

BEYOND Tomorrow Japan Future Fellowship Program 2019 Participants



Sayaka Arata College of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University (Graduate of Osaka Gakugei High School)

Sayaka lost her mother at a young age, and she grew up in a foster care group home since elementary school. Sayaka thought for a long time that her challenging childhood would prevent her from realizing her dreams. But after participating in BEYOND Tomorrow, she realized that she does indeed hold the power to overcome obstacles and achieve her dreams. BEYOND Tomorrow is not just a home for Sayaka, but is also an educational haven, where she knows she will never stop learning. As she starts her third year at BEYOND Tomorrow, she hopes to take advantage of her suffering in the past to support new members to achieve their dreams and build bright futures.



Honoka Inamura Faculty of Foreign Studies, Sophia University (Graduate of Miyagi Gakuin High School)

Honoka lost her childhood home in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Not having a place to go home to, she felt lost and alone in the world. Honoka lost her home, memories, and childhood, but she sees all that she has gained from these painful experiences: friends, courage, strength, and compassion for those less privileged. During high school, she spent a year in Bolivia, and she was struck by the abject poverty she witnessed there. She then went to New York with BEYOND Tomorrow, which inspired her to dedicate herself to tackling poverty. This year, she will take on a new challenge and study abroad in South America with the hope that her experience will inspire her friends at BEYOND Tomorrow.



Shinichi Utsunomiya Faculty of Business Administration, Nanzan University (Graduate of Kure Mitsuta High School, Hiroshima Prefecture)

The challenging experience of being raised in a single mother household and never having known his father weighed heavily on Shinichi, often preventing him from pursuing his goals and causing him to give up on his dreams. To break free from the shackles of his fatherless childhood, he decided to throw himself into his studies. During his junior year of high school, he joined BEYOND Tomorrow, where he learned how to express his feelings to others with sincerity, and it became a life-transforming experience for him. In the future, Shinichi hopes to be a person that can help children in need, and plans to launch a non-profit for social change-making during his college years.



Ran Ota DNA Course, Tokyo College of Biotechnology (Graduate of Agricultural High School, Hyogo Prefecture)

Ran spent her childhood years as a victim of abuse, but eventually she was protected and transitioned to a foster care group home as a high schooler. When she left her family, she resolved to blaze her own path and follow it with determination. Until that point, she had never proactively done anything, but this was the time when she would choose her own path and forge forward. Ran lost her beloved grandmother to diabetes when she was in middle

school. Through this experience, she decided to enter a vocational school to study genetic engineering so that she can engage in the pharmaceutical development of medications to treat genetic disorders. Ran sees BEYOND Tomorrow as a place that has accepted her the way she was. She hopes to participate in BEYOND Tomorrow to support new members to express themselves and find happiness so that she would fly higher herself.



Yuriko Okabayashi Faculty of Economics, Kagawa University (Graduate of Tosa High School)

Yuriko grew up in a single mother household because her father passed away when she was still a child. Watching her mother work tirelessly while supporting her younger brother, who became rebellious and violent, was extremely painful. Yuriko thought that she may be the only one who is struggling through circumstances like this. But she was struck to encounter BEYOND Tomorrow, where she was able to share her suffering and anxiety with friends trying hard to move forward despite the challenging circumstances – it was a place where she could show her own self. Seeing the friends' spark of life, Yuriko decided that she wanted to be like them and take her life seriously. In the future, her dream is to one day contribute to her home prefecture of Kochi through regional revitalization.



Ryuki Sasaki Faculty of Liberal Arts, Tohoku Gakuin University (Graduate of Ofunato High School, Iwate Prefecture)

Ryuki lost his father, grandparents, and house in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. He realized that what he can do as a survivor was to live life to its fullest, and not just his own, but also the lives that were lost. Driven by this realization, he continued to pursue his passion for baseball and even entered the national tournament. At BEYOND Tomorrow, he learned that he could stand closely by others feeling alone by sharing his personal stories. Also, through participating in different leadership modules, he found that there are so many issues in society aside from natural disasters. With this realization, he would like to become a person that can make a difference for others in need.



Raku Tsubouchi School of Foreign Studies, Osaka University (Graduate of Imabari Nishi High School, Ehime Prefecture)

Raku was born and spent her childhood in Canada. Her Canadian father and Japanese mother divorced, and Raku returned to Japan with her mother and siblings. It was a very tough transition, holding many warm memories of Canada, but she always planned to go back to Canada someday and see her father. By participating in BEYOND Tomorrow, Raku shared so many stories with her friends, and learned to take her life seriously and take on challenges. Moving forward, she would like to help create an environment where new members could struggle and enjoy themselves at BEYOND Tomorrow, and become a role model for them.



Mirai Hagiwara Faculty of Human Development and Culture, Fukushima University (Graduate of Shibukawa Girl's High School, Gunma Prefecture)

Mirai's father committed suicide when she was a high school senior. In the aftermath of the incident, she found BEYOND Tomorrow. Inspired to see its members facing their challenging upbringing yet pursuing their roles, Mirai decided to apply to the program herself. In 2018, she travelled to the U.S. on BEYOND Tomorrow's program, and made a speech about her personal stories in English. The experience of seeing the audience moved by her stories gave her confidence as she felt she was actually able to deliver a message to others. At University, she is studying vocal music and would like to become an opera singer in the future.



Emiri Matsufuji Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kochi University (Graduate of Kochi Commercial High School, Kochi City)

Growing up in a single mother household, financial constraints forced Emiri to give up on academic and extracurricular activities a number of times. However, Emiri decided to see cherish the perspectives she was able to attain because of her upbringing and take on challenges for the future. Moving forward, she would like to help new members of BEYOND Tomorrow gain confidence through successful experiences. In the future, Emiri would like to help promote her hometown of Kochi to the world. To this end, she wishes to receive global exposure and plans to teach Japanese language in Indonesia.



Nanaka Yamauchi Faculty of Law, Kyushu University (Graduate of Seiseiko High School, Kumamoto Prefecture)

Nanaka lost her beloved mother when she was in sixth grade. There were certainly days where the frustration of not being able to do anything to prevent her mother's death was excruciating. But motivated by a desire to make her mother happy and a deep gratitude towards her mother, she became determined to live boldly. She was already giving up on attending university, but when she joined BEYOND Tomorrow as a high schooler, she was able to talk to others about her past experiences. Encouraged by them, she decided to pursue higher education. For Nanaka, BEYOND Tomorrow is a place where she feels safe about sharing her stories, receives inspiration, and finds a chance to make a change in her life. In the future, she hopes to become a lawyer and work towards building a safer community by enriching the scholarship system and supporting children without parents.

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