

TOMODACHI Summer 2012 BEYOND Tomorrow U.S. Program - Reconstruction and Planning -

August 12, 2012

Under the partnership with TOMODACHI Initiative, BEYOND Tomorrow will undertake “TOMODACHI Summer 2012 BEYOND Tomorrow U.S. Program - Reconstruction and Planning –“ in summer 2012. The two-week program in New Orleans, Boston, New York and Washington D.C. aims to provide students in Tohoku opportunities to learn from the U.S. experience in post-disaster reconstruction and planning and also act as Tohoku ambassadors to share their experiences with American people. Students were selected through rigorous selection and nine students with a proven record of leadership activities and strong aspirations to become future leaders from Tohoku will participate in the program.

1. Program Objectives

- a To provide opportunities for Japanese students afflicted by the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami to draw lessons from the efforts following 9.11 and Hurricane Katrina experiences for Tohoku reconstructions by visiting related organizations and experts.
- b To have the students act as ambassadors of Tohoku to American people and develop a model for U.S-Japan leadership exchange in the context of Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami

2. Participants

10 students who were residents of Iwate, Miyagi or Fukushima at the time of the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami, and have finished high school in March 2012 to proceed to higher education. All participants were selected through a rigorous selection process.

3. Destinations

August 7 – 10	New Orleans, Louisiana
August 10 – 16	New York, New York
August 16 – 19	Boston, Massachusetts
August 19 – 21	Washington DC

4. Program

- Orientation

The orientation program took place over a weekend at the foot of Mount Fuji for June 29 – July 1, 2011. With guest lecturers from Ministry of Land Use and Planning, the students received hands-on training on basics of urban planning and reconstruction policies, and based on their own experience, identified issues to be addressed in reconstruction efforts in Tohoku. Divided in two teams, each team developed a presentation on

what they would like to learn in the U.S..

(Post-event report: <http://beyond-tomorrow.org/en/program/past-program/tomodachi2012/>)

- Program in the U.S.

1. Learning from post-Katrina efforts and post-9.11 response

New Orleans	
Ashe Cultural Arts Center	During post-hurricane Katrina recovery, Ashe has acted as a community based center for the activities of ReBuild New Orleans, and has taken a leadership role in implementing the strategy to repopulate the Central City neighborhood with its former residents and new like-minded neighbors. They also took advantage of arts and cultural activities to help the healing process of the disaster survivors.
Foundation for Louisiana	Foundation for Louisiana played a leading role in post-Katrina efforts to revitalize the local economy by providing grants to entrepreneurs, supporting small business and implementing leadership development programs. To date, the Foundation has provided emergency relief to more than 30,000 residents; helped 8,130 families into safe, affordable housing; assisted 3,012 small businesses to re-open; and engaged thousands of residents in neighborhood planning and leadership development.
Market Umbrella	As an organization that focuses on the development, social aspect, and nutrition of the New Orleans region, Market Umbrella manages a farmers market. Its most important activity is the weekly “Crescent City Farmers’ Market,” where local farmers directly sell their homegrown fruits and vegetables.
Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation	After Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans’ population shrunk by half. The population of the Vietnamese community decreased as well, but under the leadership of Father Nguyen of Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, many Vietnamese quickly returned home to start rebuilding. The students will hear from the members of the community how they led rebuilding the fishing industry in NOLA.
University of New Orleans	Visit university academics to discuss issues of rebuilding New Orleans.
Volunteer activities for projects of rebuilding farms in New Orleans	Visit farms in New Orleans that are introducing innovative approaches for rebuilding the region’s agriculture
New York	
4 World Trade Center	A tour by Mr. Osamu Sassa, a Japanese architect who led the

	construction project of the 4 World Trade Center, the fourth-tallest skyscraper on the WTC site.
Human Rights Watch	A session to examine the issues of discrimination and hate crimes against Arabs after 9.11.
Interview with Mr. Shawn Escoffery	An interview session with the expert in post-disaster response and reconstruction planning. The students will present their hypothesis and ask for feedback and advice.
New York City Economic Development Corporation	An interview session with economic experts who led the efforts to prevent an economic recession to draw lessons on keys to economic revitalization in Tohoku disaster communities.
New York Fire Department	The Chief who was in charge of the World Trade Center Tower 2 during the 9/11 crisis will speak about the importance of communication during disasters and new technology that have been researched and recommended for disaster preparedness in New York.
Boston	
Shun Kanda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	An interview session with the expert in post-disaster response and reconstruction planning. The students will present their hypothesis and ask for feedback and advice.
Washington DC	
Breakfast with Arlington Fire Department	A breakfast session with the Arlington Fire Department Chief who coordinated the 9/11 Pentagon situation. He will talk about the importance of coordination by various agencies and entities (federal government, local emergency and rescue teams, and civilians).

2. From Tohoku to America – Stories of survivors -

Tokyo	
U.S. Embassy	The students will visit the TOMODACHI Team at the U.S. Embassy to present their goals of the trip prior to the departure for the U.S..
New Orleans	
Reception by the NOLA Japan Quake Fund	The students will meet with those who helped Tohoku after the earthquake and tsunami to express their gratitude and also tell them about the situation in Tohoku and recovery plans they would like to achieve.
New York	

Dinner with Japanese American leaders	A BBQ dinner in Harlem with Japanese American leaders who are active in a wide range of fields in New York where the students will speak about the situation in Tohoku and recovery plans they would like to achieve.
Visit to the U.S. Japan Foundation and dinner with the U.S. Japan Leadership program participants at Scholastic	Visit to the U.S. Japan Foundation to learn about their activities for forging U.S.-Japan relations. A dinner session with the U.S. Japan Leadership program participants at Scholastic, the world's largest educational publisher, where the students will speak about the situation in Tohoku and recovery plans they would like to achieve.
Boston	
Dinner with Japanese Disaster Relief Fund Boston	The students will meet with those who helped Tohoku after the earthquake and tsunami to express their gratitude and also tell them about the situation in Tohoku and recovery plans they would like to achieve.
Washington DC	
Dinner with the U.S. Japan Council members	A dinner session with the U.S. Japan Council members who are working to forge a strong relationship between the U.S. and Japan. The students will present the situation in Tohoku and recovery plans they would like to achieve.

3. Dialogue with Leaders - Learning from individuals active in various fields in the U.S. -

New York	
Stephen Globus	A dinner session with Mr. Globus, an important sponsor of Japanese cultural events in New York City with emphasis on performing arts, dance, fine arts, chanoyu, and crafts.
Shin Odake Fast Retailing, Inc. Group Senior Vice President, UNIQLO USA CEO	To realize his dream of 'making UNIQLO a number one casual wear apparel in the USA', Mr. Odake led the series of successful opening of Global Flagship stores, SOHO store in 2006, 5 th Avenue store and 34 th Street store in 2011. The students will receive a tour from him for the global flagship store on Fifth Avenue.
Motoatsu Sakurai President, Japan Society	A dialogue session with Mr. Sakurai, who is leading the country's largest non-profit organization in the area of U.S.-Japan cultural exchange after working in a global company and serving as the Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York.
Yutaka Takiura	A dinner session with Mr. Takiura, an architect who tackles various

Architect	global issues through an architectural approach.
Fumi Tosu Co-President, Table for Two USA	A lunch session with Co-President of Table for Two USA, at a Table for Two member restaurant in Manhattan. Mr. Tosu is currently spearheading the global initiative to address hunger and obesity at the same time in the U.S..
Boston	
Lawrence Fish formerly Chairman and CEO of Citizens Financial Group Atsuko Toko Fish Trustee, Fish Family Foundation	A dialogue with Mr. and Mrs. Fish on leadership and social contribution based on their experience of establishing the Fish Family Foundation and supporting Tohoku reconstruction activities.
Washington DC	
Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States	The students will make a courtesy visit to the Ambassador and present their learning from visiting different cities in the U.S. and their views on the meaning of U.S.-Japan exchange.

4. Cultural Exchange - Interaction with American students as grassroots ambassadors -

Boston	
Brunch with Japanese students at Harvard	A brunch session with Japanese students who are studying at Harvard and other top schools in Boston where the students will think about their future through informal discussion.
Camp Harbor View	A visit to a summer camp organized by the Boston Boys & Girls Club at the Camp Harbor View and enjoy outdoor activities and a barbecue dinner with American students.
Columbia University	A tour for Columbia University by Mr. Fred Katayama, a Reuter journalist
Japan Society	Interaction and lunch with American high school students who are participants of Japan Society's performing arts programs. Also the students will enjoy a musical performance by Alex York, a bilingual musician.

- Closing reception

A closing reception will be organized with the cooperation of the U.S. Japan Council on August 20, the last day of the trip, in Washington DC.

Venue Host: Mr. Neil Horikoshi, President and Executive Director, Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

Special Guest: Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

The nine students will present their learning in the United States in front of various leaders from various areas including the Japanese government, U.S. government, companies, think tanks, non-profit organizations, international organizations.

5. About TOMODACHI



In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, the United States military and Japan Self-Defense Forces worked together successfully in Operation Tomodachi to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the Tohoku region. Building upon this cooperation and spirit of friendship, the United States and Japan have launched the TOMODACHI Initiative, a partnership not just between the two governments, but also between both societies, including the business community, academics, civic groups, and sports and entertainment figures. TOMODACHI is led by the United States Government and the U.S.-Japan Council, a tax-exempt non-profit organization, and is supported by the Government of Japan, corporations, organizations and individuals from the United States and Japan.

6. Supporters

This program is sponsored by the below organizations.



U.S. – Japan Council



Japanese Disaster Relief Fund Boston



KPMG Japan

This program is organized with the cooperation of:



Japan Society

(Participants)



Minori Endo

At the Faculty of Business Administration at Ishinomaki Senshu University following graduation from Ishinomakikita High School

Minori lost her father and her house to the disaster, and though feeling deep despair she wanted for lots of people to be informed about the disaster, and took advantage of her experience as being the editor of a photography department to capture some of the images of the destruction left by the tsunami, sending them out through the media. As someone who experienced the disaster, Minori is motivated to communicate about the “now” of the disaster areas, and in the future she would like to engage in activities that enable her to continue to etch each moment of life into her heart without letting the current “now” get left behind in the past. Through the U.S. program, she would like to develop perspective on Tohoku reconstruction by examining post-disaster reconstructions and planning that took place outside Japan.



Ayaka Ogawa

At Leelanau School in Michigan, U.S.A from August 2012. Graduated from Otsuchi High School.

Ayaka lost her parents, her grandparents and her older sister to the tsunami, and now lives in temporary housing with extended family members. As only she was saved and the rest of her family lost, Ayaka would like to try to live life to the fullest and has resolved to fulfill her long-standing interest in studying abroad. Following the disaster, Ayaka also had chance to experience a short-term home stay in Australia. Ayaka feels a great deal of gratitude for the opportunities she has been afforded since the disaster, and so in the future she would like to become someone who also helps others to achieve their hopes. During the U.S. program, she would like to communicate with 9.11 and hurricane victims and would like to know what they are feeling after years of disasters.



Sakae Onodera

At the School of Commerce at Waseda University following graduation from Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School

As a result of the disaster Sakae lost her home in Kesennuma. Although the disaster was dreadful Sakae would like to be able to see it as a positive turning point in her own life, and believes that along with her peers who experienced the disaster they should explore things they can do to help, and take positive action in the world in the spirit of “social contribution”. In the future, her dream is to work for an international organization dealing with international development and nation building, as well as international business. During the visit in the U.S., She would like to learn how the U.S. overcame natural disasters and terrorisms, and made improvements in their communities.



Tomohiro Kamisawa

At the Faculty of Agriculture at Tohoku University following graduation from Morioka First High School

Tomohiro decided to study agriculture, as “agriculture” applies not only to domestic issues in Japan but is important for determining the shape of assistance for solving global problems such as poverty. Rather than just keeping the experience of the disaster inside, Tomohiro would like to make big strides in his personal development along with his friends, while proactively engaging in communication. He hopes to become a person who can give hope to people living in the disaster areas. To this end, Tomohiro would like to study hard at university while participating in BEYOND Tomorrow programs and striving towards his dreams. The trip to the U.S., this time being his first time abroad, he would like to interact with victims of disasters draw lessons of supporting the vulnerable and replicate the learning for Tohoku and the world in the future.



Anna Kumagai

At the Faculty of Project Design at Miyagi University following graduation from Izumi Tateyama High School

Anna was impressed by the local people’s spirits to help each other during the disaster. Wanting to give back to the local people, she joined a student organization called “East Japan Challenging & Chance” in which she attempts to help local communities with business. Through this program, she would like to think about what she can do for Tohoku, and learn about successes and failures of the reconstruction activities in the U.S. She believes that the experience in the U.S. will provide her with a framework to plan reconstruction and urban development that are most appropriate for Tohoku.



Ayaka Goto

At the Department of Childcare at Miyagi Seishin Junior College following graduation from Ishinomaki Commercial High School

Ayaka was in Ishinomaki when the earthquake and tsunami happened. Though her life was saved, she lost her house only 165 feet from the sea and many of her friends as a result of the tsunami. After the disaster, she had chances to experience homestay in Hawaii and Canada where she saw that the world still praying for Japan and her recovery from the devastation. In the future, she would like to engage in childcare in the developing world such as Africa, and also would like to communicate with people in those countries about the disaster and the importance of disaster prevention. In the U.S., she would like to learn about how the U.S. helped people’s psychological recovery as well as how the cities addressed physical reconstruction activities.



Tsubasa Sugeno

At the Faculty of International Studies at Utsunomiya University following graduation from Fukushima Technical High School

Tsubasa realized the importance of international cooperation after many countries provided support for Japan after the disaster, and decided that he would like to contribute to global society. In order to learn about how to forge a society in which people not just in Japan but from around the world who are suffering due to poverty and conflict can have a reassuring future, Tsubasa decided to study International Relations. While at university Tsubasa also hopes to study abroad, and broaden his horizons. As a victim of the disaster, he would also like to communicate with the rest of the world about the terror of natural disasters and the strength of Tohoku. Through the U.S. program, he would like to take the first step to become an international leader with a creative approach to reconstruction effort and appreciation for diversity.



Masahide Chiba

At the Faculty of Engineering at Utsunomiya University after graduation from Ofunato High School

Masahide was in Ofunato when the disaster struck. As a result of the tsunami, he lost his mother, grandmother and home, and is now living in rented accommodation with his father and two younger brothers. Masahide believes that it is his mission to plan towns that are safe from natural disasters and contribute to the future recovery because he survived the devastating disaster when so many lives were lost. Masahide would like to set up a company that carries out projects related with the disaster recovery, and would like to participate in the planning of towns along the Sanriku Coast which are resilient to damage from natural disasters. During the visit to the U.S., he would like examine how the disaster communities in the U.S. recovered from devastation.



Hiromi Meguro

At the Faculty of Community Service at Tohoku University of Community Service and Science following graduation from Soma Higashi High School

Hiromi was given a lift in the car of a passing stranger while running for her life from the rapidly encroaching tsunami, and it is thanks to this that she barely managed to escape unharmed. Her house was however destroyed, and her father lost his job. Having given up on her dream of attending a university specializing in music and having also considered going straight into employment, eventually Hiromi decided on a new goal of using this scholarship to go on to study town planning and local revitalization in order to contribute to the resources for Tohoku's recovery. During the stay in the U.S., she would like to learn how the multi-cultural country has integrated diverse population upon reconstruction and urban planning.