

BEYOND Tomorrow Leadership Academy Spring Program 2012



March 6-9, 2012

Venue: National Olympics Memorial Center
Organized by: Global Fund for Education Assistance
Funded by: Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction
Initiatives Foundation

*A promise to myself: Reflections and ambitions of Tohoku
high school students, one year later*

みんなで
がんばろう
日本 ●

BEYOND
Tomorrow



One year after the devastation

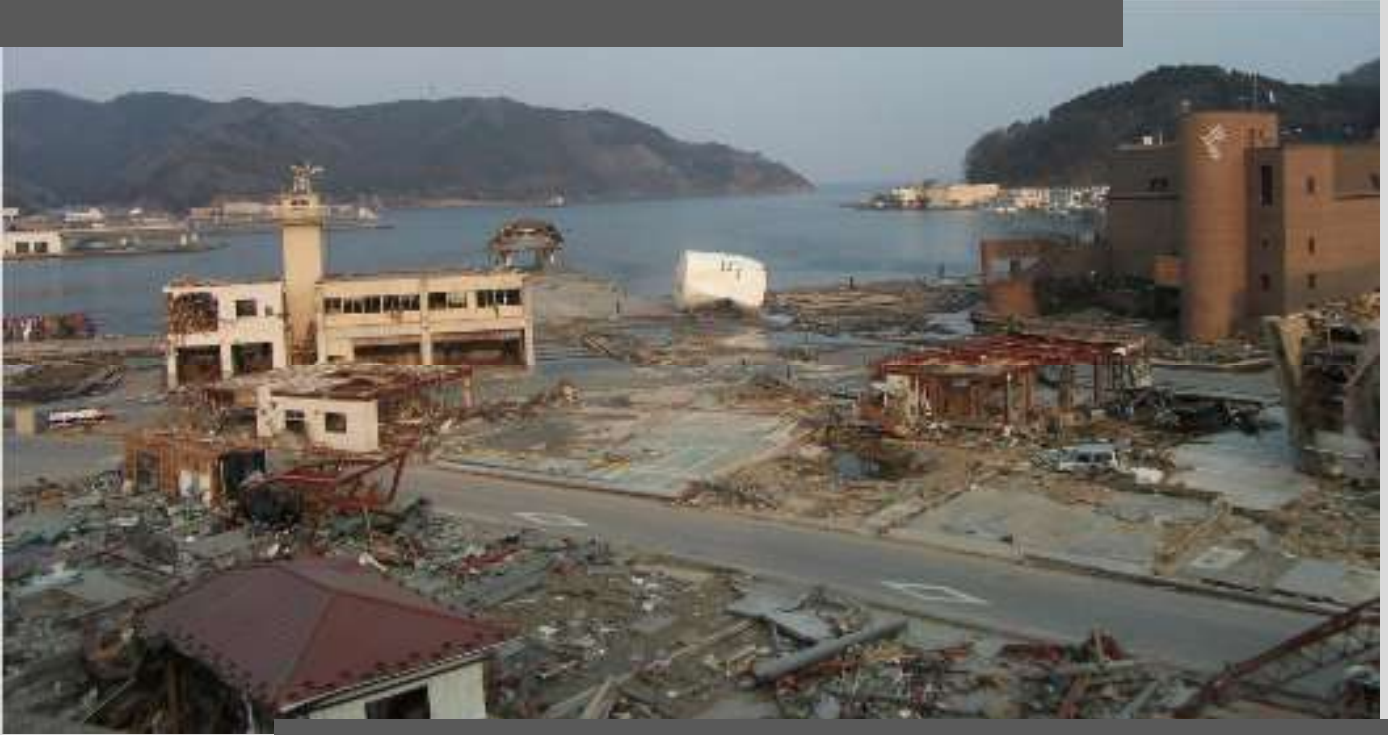


Discovering a new mission in life



Towards a bright future

I am here thanks to the adversities I faced.
I will keep going until I am convinced that that is true.



Our mission is to live life to its fullest -- for ourselves,
and for all those whose lives the tsunami claimed.



BEYOND Tomorrow is a project established to support
the young victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake who, despite facing great adversity,
did not lose hope and continue to embrace a dream to give back to society in the future.

BEYOND Tomorrow Leadership Academy Spring Program 2012 Summary

Organizer

Global Fund for Education Assistance

Supporter

Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Initiatives Foundation

Date

Tuesday, March 6 - Friday, March 9, 2012

Participants

Twenty-five students selected from BEYOND Tomorrow's three programs (Scholarship Program, High School Study Abroad Program, Junior Scholarship Program). While these students, who plan to enter college or study abroad in 2012, have experienced great difficulty due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, they aspire to be active leaders both domestically and abroad.

Objective

The BEYOND Tomorrow Leadership Academy, the first in 2012, is a one-year comprehensive leadership program. A year since the earthquake disaster, the program aimed to have the students face their future, sketch visions they should strive to achieve, and solidify their goals for their future lives as students.



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Special Message

John V. Roos

U.S. Ambassador to Japan



“We pledge our unwavering support for the new generation of young leaders from Tohoku, who, after everything they have lived through, aspire to become global leaders”

The Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami challenged Japan with a crisis of an unprecedented scale. But while a disaster of that proportion may destroy precious lives and homes, it cannot destroy hearts and spirits. The people of Tohoku prove the power of people to overcome adversity, and I have no doubt that those affected will recover from the disaster.

I am especially encouraged by the young people I meet who continue to pursue their hopes and dreams despite the hardships they have endured. They not only give us the confidence that Tohoku will recover but that young leaders will emerge who will lead the reconstruction of Tohoku and shape the future of Japan.

On March 11, 2011, as Americans we were truly impressed to see the calm determination and resilience of the Japanese people and we pledge our unwavering support for the new generation of young leaders from Tohoku, who, after everything they have lived through, aspire to become global leaders.

With their worldview and strong motivation by their experience since March 11, 2011, BEYOND Tomorrow’s students are energized and inspired to become Japan’s next leaders. It is both their responsibility and their opportunity and we look forward to supporting them in every way possible.

Message from Advisor

Heizo Takenaka

Director, Global Security Research
Institute; Professor, Faculty of Policy
Management , Keio University



“I am looking forward to watching these young people who have participated in BEYOND Tomorrow realize their leadership potential and grow into leaders who influence the Tohoku region, Japan, and the world in the years to come”

As a program that strives to nurture future global leaders from the young victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, BEYOND Tomorrow is filling a role that is extremely crucial in our society.

Through BEYOND Tomorrow, I had the honor to speak with the students from the affected areas. The pain and grief that they experienced through the disaster was beyond all belief. I was deeply moved to see that despite directly facing these challenges full-frontal, these students are still holding on to their dreams and hopes. It is so crucial that this young generation use their own voice to speak to the world of their experiences. These students are speaking up through BEYOND Tomorrow because they strongly believe that the tragedies brought by the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami should never be repeated in the same way.

This is precisely the kind of practical leadership that society seeks. In order to solve the world's complex problems that have diverse dimensions such as politics, economics, and law, it goes without saying that we need strong leadership. I fully believe that the dedication and ambition displayed by these young victims who have lived through an unimaginably harrowing experience are the seeds of such strong leadership. I am looking forward to watching these young people who have participated in BEYOND Tomorrow realize their leadership potential and grow into leaders who influence the Tohoku region, Japan, and the world in the years to come.

Program Overview

During the four-day program, participating students thought about the following:

1. What I want to achieve in my new life after the disaster
2. An action plan: “A Promise to Myself”

To summarize these two points, the program provided the participating students with the following four approaches:

Discussion

In order to overcome the adversity of the Great East Japan Earthquake and become leaders, these students, who share the will to rise and recover, conduct a discussion to share ideas and unite.



Interviews

Interviewing leaders active in various fields, the students think about what kind of activities they should pursue during their time in college.



Dialogue with Mentors

The BEYOND Tomorrow founders became mentors, and through dialogue, support the students toward realizing their dreams.



Website

The summarized project plan and “Promises to Myself” can be found on our website. <http://www.beyond-tomorrow.org/tohoku/>



Program Overview

Schedule

6th March <Tuesday>

- 12:30-14:15 Orientation & Ice-breaking / Lunch / Interview Preparation
15:00-17:00 Interview 1 (Daijiro Hashimoto, Shigesato Itoi)
17:00-21:00 Bistro BEYOND Tomorrow (Cooking Contest)
Team meeting / grocery shopping / cooking / reviewing

7th March <Wednesday>

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast
9:00-11:25 Dialog in the Dark
Team Building and Dialogue among the students through activities in the dark
11:25-12:30 Lunch
13:30-15:30 Students Discussion 1 "What we have lost and gained through the disaster"
16:00-17:30 Students Discussion 2 "Missions to accomplish as representatives of Tohoku"
17:30-18:30 Chorus Practice for Spring Forum, Practice for Words of Departure
19:00-21:00 Mentor Dinner (Dialogue between students and the BEYOND Tomorrow founders)

8th March <Thursday>

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast
9:00-11:00 Interview 2 (Lin Kobayashi)
11:00-12:00 Making "A Promise to Myself"
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-13:30 Chorus Practice for Spring Forum, Practice for Words of Departure
13:30-14:30 Making "A Promise to Myself"
14:30-16:30 Presentation & Filming of "A Promise to Myself"
17:30-18:30 Spring Forum Rehearsal
18:30-21:00 BEYOND Tomorrow Spring Forum 2012

9th March <Friday>

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 Corporate Program
1. Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, 2. POINT INC.,
3. MITSUBIDHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES,LTD.
12:30-13:30 Lunch
14:00 Departure



BEYOND Tomorrow believes that the youth affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake have the potential to become leaders to act on behalf of the world, Japan, and Tohoku reconstruction efforts. In order to support these youths, BEYOND Tomorrow sponsors a comprehensive leadership program that includes scholarships. High school students selected by the following BEYOND Tomorrow programs participated in the BEYOND Tomorrow Spring Program 2012.



Scholarship Program

Targets high school students affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, who hold global perspectives and aspire to be active both domestically and abroad. Targets students who plan to be enrolled in universities, junior colleges, and various other schools for the April 2012-March 2013 school year. A comprehensive leadership program that provides scholarship.

High School Study Abroad Program / Junior Scholars Program

Targets those who have overcome the difficulty of the Great East Japan Earthquake, hold global perspectives, and aspire to be active leaders domestically and abroad. Targets those who, as of September 2012, will be enrolled in high school or equivalent school or those who have graduated within less than a year prior to that date. Sponsors study abroad at overseas boarding schools. A comprehensive leadership program that provides scholarships.



Program Overview

Introduction of Participating Students

25 high school students were selected to participate in the program from the BEYOND Tomorrow Scholarship Program, the High School Study Abroad Program, and the Junior Scholarship Program. While these students, entering college or studying abroad in 2012, have experienced great difficulty due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, they hold global perspectives and aspire to be active at home and abroad.

List of Participants

Name	School	Year	College/Study Abroad Destinations(At the time of the program)
Scholarship Program			
Naho Abe	Kesenuma High School	3	Teikyo Heisei University, Medical Health
Yurie Imai	Morioka First High School	3	Keio University, Law
Minoru Endo	Ishimaki Kita High School	3	Ishinomaki Senshu University, Business Administration
Sakae Onodera	Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School	3	Waseda University, Commerce
Eisuke Kato	Toryo High School	3	Keio University, Environment and Information Studies
Tomohiro Kamisawa	Morioka First High School	3	Tohoku University, Agriculture
Shota Kikuchi	Ofunato High School	3	Tohoku Gakuin University, Humanities and Social Sciences
Masahiro Kikuchi	Takada High School	3	University of Tsukuba, Social and International Studies
Chisato Kuramoto	Morioka First High School	3	Meiji Pharmaceutical University, Pharmacy
Ryuji Kokuta	Kesenuma High School	3	Currently preparing for entrance examinations
Kokurin Saijyo	Kesenuma High School	3	Takushoku University, International Studies
Koma Saito	Shiroishi High School	3	Teikyo University, Foreign Languages
Hitomi Sasaki	Kesenuma High School	3	Foothill College (California, U.S.)
Ko Sato	Morioka First High School	3	Takasaki City University of Economics, Regional Policy
Tsubasa Sugeno	Technical High School	3	Utsunomiya University, International Studies
Masahide Chiba	Ofunato High School	3	Utsunomiya University, Engineering
Naomi Fukuda	Takabata High School	3	Miyagi University, Nursing
Shinpei Fujita	Kishine High School	3	Kanagawa University, Law
Emi Funakoshi	Miyako High School	3	Waseda University, Culture, Media, and Society
David Yuga Mansfield	Sendai First High School	3	Waseda University, Law
Hiroki Meguro	Soma Higashi High School	3	Tohoku University of Community Service and Science
High School Study Abroad Program/Junior Scholarship Program			
Ayaka Ogawa	Otsuchi High School	3	Leelanau School (Michigan, U.S.)
Sayaka Sugawara	Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School	1	Leysin American School (Leysin, Switzerland)
Nanami Takahashi	Miyagi First High School	1	A high school in France
Miki Mashiko	Koriyama High School	1	A high school in Zurich, Switzerland



Spring Program Highlights

Spring Forum

The Spring Forum was held during the third night of the Spring Program to celebrate the participating students' departure for a new chapter in their lives. The students, who have the potential to become future leaders, expressed passions for the future. Leaders, who are active in various fields, respond to these passions. The Spring Forum, which hosted many guests from abroad as well as from Japan, became a space where the hearts of the students and leaders who support them united. At the end, all twenty-five participating students gave words of departure and performed in a chorus, celebrating their own departures.



Hope for the future



Challenge to the world



Meaning of life



Support from leaders



Hopes and fears



The road we believe in



Spring Program Highlights



John V. Roos
U.S. Ambassador to Japan

“What is the most important thing that the United States can do to help in the recovery process? My answer is to provide hope to these incredible young people who are here with us this evening and to all the young people in Tohoku region, because hopes and dreams of Tohoku and Japan as a whole are with the young people of Tohoku.”

Motohisa Furukawa
Minister for National Policy / Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy /
Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy/ Minister for Space Policy

“I am deeply honored to be speaking in the company of BEYOND Tomorrow's 25 students who are commemorating the one year anniversary of the tsunami and earthquake. I believe that your challenging experiences will be an important foundation for your future roles as leaders of Japan and of the world. Your experiences, while undoubtedly painful, have taught you about tragedy as well as human kindness, and these are the lessons I would like you to remember as you grow into leaders. I look forward to seeing all of you thriving in both domestic and international platforms in the years to come.”



Irene Hirano Inouye
President, U.S.-Japan Council

“As I watched each of you here this evening, I could not but reflect many young people throughout the United States who wanted to support recovery and relief efforts. I remember many junior high school students and high school students throughout the United States who had car washes, bake sales, and ran marathons. They did not know who they were helping, but they knew that they had a special place in heart for the people in Japan and Tohoku region. So the U.S.-Japan Council is pleased to support the students like yourselves who will travel to the United States in the future and who become faces to all the Americans who believed that it was important to send a hand across the seas to support you and your families.”

Heizo Takenaka
Director, Global Security Research Institute; Professor, Faculty of Policy Management,
Keio University

“We are quickly approaching the one year anniversary of the tsunami and earthquake. Reconstruction efforts have only just begun. We all recognize that the path ahead is going to be extremely challenging. At this point, I would like to share with you two points that stem from historical events. First, every time we face these great adversities as a country, the Japanese society has only gotten stronger. And secondly, the heroes who played a central role during these times were always the young people. Heroes will arise from the younger generation. We will overcome this crisis and become stronger than before. And I strongly believe that these students of BEYOND Tomorrow will be at the heart of Japan's regeneration.”



Words of Departure

Nearly a year has passed since the day the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami swept away our home.

We will never again be able to see our hometowns the way we knew it.

In just one instant, the waves engulfed so much.

My family.

My house that I grew up in.

My friends I was planning to meet later that day.

My familiar surroundings.

The days that passed by without a worry.

The dreams I was working towards making a reality.

The tsunami and earthquake took away everything.

I didn't realize how precious everyday life was until it was gone.

There were many days when I wasn't able to feel grateful that I survived.

I often lost hope, the will to keep living.

But the disaster also taught us so much.

That I am not alone.

That we are all supported by each other and connected to one another.

That it means so much to reach out to those in need and to put thoughts into action.

That, precisely because we have overcome so much, we want to be ones to lead our hometowns toward a brighter future.

A year since that day. We are about to embark upon a new journey.

I definitely have anxiety about leaving my hometown that I love so much.

No matter how much it changes, my hometown will always, always be home to me.

By taking on the new endeavor to study in a new place, I want to challenge myself to become someone that my hometown can be proud of.

Together, we have the power to become leaders of Tohoku's future.

I will make my dreams come true, no matter how big.

I am here thanks to the adversities I faced.

I will keep going until I am convinced that that is true.

Our mission is to live life to its fullest -- for ourselves, and for all those whose lives the tsunami claimed.



Spring Forum Highlights

Discussion

One year since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The participating students thoroughly reflected on their past year selves, their current selves, and their future selves.

What we lost because of the disaster.

What we gained because of the loss.

Looking back on each of these memories, they shared with each other and discussed what they can do in the future.

It is because they experienced such difficulties that they can play a role in society. There stood the figures of students, who one year ago, could not imagine facing the future with strength and determination. It became a special space where excitement for the future could be tangibly felt.

What we lost because of the disaster (Selected comments)

A hometown and an everyday life taken for granted

After experiencing the earthquake, I feel negatively about losing some things, and I feel positively about losing other things. The nuclear accident that resulted from the earthquake caused us to lose our safe way of life. Also, the sense of security I felt for my daily life and for peace, as well as the confidence I had in my hometown disappeared. Because of the delay in policymaking, my trust in the government was also stolen. On the other hand, because I was a victim, my previous superficial perspective has disappeared and I have become capable of empathizing with others. Also, my optimism has disappeared and I have become able to seriously grasp things.

Tsubasa Sugeno
Fukushima Technical
High School



My loved ones and my hometown

What I lost in the earthquake were relatives to whom I owe so much and the scenery of the town I love. These two things have especially caused me to feel a huge sense of loss. Playing with my mother on the familiar shore of my childhood, where two hundred corpses lay—these remnants of my past no longer exist. I cannot associate my memories of the past with the word “disaster area.”

Nanami Takahashi
Miyagi First High School



I have lost so much that I can't lose anything else.

I lost my parents, my grandparents, and my sister in the earthquake. We were a family of six, but now I am alone. I lost the home I lived in for seventeen years. None of my memories no longer remain. I cannot see my beloved hometown anymore. I thought that I could not lose anything else.

Ayaka Ogawa
Otsuchi High School



The physical and emotional closeness with the coast

I experienced the earthquake in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture. Since it was not adequately communicated that different areas experienced the earthquake differently, I felt as if the distance from the coast increased, a result of the worsened transportation conditions. In addition to the increase in the time it took to move about, many people like me who lived inland didn't know how to contact the residents of the coast. I think that the distance has been cited as a major factor. However recently, I have come to want to cooperate with reconstruction support that is closely involved with the disaster area, actively visiting the coast and listening to the stories of the locals, shrinking the distance that has emerged.

Ko Sato
Morioka First High School



Topics discussed

1. What we lost and what we gained from the earthquake
2. Roles we must play as representatives of Tohoku (Introduced on page 21 of "A Promise to Myself")

What we gained from the earthquake (Selected comments)

Encounters with many people

After the earthquake, I feel that my ability to take action, my interest in things, and my motivation has grown. I have also had many encounters with people who gave me, alone and stranded, lots of hints. I received advice about career paths and for living in the future. There were times where I have become negligent and wanted to die, but thanks to everyone, I want to treasure the life my mother gave me.

Naho Abe
Kesenuma High School



What it means to truly understand the vulnerable

As a resident of the disaster area, I feel as if I appear vulnerable to the rest of the world. That feeling is not due to the support and compassion of people from Japan and all over the world; it stems from wanting people to truly understand our circumstances. That is something to be gained by going to the disaster area and talking with the locals. I think I share this feeling with people suffering from poverty in developing countries.

Tomohiro Kamisawa
Morioka First High School



My role

Many people lost their lives in the earthquake, and I was once again reminded of the fragility of life. But at the same time, I, who will die someday, want to lead this world, which will forever continue, in a good direction, even just a bit. I have come to think that that is my reason for living.

David Yuga Mansfield
Sendai First High School



Awareness as a member of society

After the earthquake, I worked as a volunteer staff member at the local disaster radio station. There, I met staff who worked tirelessly for the sake of Miyako. While working with them, the realization that from now on, I will be responsible as a member of my local community sprouted in my heart. My motivation to do something sparked, and I became active in various things. I believe that after experiencing the earthquake, I have gained awareness that I am a member of society.

Emi Funakoshi
Miyako High School



The road I should take

In the earthquake, the things I found numbered more than the things I had lost. The warmth of people, the gratitude for being alive, and the importance of family. The biggest thing I found after experiencing the earthquake was time to face myself, the road I should take, and dreams for the future.

Kokurin Saijyo
Kesenuma High School



Spring Program Highlights

Interviews with Leaders

In order to create challenging “A Promise to Myself” for their new lives in university or study abroad, the participating students conducted interviews with leaders active in various fields. They asked the leaders’ thoughts passion about during their time as students, and how they relate to who they are now. The students overlapped the leaders’ paths with their own futures, gaining hints for the future.

Pearls of wisdom from leaders to students



Shigesato Itoi

Copywriter

During your school days, there are answers to questions as well as people who know the answers. However, there are also things you won't know unless you start working. In life, there will be a lot of things you won't be able to do. Because you can't do everything, there will be things you skip out on and leave undone, which I think is also precious. But you'd better study English.

Lin Kobayashi

Executive Director of the Board, Foundation for International School of Asia, Karuizawa

It is important to understand your own weaknesses and shortcomings, and that even though there will be failure, continuing until you succeed. Ultimately, passion moves people. Taking that first step is important, no matter how small it is.



Daijiro Hashimoto

Visiting Professor at Waseda University/Special Visiting Professor at Keio University/ Former Prefectural Governor of Kochi

When you decide something, think about it from all sides. Listen to what various people say. But ultimately, the one who decides is yourself. No matter how happy people appear, they're surely carrying some sort of problem. That is why there is no sense in being jealous of or pessimistic toward people.



Spring Program Highlights

Corporate Program

The students visited Japanese global companies in order to learn what role corporations play in a globalized world. Learning about the line of business and the nature of business through interactive programs, the students had the opportunity to come into contact with the cutting edge of corporate activities.



“As a corporation, rather than asking ourselves ‘What did we do?’ we ask ‘How did we contribute to society?’”

– Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

Students were able to hear what Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, an international pharmaceutical company based in Japan, thought about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as well as business development based on that way of thinking. Rather than focusing on business achievements only, the company focuses on what kind of impact it leaves on society, as well as what kind of changes it brings to customers. Through the program, the students learned about the foundation of corporate activities.



“The cutting edge of the fashion industry”

– POINT INC.

Students were able to hear business stories as well as inside stories of the fashion industry from POINT INC., which develops fashion brands such as “LOWRYS FARM” and “GLOBAL WORK” both domestically and abroad. By learning about brand-building and the difficulty of the providing various sizes while ensuring profitability and efficiency, as well as stories of struggle after designing clothes, the students had an unparalleled opportunity to see the fashion business from behind the scenes. In addition, they were able to enter a room where clothes were kept before the official release, truly coming into contact with the fashion industry’s “cutting edge” and gaining new perspectives.



“Corporations and young people thinking about truly necessary earthquake reconstruction support.”

–MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, Ltd

From space rockets to power plants, industrial machinery to household appliances, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. has expanded their business to a wide variety of product areas. The students were able to hear stories about reconstruction support that capitalizes on these features from the company, a leader of the manufacturing era. What kind of reconstruction support does the Tohoku disaster area truly seek? What role can businesses play? It was a program where students and company employees had an interactive discussion.



A Promise to Myself



What did we lose because of the tragedy?

What did we gain thanks to the tragedy?

What must we accomplish because we are the ones who survived?

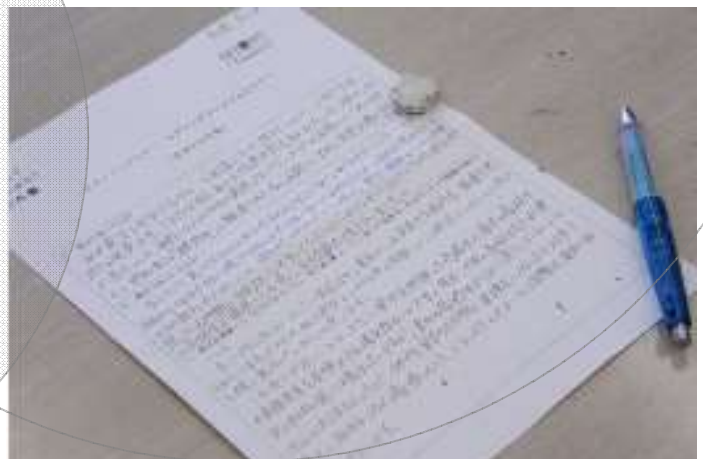
One year after the tsunami and earthquake, the 25 high school participants discussed amongst themselves and with various leaders, asking themselves these questions.

What they want to contribute to the Tohoku region.

What they want to contribute to Japan.

What they want to contribute to the world.

Each student wrote a promise to oneself: a promise to pursue and realize these personal goals in the years to come.



A Promise to Myself

“A Promise to Myself” The Plan

Based on discussions, interviews with leaders from various fields, and dialogues with mentors, each student developed ‘A Promise to Myself,’ a plan of what they would accomplish in their new lives. One year after the Earthquake, the students took their first steps toward becoming future leaders.

“I want to be a newscaster with compassion”

Ever since I was in elementary school, I have had the dream of becoming a newscaster. Before, I wanted to help solve the problem of political apathy among young people, to become the kind of caster who can deliver information in an easy-to-understand way that even young people can get excited about.

After living through the quake, I felt once again just how powerful the influence of mass media is, and my desire to provide reliable news to viewers become even stronger. Japanese people from regions unaffected by the disaster and people overseas received essentially all of their information from the media, and formed beliefs, whether right or wrong, based entirely what they saw. This led to harmful rumors and misunderstandings about the disaster, and only by living through it myself was I able to realize this problem. Furthermore, I believe mass media must play a big role in combatting the problem of the earthquake fading from the public memory. In order to make sure this disaster doesn't just become a temporary fad, I want to make sure the memory of this tragedy always remains in people's hearts.



Yurie Imai

Graduated Iwate prefectural Morioka First High School, plans to study law at Keio University. Through experiencing this unprecedented tragedy, she feels that she gained the capacity to empathize, and now feels strongly that she would like to become a newscaster that viewers can rely on.



“I want to study international development at an American university”

Before the quake, it was only from the viewpoint of those providing support that I wanted to help the people of developing countries. But, since experiencing the quake first hand, I've come to see many problems with this point of view. For example, a problem arises when those providing aid don't fully understand the needs of those who need support. Receiving aid is always something very much appreciated, but I believe truly appreciating the unique demands of those in need is also very important.

That is why I would like to go personally to those areas, to see with my own eyes what kind of life people there lead and exactly what they need. Even if one says they would like to help developing countries, there are a huge variety of methods to do so. At this point, I don't know exactly in which direction I would like to go, so I hope to find which field interests me while attending university. I plan to continue studying at an American university where exchange students from all over the world go to school. Through learning in that kind of international environment, I would like to expand my world view and accurately portray Japan's current situation to as many people as possible.

Hitomi Sasaki

Graduated from Kesenuma High School in Miyagi Prefecture, plans to study at Foothill College in the United States. Lost her home in Kesenuma during the disaster. In a world where people's lives change so much depending on where they live, she experienced the shock of inequality in middle school and her dream is to work to support developing countries.

“I want to protect against harmful rumors by giving accurate information”

I believe that the elimination of harmful rumors is the key to reconstructing the Tohoku region. Just by saying the word ‘Fukushima’, I have experienced people’s prejudice and preconceived notions. And I feel that many people are making judgments about the disaster based on misunderstood information. That is why I would like to become a bridge that provides people with accurate information, no matter how small that may be. And when I study abroad in Switzerland, I would like to act as a high school diplomat, and tell the truth about Fukushima to the people of the world.



Miki Mashiko

First-Year student at Koriyama High School in Fukushima Prefecture, plans to study abroad at a Swiss High School for one year starting in July. Personally experienced the Earthquake in Koriyama City. After that, experienced prejudice based on rumors regarding radioactivity in Fukushima, and wants to spread the message of the real state of affairs in the area to people around the country. In the future, she believes getting people to understand and support Tohoku is important to revitalizing the region.



“Because I was saved by my connections with people”

In this past year, I have been saved by many people. In particular, the people that I have come to know via Twitter and blogs. Those many people who didn’t know my real name or face, or whether what I was saying was the truth, but gave me the benefit of the doubt. Even now I wonder about how I can repay those people’s kindness. In my lost state, the best thing I could do was to make sure the events that transpired didn’t just become memories of the past. Little by little, I’ve written the things I’ve personally experienced, the stories I’ve heard, and the news I’ve seen. And because my father inspired me to take up photography, I would like as much as possible to tell my story with pictures as well as words.

In the year after the earthquake, I have made getting the message out my main form of work. In the next year, in order to grow personally I would like to specify my goals through attending university and participating in BEYOND Tomorrow. Any by growing, I can also express gratitude toward the people who have helped me. I haven’t found yet exactly what I want to do, but I would like to become a person who helps others achieve their dreams. In my time of despair, the thing that saved me was my connection with people. That’s why I would like to connect with many people, be useful, challenge myself, and after one year, meet a better version of myself.

Minori Endo

Graduated from Ishinomaki High School in Miyagi Prefecture, plans to study management at Ishinomaki Senshu University. Lost her father and home in the Earthquake. Even while mourning, she wants to make the disaster known to as many people as possible. Served as head of the photography club where she spread news about the disaster through photographs of tsunami damage.

“I push forward toward my dream exactly because the future is uncertain”

Because of the earthquake I lost many things, but I also met people, formed connections, received opportunities, and gained many things as well. I've realized just how happy my uneventful everyday life was before. And I've also realized that I've been given the chance to live. There is no one for whom tomorrow coming is a guarantee. And I've come to think very strongly that I want to live a life with no regrets. That is why I from now on must think about the future.

I have a dream. And that dream is to become an international fashion designer. In order to achieve this dream, to expand my worldview, to be internationally active, and to learn English, I would like to study abroad. Because I've been given the opportunity to live I want to see, hear, feel, and know all I can about the world.

But before studying abroad, I think learning about Japan is also important. First, my number one goal is to climb Mount Fuji. From there, I would like to challenge myself even more. I'll continue holding on to my dream, and keep believing in my own potential.



Ayaka Ogawa

Graduated from Iwate Prefectural Otsuchi High School, plans to study overseas at a boarding school starting in September 2011. Lost her parents, grandparents, and sister in the tsunami, now living with relatives and in temporary housing. Even having lost her parents, because she alone was saved she is determined to live a life with no regrets and study overseas. In the summer after the earthquake she participated in a homestay in Australia.



“An agricultural approach to helping the people of developing countries”

Through the earthquake, I've come to think about my own life and who I am. That has made me realize that I would like to help solve the problem of food shortages in developing countries through agriculture, while also taking into account the feelings of people in those countries.

Specifically, I would like to fulfill this goal in three steps. Firstly, establish a path for sending surplus foodstuffs from developed countries to developing countries. In this way, for regions that presently have no food, or no capacity for agriculture, we can at least secure some form of food. The second step, is farmland development. In order for developing countries to produce their own food under their own power, we can offer them the technology and skills of developed countries. Finally, I want to build a system whereby developing countries can produce enough crops for export, or use those crops as raw materials for producing export goods.

In order to achieve this goal, what can I do now? While learning the foundations of agriculture at university, I would also like to hear from specialists and research what kinds of agricultural aid projects are currently being undertaken. Also, under the philosophy of “you have to go there personally to really understand the situation,” I would like to travel to developing countries, understand the conditions there, hear the voices of the people, and then use what I have learned to build an effective support plan. Also, through actively visiting various companies and public institutions, I would like to find out in which of the many approaches to helping developing countries I best put my skills to use.

Tomohiro Kamisawa

Graduated from Morioka First High School in Iwate Prefectural, plans to study Agricultural at Tohoku University. With agriculture as the key, he would like to search for a method of support that can solve not just the poverty problems of Japan, but of the whole world. With that in mind he decided to enter the Department of Agriculture.



“I want to start an appealing company in Kesenuma”

Because I overcame extraordinary hardships caused by the earthquake, I believe that I can make a company to enliven and activate the areas affected by the disaster. My disposition, fostered in life after the quake, has led me to believe that I can overcome any ordeal. My goal is to found a company that will stop the flow of young people away from this area. More specifically, a company that sells the fish that fishermen have caught but have trouble selling themselves. To realize this goal, I would like to spend this year participating in the BEYOND Tomorrow program, listening to real business managers, and learning practical English by sharing a room with people from abroad. Also, I would like to take on a job this summer to gain valuable work experience.

Ryuji Kokuta

Graduated from Kesenuma High School in Miyagi Prefecture, currently preparing to take national university entrance examinations.

Wants to revitalize the disaster region, and through that, solve the perennial problem of young people leaving the area.

“Educational support in developing countries”

The city I live in learned from the Chile earthquake and tsunami, and put effort into disaster prevention education. Thanks to that education, after the earthquake I was able to quickly make the correct judgment to seek shelter. And in free moments while volunteering at an evacuation shelter, studying under the light of an electric power generator made me realize once again how important education is to me.

From these experiences I have come to think that in the future I would like to work to spread educational opportunities in Africa. By expanding education, I would like to help children achieve their dreams.

Toward that end, this year I want to not only study foreign language, but also go to Africa and see the situation there myself, and work hard to study international relations and cooperation.



Kokurin Saijo

Graduated from Kesenuma High School in Miyagi Prefecture, plans to study International Studies at Takushoku University. Born in Dalian, China; she came to Japan as a first year middle school student when her mother remarried. Since then, she has lived in Minamisanriku. After the quake, she came to consider Minamisanriku her real hometown, and achieved Japanese citizenship.



“I want to become the bridge between Tohoku and the world”

The thing I want to do this year is, firstly, to make a place where high school students who experienced the disaster and high school students from overseas can exchange their opinions firsthand. Currently, foreign students have a high level of concern for the disaster, but students from Tohoku have for the most part not been able to take part in that. That's why I would like to cooperate with Japanese students studying abroad to build a network connecting Tohoku with the world, and communicate BEYOND Tomorrow's activities overseas. I will do everything I can to make the most of my environment.

Nanami Takahashi

First-year student at Miyagi First High School in Miyagi Prefecture, plans to study for one year at a French High School starting in September.

After the quake she was so overcome with despair at times that she lost even the will to live, but feels that she also learned many important things which she had not realized before. Since the disaster, as a representative for the affected area she engaged in activities to tell the mayor and high school students of Minsk, Belarus about the disaster

Spring Program Highlights

List of Mentors

The founders of BEYOND Tomorrow, active in various fields, acted as mentors and interacted with the students. The participating students openly gave their opinions and posed questions to the mentors, and had animated discussions about their dreams for the future.

Keiichiro Asao
Member, House of
Representatives



Daisuke Iwase
Co-Founder and
Representative Director,
Lifenet Insurance Company
Japan



Shigeyoshi Ezaki
Lawyer, Anderson Mori
& Tomotsune



Taku Otsuka
Former Member, the House of
Representatives; Affiliated
Fellow, National Graduate Institute
for Policy Studies (GRIPS)



Etsuko May Okajima
President & CEO,
ProNova Inc.



Masatada Kobayashi
Senior Executive Officer
and Director, Rakuten, Inc.



James Kondo
Country Manager, Twitter Japan
Visiting Professor, Hitotsubashi
University



William Hiroyuki Saito
Founder & CEO, InTecur,
K.K.



Teruhide Sato
President, Group CEO,
netprice.com, Ltd



Kohey Takashima
CEO and Founder,
Oisix, Inc.



Mitsuru Claire Chino
Attorney at Law
(California)



Kanae Doi
Attorney at Law; Japan
Director of Human Rights
Watch



Nobuo Domae
Executive Vice President,
FAST RETAILING CO., LTD.



Kohei Nishiyama
Founder and Chairman,
elephant design co., ltd



Kumi Fujisawa
Vice President,
SophiaBank; Vice
President, Japan Social
Entrepreneur Forum



Chikara Funaboshi
Founder and President,
WiLLSeed Company Limited



Kazutomo Robert Hori
President and Group CEO,
CYBIRD Holdings Co., Ltd.



Hideki Makihara
Former member of the House of
Representatives; Attorney at Law
admitted to Japan and the State of
New York; Researcher of the
National Graduate Institute for
Policy Studies



Nami Matsuko
Head of Corporate
Citizenship Department,
Managing Director Nomura
Holdings, Attorney at Law
(New York)



Misa Matsuzaki
CEO, ASIMODE Co.,
Ltd



Kouta Matsuda
Member, House of
Councillors



Haruo Miyagi
President, ETIC



Naoko Yamazaki
Astronaut





Team

Team Leader

This program received a great debt of cooperation from people at POINT INC.

Sayaka Kimura
POINT INC.



Mari Terashima
POINT INC.



Azusa Mayumi
POINT INC.



Takahiro Chiba
POINT INC.



Operation

Daisuke Miyoshi



Koji Yamaoka



Masanao Ishihara



Milai Kinoshita



Management



Minami Tsubouchi

Executive Director, BEYOND Tomorrow

A Tokyo native, Tsubouchi moved abroad to study in Canada after completing middle school, and subsequently graduated from the United World Colleges in Canada. She then received a Bachelor's degree in policy management from Keio University, and received a master's degree in urban planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Following a stint with McKinsey & Company, Tsubouchi was active in the post-war reconstruction activities in Afghanistan and worked with the World Economic Forum (Davos Meeting), and then finally was working for the Bahrain Economic Development Board in the Middle-East up until June this year. Currently Tsubouchi enjoys the new experience of interacting with young students from Tohoku with BEYOND Tomorrow. Her favorite phrase is "where there is a will, there is a way". (BEYOND Tomorrow Founder)



Mayu Sakamoto

Coordinator, BEYOND Tomorrow

Sakamoto was born and raised in Nara, and from the age of 6 dedicated herself to figure skating for 15 years. She graduated from Osaka Women's University with a Bachelor's degree in applied mathematics. At the age of 22, Sakamoto joined Rohto Pharmaceutical and worked in the information technology (IT) department for four years. She took up classic ballet as a hobby when she was 25 years old. Wanting to help in some way upon watching the devastating news of the Tohoku earthquake unfold, Sakamoto contributed as a volunteer on-site. She left feeling struck and saddened by the uncertainty of the region's future. Sakamoto joined BEYOND Tomorrow because she believes that what she can do now is to champion the support of the affected children and their dreams.

Supporters

BEYOND Tomorrow is supported by a number of organizations and individuals. We count on everyone's cooperation to serve our mission.

Supporting organizations

This program was funded by the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Initiatives Foundation. BEYOND Tomorrow is also supported by many organizations and individuals. We would like to thank everyone for their support and cooperation.

BEYOND Tomorrow Strategic Partner

Contributions of JPY 10 million or above

- Japan Society
- MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.
- ROHTO PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD.
- Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
- U.S.-Japan Council

BEYOND Tomorrow Scholarship Partner

Educational institutions provided scholarships for BEYOND Tomorrow students

- Leelanau School (Michigan, U.S.)
- Leysin American School (Vaud, Switzerland)
- St. George's School (Vaud, Switzerland)
- St. Michael's College (Worcestershire, UK)

BEYOND Tomorrow Project Partner

Contributions of JPY 1 million or above

- GE Capital
- Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Initiatives Foundation
- Japanese Disaster Relief Fund - Boston
- POINT INC.
- Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.

BEYOND Tomorrow Scholarship Patrons

Individuals who provided scholarships for BEYOND Tomorrow students

- Masatada Kobayashi
- Robert Alan Feldman
- Ryusuke Honjo

BEYOND Tomorrow Pro Bono Partner

Support in the form of in-kind contribution

- All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.
- FedEx Kinko's Japan Co., Ltd.
- Grand Hyatt Tokyo
- Gulliver International Co., Ltd.
- Roppongi Hills Club

Other corporate sponsors

- Diversity & Inclusion Employee Network, Nomura Securities
- KIBOW
- Wellness Arena Corporation

We have received support from plenty of others. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who support our activities.

Media Appearances

TV

NHK 「SHUTOKEN-NETWORK」(March 19)

YouTube

Youtube BEYOND Tomorrow TV

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BeyondTomorrowTV?feature=watch>

The Spring Program 2012 and past programs can be viewed here.

Website

Tohoku's voice to the world, everyone's story

<http://www.beyond-tomorrow.org/tohoku/>





About BEYOND Tomorrow



Outline

BEYOND Tomorrow is a project established to support the young victims who, despite facing great adversity, did not lose hope and continue to embrace a dream to give back to society in the future. By offering scholarships to attend top-class universities domestically and abroad, as well as providing opportunities for leadership development, BEYOND Tomorrow aims to give these young men and women the opportunity to continue pursuing their dreams and become leaders of tomorrow. It also operates scholarship and leadership programs that target youth entering college such as the “BEYOND Tomorrow Scholarship Program” and the “High School Study Abroad Program”, which supports opportunities for high school students to study at overseas boarding schools.

Characteristics

The program is intended for highly talented young individuals currently in high school and/or seeking higher education in universities with motivations to overcome their current hardships and become conscientious leaders who contribute to and improve society. However, the program understands that the concept of “leadership” encompasses a wide spectrum of abilities, ranging from art and sport, economics and politics, to fishery and agriculture. Our goal is not to create an elite group solely seeking degrees from top universities but to work with young individuals who hold passions and ambitions to make the world a better place.

Programs

- i. School Support - Providing scholarships that covers school tuition and living expenses
- i. Mentoring - Students will receive regular hands-on coaching sessions from founders as their “Mentors” to support their progress from inspirations to actions. Our hope is that by having the founders with extremely diverse and active careers be direct mentors, the students will be encouraged and stimulated to pursue their dreams
- iii. Corporate Program - We aim to engage corporate partners in direct interaction with the students through internship programs and other interactive events. This program is expected to take place during the spring and summer school holidays
- iv. Ambassador Program - Participants will act as disaster ambassadors to help other affected communities domestically and globally - they will act as a unique voice to help raise awareness for disaster relief and reconstruction around the world.

Founders

Advisor	Heizo Takenaka	Director, Global Security Research Institute; Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University	
Co-chairpersons	James Kondo	Country Manager, Twitter Japan; Visiting Professor, Hitotsubashi University	
	Kohey Takashima Member and Co-Founder	CEO and Founder, Oisix, Inc.; TABLE FOR TWO International	Board
	Kumi Fujisawa	Vice President, SophiaBank; Vice President, Japan Social Entrepreneur Forum	
	Chikara Funabashi	Founder and President, WiLLSeed Company Limited	
Members of the Board	Keiichiro Asao	Member, House of Representatives	
	Etsuko May Okajima	President & CEO, ProNova Inc.	
	Masatada Kobayashi	Senior Executive Officer and Director, Rakuten, Inc.	
	Teruhide Sato	President, Group CEO, netprice.com, Ltd	
	Kazutomo Robert Hori	President and Group CEO, CYBIRD Holdings Co., Ltd.	
	Hideki Makihara	Former member of the House of Representatives; Attorney at Law admitted to Japan and the State of New York; Researcher of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies	
	Misa Matsuzaki	CEO, ASIMODE Co., Ltd	
	Kouta Matsuda	Member, House of Councillors, Founder, Tully's Coffee Japan	
Auditor	Shigeyoshi Ezaki	Lawyer, Anderson Mori & Tomotsune	
Councillors	Mitsuru Claire Chino	Attorney at Law (California)	
	Kanae Doi	Attorney at Law; Japan Director of Human Rights Watch	
	Haruo Miyagi	President, ETIC	
Member of the Board /Executive Director	Minami Tsubochi	Executive Director, Global Fund for Education Assistance	
Supporters	Daisuke Iwase	Co-Founder and Representative Director	
	Taku Otsuka	Former Member, the House of Representatives; Affiliated Fellow, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	
	William Hiroyuki Saito	Founder & CEO, InTecur, K.K.	
	Nobuo Domae	Executive Vice President, FAST RETAILING CO., LTD.	
	Kohei Nishiyama	Founder and Chairman, elephant design co., ltd	
	Nami Matsuko	Head of Corporate Citizenship Department, Managing Director Nomura Holdings, Attorney at Law (New York)	
	Naoko Yamazaki	Astronaut	

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Design: Ayako Nakagawa



BEYOND Tomorrow

Global Fund for Education Assistance

<http://www.beyond-tomorrow.org/>

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