate in the accelerator industry. The data shows that the population of surrounding towns increased when CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) was built in Geneva, Switzerland. The performance of automobiles on the market improved with the introduction of the racing car, of which there are only a few in the world; new materials were created due to the Apollo space program. In the same way, the ILC will pass on good things to industry.

There is a risk associated with radiation from the ILC, but let's look at hospitals for example: When a person has an x-ray, he's placed into a separate room with a radiation mark on the door. The risk is properly managed. One may not enter the tunnel while the ILC is in operation, but people can come and observe the inside facility whenever it is inactive. A smaller type of apparatus is installed in the science city in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, and normal high school students go to see it and come back impressed.

Bringing Science Closer To Us

In the near future, a grandmother may say, "Let me tell you about the Higgs particle" to her grandchild as they eat a meal together. We hope that the young people of Iwate Prefecture realize the excitement of knowing the unknown. We want to feed their curiosity and bring the ILC to their backdoor.

Overseas Experience For the Region's Reconstruction

-Accompanying the TOMODACHI Summer 2012 Softbank Leadership Program-



Reconstruction aid from countries around the world has not been limited to just rescue supplies to the disaster-affected regions – there are initiatives that have branched out to cultivating the youth that will go on to lead the reconstruction of Iwate. Foreign governments have invited young survivors to their countries, and the Japanese government has encouraged exchange between Japanese students and foreign students. Through these programs, these young students have grown and changed greatly.

This article is about one of these overseas exchange initiatives: the U.S.-led TOMODACHI Project. Miwa Oyama, a staff member of the Iwate International Association, accompanied the students on their trip.

Three hundred high school students from Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima were chosen from 1,971 candidates to participate in the TOMODACHI Summer 2012 Softbank Leadership Program. At the top-class University of California, Berkeley in California, U.S.A., students spent three weeks of their summer vacation learning leadership skills and how they can contribute to their region in a special summer session. For many of the students, this was their first time abroad.

July 23, 2012. American program coordinators and assistants greeted the students as soon as they arrived on campus. These were the people who would be supporting and living with the students for the next three weeks. Students separated into groups of 25 based on desired themes of study (residential housing, commerce and employment, public spaces, or energy and sustainability), and both a Japanese and American assistant were assigned to each group to support their classes, activities, and dorm life. The Japanese high school students participated in a UC Berkeley program that develops community leaders entitled Y-PLAN (Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now!). In the three weeks of the program, the students explored the city of Berkeley, thought of ideas to improve it, and presented a plan to the Berkeley authorities. Then they took those ideas back home to Tohoku where they could use it to improve their own region.

American teachers followed the methodology of the program to teach the classes. The Japanese high school students interacted with American university students and saw the American class style first-hand. They were quite surprised that students are allowed to keep a water bottle on their desk that they could drink whenever they liked, or that students were free to go to the restroom in the middle of class. During their classes, students walked around Berkeley and came up with ideas on how to improve it while comparing the situation to their own towns. Students gave ideas on how to improve Berkeley, saying things like, "There's trash scattered throughout the town. It's important to collect the garbage, but you also need to teach people not to litter" or "There are bicycles locked to parking meters, so it would be a good idea to install bike racks here." Groups would discuss every idea in thorough detail – who would do what, how would you implement the idea, what would the budget be – and made possible ideas into work plans. Before presenting their plans to the authorities at Berkeley City Hall, students spent all night preparing posters and practicing their English speeches. All kinds of students presented their plans,

from the nervous teeth-chatterer to the second coming of Steve Jobs.

The students also enjoyed American culture outside of their classes, with sightseeing in San Francisco and the state capital of Sacramento, homestays, participation in regional events, and interaction with people in the community.

The program was also an opportunity to make new friends. "I made friends with students from Miyagi and Fukushima, whom I never would have been able to meet otherwise. We shared our experiences of the same tragedy. I formed friendships that will last me a lifetime," says Masaya Kumagai (Morioka Kita High School, 3rd Year), who considers this to be the most positive effect of the project.

Leaving Iwate for three weeks was a big influence on the students' future paths and goals. "[By participating in the program] I grew up", says Kenta Kikuchi of Otsuchi Town (also a 3rd year at Morioka Kita). He was able to interact with other Japanese students on the program, and discovered that he'd like to work all over the world – something that he had never spent all that much time thinking about before.

The students gained a lot of experience through the program by interacting on a familiar level with locals, seriously committing to the Y-PLAN program, working hard on their presentations, sharing their thoughts with their friends, and enjoying all the fun the U.S.A. has to offer. These students shared their dreams and goals for the future: "I will work hard to take over my family's business in the future." "I want to become a nurse so I can help the people in my town." "I want to spread my wings and work overseas." These three weeks truly conveyed how committed these young high school students are to becoming an asset to their communities, each with their own separate path.

TOMODACHI Summer 2012 Softbank Leadership Program

As part of the TOMODACHI project led by the U.S. embassy and the U.S.-Japan Council, the Leadership Program was run using donations from Softbank. For three weeks in July-August 2012, 300 high school students from the three prefectures that suffered from the 2011 disaster learned about leadership and how to contribute to their community on the University of California, Berkeley campus.

We Shall Not Waver – Community Development in Otsuchi

Sachiko Motomochi created the NPO “Tsudoi – Cultivating the Community and People of Otsuchi” to use the connections between people to aid in the reconstruction of the disaster-affected regions. This article is an overview of the current reconstruction efforts in Otsuchi as told by Motomochi in her Iwate Glocal College seminar, “The Formation of Disaster-Affected Communities and International Cooperation.”

Otsuchi was a devastated wasteland following the earthquake and tsunami, but it is now covered in green – no houses have been built yet and all of the reconstructions plans for the area are stalled. Temporary housing is in the mountains. People find it hard to make a life here when they don’t even know when their houses will be built. There are no projections for when anything might be finished. But life is not all doom and gloom. The town overflowed with life during the Otsuchi Festival on September 21-22. People are coming out to attend events and festivals.

Right after the disaster, there was no food, electricity, water, or anything else. It was hard just to survive. But electricity, food, and medical services were restored step by step, and those difficult circumstances changed slowly. At this stage, support has slowed, and processes are changing bit by bit. I, along with the AMDA (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia), an emergency medical organization, sent medicine to areas that lost their hospitals and medical supplies. Medical treatment covered by health insurance restarted after some time had passed. Local doctors would not be able to continue working if they treated everyone for free. At some point, the balance has to shift. I don’t know what it will be like once we’ve phased into the real reconstruction stage. I feel like the affected areas are still groping around for an answer.

In rural areas, you know exactly who your neighbor is and what he does. That’s their strength. I think this is the perfect chance to reassess the good points of traditional living. Just repairing buildings and roads does not mean a town will thrive. The people living in those areas must once again create their lives. I think it’s important to rebuild the towns while keeping traditional values dear to us – consideration and affection for the town, knowing the surrounding area, and helping out whenever needed.

Who will be the main actor responsible for community development in the reconstruction? This must be decided before community development and reconstruction efforts can really take place. Leading the townspeople to participate in not just events, but policy planning and taking initiative will depend on the competence of supporters and outsiders. It is important that the process, techniques, and ideology of the support efforts allow the townspeople to feel at the end that

they did it all themselves.

Continuity and ongoing programs are necessary for people to take initiative and to change perspectives. The population has fled from small towns like Otsuchi and Yamada. There are no jobs, and no way for them to continue living there. People need a continuous, consistent environment so that they can live, work, and find value in what they do. Currently there is a lot of support for the affected areas. People help with cooking food and the like. There are support activities that are only carried out once, while other initiatives need a continuing amount of support. One of the main challenges is how long do you stick with something that takes a lot of time, and what must be done to bring about the next step.

There are no jobs in the disaster-affected areas. But rather than just handing out jobs every which way, we need to introduce technology, information, and knowledge that is suited to the needs of the area. You can’t just teach people how to do something once and be done with it. People must be able to do it by themselves. Many times kind souls have given support that won’t possibly be of use to the people here. We must listen to the locals and support them in a way appropriate to the area. That’s why I think that both a global “bird’s eye view”, and a local “bug’s eye view” are needed.

I cannot build sea walls or construct bridges. But I can change the structure of the reconstruction so that the local people will be able to move forward, however slowly. I can help them help themselves. I want to make a town where people can live actively and fulfill their dreams.

There is an island in Otsuchi that is said to be a model for the NHK show, “Hyokkori Hyotan-jima.” Those familiar lyrics in the opening, “We shall not waver,” give us the strength to carry on.



NPO “Tsudoi – Cultivating the Community and People of Otsuchi”

Director

Sachiko Motomochi

Motomochi works in a university hospital rehabilitation ward as a physical therapist. She works in the field of regional medicine and welfare.

As part of her overseas activities, she worked as a volunteer care worker in a U.K. facility for the disabled, went to Costa Rica on dispatch as part of JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers), and participated in the Core Leader Training Program of the Cabinet Office-run International Youth Development and Exchange Program.

During the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, she did emergency rescue work in Kamaishi City and Otsuchi Town together with the AMDA (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia). She created her NPO in Otsuchi in June 2012, and enacts initiatives that help rebuild the lives of townspeople in the region.

Voice Post – A Project Starting Here –

To the Disaster-affected Areas: New York is Thinking of You

Many people’s thoughts were with Japan during the disaster. In New York, two Japanese women worked on the “Voice Project” to send messages of support – architects Koko Takahashi and Mio Uchida.



Voice Post - Warm feelings from all over the world are gathered in these messages of support for Japan.

After hearing about the disaster in Iwate, Koko Takahashi and six other architects living in New York City started collecting messages of support in Union Square, Manhattan for the affected areas on March 19, 2011. They were frustrated at being so far from Japan and unable to help directly, and thought, “We want the survivors to know there are people thinking of them. We want to give them strength.”

“I was touched by how sympathetic New Yorkers were. I really want to convey that to Japan,” says Takahashi. During these activities, she happened to catch a taxi driven by a man from Ghana. “He let me ride the 3,000-4,000 yen trip for free, saying, ‘Ghana has always been supported by Japan. This is the least I can do.’” New Yorkers aren’t just people who are born and bred there – people gather in the city from all over the world. “There was a realization that because Japan has a history of trying to bring happiness to the world, I was able to meet all of these people from places all over the world who all worried about and supported Japan.”

She met friends who volunteered to collect messages from the streets, as well as Yumiko Murai, part of the “World’s 1000 Messages to Japan” internet project. After receiving support from sympathetic companies and

Columbia University, the message-gathering project grew into the “Voice Project.”

It’s difficult for the thoughts and feelings of the Japanese people to reach overseas. When Takahashi returned to Japan last summer, she saw boards full of messages in Japanese, thanking the countries that had sent rescue teams. Takahashi knew these messages weren’t reaching their intended recipients, and figured she could help. She wants to create a bridge between Japan and other countries, so that messages from foreign people can reach Japan, and Japanese people can reach right back out.

“I want the Japanese people to know that people all over the world are thinking about them. And then when Japanese people meet foreigners in the future, I want them to remember in the back of their minds how foreigners supported them, so that they can develop friendly relationships with foreigners,” hopes Takahashi.



▲ Koko Takahashi (Architect from Hanamaki City, Iwate)



▲ Mio Uchida (Architect from Tokyo)

Voice Post – A Project Starting Here –

Koko Takahashi and Mio Uchida started the Hope for Japan Project where they gathered messages of support from New York City in a sewn-together bag, and then created the Voice Post project after meeting with Yumiko Murai of “The World’s 1000 Messages to Japan” project, which gathered messages on the internet. Now, after more than a year has passed since 3/11, they would like to gather the messages into teaching materials, and send out the messages they could not send immediately after the disaster.

Iwate Rainbows

Bringing Joy to Children Through English

In Rikuzentakata City and Ofunato City live women who moved here from the Philippines and Chile. These women have started an English class for children in the area. This year Erva Sugawara of the Philippines and four other women finished their English teaching training and are learning how to create fun classes through trial and error as home teachers of English for their “Iwate Rainbows” club.

“Both the teachers and children were nervous at first,” says Hortensia Murakami of Chile. “But we all became friends after singing songs and playing games that really got our bodies moving.” Children love the games so game time always runs long, with activities like Pin the Tail on the Donkey and karuta, a vocabulary card game. Children enjoy learning simple English vocabulary through songs and games. The teachers divide the lessons into four parts, such as “Greetings” where they teach greetings and self-introductions. Each activity is 5-10 minutes long, and 10-30 children can participate. They still feel that teaching children of all different ages is quite difficult, but they switch parts each class and they hope to be able to teach classes by themselves in the future.

The children seem to be having a lot of fun at English class. There was even a child who was very shy the first time he attended the class, but from the next time onward he sat all the way at the front. However, the class is often held as a one-time only event, and the women hate not



knowing how to answer kids who ask, “When are you coming again?” Currently they teach at after-school latch key activities in Yokota and Yonesaki areas, as well as parent-children recreation events and class observation days. They hope to increase the number of places they teach in the future.

There are many happy things resulting from this class – children calling out, “Teacher!” on their way home from work, and an opportunity to make a giant dance circle at parent-children recreation events. “The children experienced the same earthquake and tsunami we did and are living in temporary housing. We can all smile through this English class, and I’m happy to be of help to the children,” says Murakami. The Iwate Rainbows Club’s future goals include learning how to teach correct English pronunciation, and how to teach older students past middle school. Janet Matsuda of the Philippines said with great motivation in her voice: “I want to teach them how to have a conversation.”



(From the left) Erva Sugawara, Rosalinda Nakanome, Janet Matsuda, Hortensia Murakami, Marife Sugawara

Business Activities and Financial Status for Fiscal Year 2011

■Report on Business Activities (Overview)

At the start of fiscal year 2011, the Association transitioned to a public service foundation. Following this transition, the staff of the Association reaffirmed the goals, role, and responsibility of the Association, and increased public welfare through international exchange by developing activities based on the following four principles: 1. Support for the survivors of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, 2. Development of a multi-cultural regional society, 3. Community development through exchange, and 4. Cultivation of human resources that will lead the next generation.

1. Distribution of Information

Various kinds of information for daily life in Japan, such as information on international exchange events and disaster-related information through the multilingual website (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean) (access: 56,882 hits) and the newsletter “jien go” (6 regular editions, 18 special editions). Also published is the annual organ, “Iwate International Exchange” (2 editions).

2. Support for Learning the Japanese Language

Training workshops for Japanese Language Learning Supporters (3 times), registration and utilization of Japanese Language Supporters (33 incidences), and grants to help with operating costs of Japanese language classes (4 incidences/175,000 yen)

3. Support for the Daily Lives of Foreign Residents

Consultation for foreign residents (446 incidences), training workshops for multilingual supporters (7 times), registration and utilization of multilingual supporters (12 incidences), scholarships for foreign students studying at their own expense (10 people)

4. Lectures and Workshops

Iwate Glocal College (8 times), international understanding workshops (12 times), seminars on overseas experiences and study abroad (44 people), internships (8 people)

5. Survey Research

Creation of the International Understanding Handbook “Friends All Over the World part 2”

6. Promoting International Exchange

Operations of the International Exchange Center (146,757 visitors), Cultural Exchange with Foreigners “Chatland” event (12 times), One World Festa (held at the International Exchange Center, Noda Village, Kamaishi City, and Miyako City), Morioka Sansa Odori Parade team (131 people from 14 countries), dispatch of teachers introducing foreign culture (31 times), registration and utilization of Iwate Internationalization Human Resources (59 incidences), grants for activities costs of international exchange organizations (8 incidences/639,000 yen), exhibitions (5 times)

7. Reception of Foreign Trainees

Support of foreign trainees and prefecturally-sponsored foreign students (2 people)

8. Support of Disaster Survivors

Consultation related to the disaster (7 consultation visits to the affected areas), the “Kataru-kai (A Place to Talk)” mental healthcare group for foreign residents of the affected areas (30 people), survey research regarding natural disasters, placement of foreign consultation workers in the affected

areas (3 people)

■Financial Status Report (Overview)

The 2011 Fiscal Year saw ordinary revenue at approximately 67.77 million yen, and ordinary expenses at approximately 65.61 million yen.

Ordinary revenue was collected from investment gains from fundamental assets along with membership fees from Association Supporting Members (“membership fees received”), donations from individuals and organizations (“donations received”), trust money from the Iwate Prefectural Government to run the Association and operate the International Exchange Center (“operating revenue”), activity grant money from the Iwate Prefectural Government and a grant from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami “Chiisana Heart Fund (Small Heart Fund)” maintained by the Supporting Organization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (“grants received”), etc.

Ordinary expenses are as follows: operating expenses at approximately 49.91 million yen and administration costs at approximately 15.69 million yen. Expenses are categorized as “Activities for Public Interest Purposes” totaling 44.48 million yen, “Activities for Profit Purposes” totaling 5.43 million yen, and “Accounts” totaling 15.69 million yen.

This outline is taken from data in the Financial Statement on the right.

■Receipt and Utilization of Donations and Supporting Member Fees

The amount of donations and supporting member fees during fiscal year 2011 was approximately 1.38 million yen and its use is listed below.

We would like to express our gratitude for your kindness and consideration.

1. Total amount received 1,388,865 yen
 - Donations (6 incidences) 211,865 yen (comprising of 2 donations to fundamental assets totaling 40,000 yen, and 4 general donations totaling 171, 865 yen)
【Donating Entities】 The Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, Minoh Association for Global Awareness, Oyamada Harvest Festival Executive Committee, Ms. Kayoko Obata, Ms. Yuko Ito
 - Supporting Membership Fees 1,177,000 yen (237 people, 48 organizations)

2. Use

- (1) Amount put towards fundamental assets 40,000 yen
The Association has added this money to their fundamental assets and will use it for future activities.
- (2) Application towards activities for public interest purposes in fiscal year 2011 1,348,865 yen

This money was used to pay for part of the operating costs of public interest activities in fiscal year 2011, such as the “Kataru-kai (A Place to Talk)” which administered mental healthcare to foreign residents of disaster-affected areas, special disaster editions of the “jien go” newsletter, consultation meetings for foreign residents of the affected areas, Iwate Glocal College, One World Festa, Exchange with Foreigners “Chatland” events, subsidies to international exchange organizations, and so on.

■Financial Statement

1. Balance Sheet (Overview)

As of March 31, 2012 (Units: 1,000 yen)

	2011 Fiscal Year	2010 Fiscal Year	Increase/Decrease
I Assets			
1 Liquid assets	27,450	24,551	2,899
Cash deposits	21,894	16,694	5,200
Accounts due	5,555	7,856	▽2,301
2 Fixed assets	1,108,192	1,050,336	57,855
Fundamental assets	1,102,663	1,045,281	57,382
Other fixed assets	5,529	5,055	473
Total assets	1,135,643	1,074,888	60,754
II Debts			
1 Liquid debt	6,571	5,499	1,072
Amount owed	4,253	3,396	857
Deposits received	1,008	603	404
Temporary receipt	133	405	▽272
Accrued bonuses	1,176	1,094	81
Total debts	6,571	5,499	1,072
III Net Assets			
1 Specified net assets	1,024,222	9,77,641	46,580
2 General net assets	104,849	91,747	13,102
Total net assets	1,129,072	1,069,389	59,682
Total of debts plus net assets	1,135,643	1,074,888	60,754

(Numbers rounded to the nearest 1,000)

2. Fluctuations in Net Assets (Overview)

Year beginning April 1, 2011 and ending March 31, 2012 (Units: 1,000 yen)

	Subtotal for Activities for Public Interest Purposes	Subtotal for Activities for Profit Purposes	Subtotal for Accounts	Total
I Fluctuations in Net Assets				
1 Ordinary fluctuations				
(1) Ordinary revenue				
Gains on fundamental assets	43,494	5,325	18,890	67,710
Membership fees received	10,252	0	10,252	20,505
Operating revenue	17,248	4,998	0	22,246
Grants received	14,644	327	7,988	22,959
Contributions received	0	0	117	117
Donations received	171	0	0	171
Miscellaneous revenue	0	0	207	207
Gains on valuation of investment securities	0	0	324	324
(2) Ordinary expenses	44,488	5,430	15,691	65,610
Operating expenses	44,488	5,430	0	49,918
Administration costs	0	0	15,691	15,691
Total fluctuations during the period	▽994	▽104	3,199	2,100
2 Other Fluctuations				
(1) Nonrecurring profits	5,500	0	5,500	11,001
Gains on sale of investment in securities	5,500	0	5,500	11,001
(2) Nonrecurring costs	0	0	0	0
Total fluctuations during the period	5,500	0	5,500	11,001
Total changes in general net assets for the period	4,506	▽104	8,699	13,102
General net assets at the beginning of the period	46,884	806	44,056	91,747
General net assets at the end of the period	51,391	702	52,756	104,849
II Fluctuations in Specified Net Assets				
Donations received	20	0	20	40
Gains on fundamental assets	15,165	0	15,165	30,330
Gains on the valuation of fundamental assets	23,859	0	23,859	47,718
Transfer amount to general net assets	▽15,753	0	▽15,753	▽31,507
Total changes in specified net assets for the period	23,290	0	23,290	46,580
Specified net assets at the beginning of the period	488,820	0	488,820	977,641
III Net assets as the end of the period	563,502	702	564,867	1,129,072

(Numbers rounded to nearest 1,000)

| Supporting Member of the Association |

We are looking for new supporting members to support our mission and projects. The Supporting Member Dues will be used for public events that promote international exchange, cooperation, and multicultural society.

Your Privileges as a Supporting Member

- (1) We will send you publications by the Association:
 - International Exchange Newsletter “jien go”
 - * Student members will only receive information through email newsletters
 - Association Annual Organ “Iwate International Exchange”
- (2) We will send you information on Association events before the general public.
- (3) You receive a complimentary discount on Association events and seminars.
- (4) We will send you the “Ethnic Restaurant Map.” You can receive various services from the associated restaurants.
- (5) We will send you the “Complimentary Travel Map.” You can receive various services from the associated stores.
- (6) You can receive tax deductions.

Yearly Dues

- (1) Individual members... 3,000 yen
- (2) Organized groups... 10,000 yen
- (3) Student members... 1,000 yen

If you use the Association’s special formatted bank money transfer form, you will not be liable for any transfer fees if you transfer from our list of approved banks. Please feel free to inquire with us and we will send you the money transfer form. We also accept these forms at the Association.

Iwate International Understanding Handbook

The Running Man – What Lay Beyond the Finish Line

At the Berlin Olympics 76 years ago, a man from the Korean peninsula represented Japan in the games and won a brilliantly shining gold medal.

That man’s name was Sohn Kee-chung.

The Association has created materials for a workshop that thinks upon his life and discusses the issues of ethnicity, peace, and Japan-Korean relations.

2012 was both an Olympic year and the 100th anniversary of Sohn Kee-chung’s birth.

These materials use Sohn’s life to learn about Japanese and Korean history, and about exchange between Japan and Korea.

Please contact the Association if you would like to use these materials in your workshop.



Front Cover Photo

Stand Up Take Action (a worldwide campaign to end poverty) As part of the campaign activities, 35 volunteers helped out by taking this picture at the Iwate International Association.

| Request for Donations |

The International Association runs many international exchange and cooperation events so that the people of Iwate can catch a glimpse of the world around them and so that foreign residents of Iwate can live a comfortable life. From a private sector perspective, we strive to make our events even better as we contribute to the development and vitalization of the region using international exchange and cooperation. Please support our financial solvency so that we can continue the Association’s activities progressively for the long term. ※Donations to the Association will be counted as tax deductible expenses and deductions for donations.

| Visits to Iwate by Overseas Prefectural Associations |

Iwate Prefectural Association of Brazil

On September 27, Director Chida and his wife came to the International Association to talk about the ceremony for the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Iwate Prefectural Association of Brazil that will occur in August of next year. They traveled throughout Iwate to meet the governor and to visit the disaster-affected areas.



Iwate Prefectural Association of New York

On October 16, Chairman Iwasaki returned to Japan for the first time in 16 years and visited the International Association along with Mr. Ito of the New York Japanese-American Lions Club. The Iwate Prefectural Association of New York sent a lot of support following the disaster last year, but wanted to visit the affected areas to get a better sense of support that would fit the needs of the areas. Additionally, other prefectures in Japan actively hold product exhibitions and promote their presence in New York, and the Prefectural Association would like Iwate to grow its presence overseas with product exhibitions and information about the reconstruction.



International Exchange Center

(5F Aiina Citizen’s Cultural Center)

- Open: Everyday
- Hours: 9 : 00-21 : 30
- Closed: During the year-end holidays

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