

## Japan Future Fellowship Program 2020 Overview And Participants:

Fellows are split into various task forces, and will work with their team members throughout the year. Each task force has a designated chairperson who will lead the team and coordinate with the management team of BEYOND Tomorrow. We hope the fellowship program can evolve and take our future activities to the next level.

### **Promotion/Marketing Task force**

The marketing task force will strategize and run BEYOND Tomorrow's advertising and media efforts. Through the marketing task force we hope to increase our recognition, show our progress and achievements, and convince more people to join us in our mission.

#### Emiri Matsufuji (Chair)

Currently Attending Kochi University in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department  
Graduate of Kochi City Commercial High School



Being raised by a single mother, there were many things Emiri had to give up on due to her family's financial situation. However, after meeting students of various backgrounds and experiences at BEYOND Tomorrow, Emiri decided to "Not use my upbringing as an excuse, but value the perspective I have because of my hard past, using that to push forward and become a better person." In 2019, Emiri participated in an internship at a Tokyo-based startup company, and also traveled overseas to Indonesia to work as a Japanese teaching assistant. In 2020, Emiri will also be working with BEYOND Tomorrow as a fellow to improve our programs. She hopes that she can support youth in expanding their possibilities, just as BEYOND Tomorrow has done for her in the past.

#### Meia Iida

Currently attending Waseda University in the Social Sciences Department  
Graduate of West Nagano Prefectural High School



Losing her mother through suicide at a very young age, Meia was put into foster care where she was abused by her foster father. After the abuse was reported, Meia was put into protective custody and transferred to a child care facility. Although her early childhood was filled with many painful memories, Meia reflects that at the same time, they planted in her the dream to create a safe place in society for children. After taking part in BEYOND Tomorrow's programs since high school, Meia says she no longer sees herself as alone and pitiful because of her past. Instead she has learned to reach out to others, to discover her own potential and find her own place in society. In 2019, Meia traveled to America with BEYOND Tomorrow and gave a speech in English about her experiences. In the future Meia hopes to pursue a career in journalism, politics, or working at an international organization, so that she can proudly report the path she has taken with a smile to the people who have supported her along the way.

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### **[10 Year Anniversary Project Planning Task Force]**

March 2021 will mark the tenth year since BEYOND Tomorrow's conception. To celebrate this milestone as well as to strengthen our sense of community, we hope to gather with the various people who have been a part of BEYOND Tomorrow one way or another over this past decade. The Anniversary task force will oversee the planning of this event.

#### **Honoka Inamura (Chair)**

Currently attending Sophia University in the foreign languages department  
Graduate of Miyagi-gakuin High School



In the aftermath of the 2011 East Japan earthquake and tsunami, Honoka lost not only her house, but also her hometown, and many valuable memories. However, Honoka feels that between the friends she has made, the strength and courage she has found within herself, and the empathy she feels for others, she has gained more than what she has lost from the tragedy. After visiting New York with BEYOND Tomorrow, Honoka decided that she wanted to battle problems of poverty. In university Honoka has majored in Spanish, and in 2019 she succeeded in joining a long-term study abroad program in Colombia. After meeting youth with similarly challenging pasts at BEYOND Tomorrow, Honoka learned that the hardships she and others faced could become tools to overcome future challenges. In 2020 while thinking of her own career path, Honoka also hopes to play a role in BEYOND Tomorrow by spreading our message and mission.

#### **Asumi Sugimoto**

Currently attending the Yokohama Rosai School of Nursing  
Graduate of Hiroshima Shudo-University Attached Suzugamine Girls High School



After being held in protective custody during infancy due to abuse, Asumi's grandmother took her in and raised her in place of her incarcerated mother. However, Asumi's grandmother passed away when she was in high school, due to Leukemia associated with radioactive exposure from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Asumi's grandmother's death left a large hole in her heart, but Asumi decided to live her life to its fullest, in order to make her grandmother proud. In the future, Asumi hopes to work overseas helping others as a nurse. To further her dream, in addition to her studies at school Asumi participates in volunteer work, helping and learning from medical professionals. Through working with BEYOND Tomorrow, Asumi hopes to gain more overseas experience and widen her perspective.

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### **[Program Planning/Regional Chapter Administration Task Force]**

This task force will work to ensure that our human resource development programs provide opportunities for deeper and multi-faceted learning through the creation of various sessions and workshops. Additionally, the program planning task force will help in creating and administering new regional chapters. While BEYOND Tomorrow is currently based in Tokyo, with support from our fellows we hope to spread our services nationwide, beginning with the planned opening of our Kansai chapter this year.

#### **Raku Tsubouchi(Chair)**

Currently Attending Osaka University's foreign languages department  
Graduate of Ehime Prefectural West Imabari High School



Raku was born in Canada, and spent her early childhood there. After her parents divorced, she moved with her mother and siblings to Japan. In university, Raku is majoring in English, using her language skills to learn about cross-cultural communication by supporting foreign exchange students. Raku has been a part of BEYOND Tomorrow since she began attending university, and through her various experiences Raku says she has felt strongly the potential of the students who have participated in BEYOND Tomorrow's programs. In 2020, Raku looks to use her experience and skills to support BEYOND Tomorrow as a fellow. As Raku dreams of becoming an educator, translator, or an aid worker in developing nations, she hopes to integrate BEYOND Tomorrow's

career-sessions and internships into her life planning.

#### **Karen Uto**

Currently attending the Osaka University of the Arts  
Graduate of the Tokyo University of Arts affiliated High School

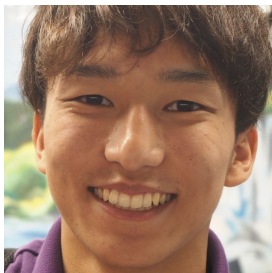


Traumatized by physical abuse from her parents and their divorce when she was in high school, Karen joined an acting troupe as a means of escape from her harsh reality. However, soon acting became more than just an escape to Karen, but a way to express herself, and connect with others. After seeing how acting helped her in overcoming her isolation, Karen decided she wanted to use acting as a tool to help other struggling youth. In the future, Karen hopes to tour schools and child care facilities in Japan giving public performances and acting workshops. In 2019 during the Japan Future Leader Summit, Karen oversaw the high school division's discussions, and led her group's proposal to win first

place. As a fellow in 2020, Karen hopes to learn more about BEYOND Tomorrow's programs, and how they are administered.

#### **Shota Taniyama**

Currently attending the Ohara School of Written Law  
Graduate of the Osaka Municipal Sakuyakonohana High School



After Shota's parents divorced when he was in high school, things only seemed to get worse. Shota was physically abused by his father, attended the court trial of his father, and had to leave his hometown. Because of everything that had happened, Shota became dejected. Why could he not have a normal family? Why must he suffer so much? One day, he decided he wanted to move forward. Shota joined BEYOND Tomorrow thinking that by meeting others who had similarly challenging pasts, he could grow and become a stronger person. In 2019, Shota went with other students on overseas programs, and facilitated high schooler discussion groups. In the future, Shota hopes to revitalize rural communities through agriculture and address regional issues.