

- Great East Japan Earthquake Support Activity “ Medical Support Team ~ Misunderstanding on Effects of Radiation Ray~”
- Thank you for your donations to Wangdue Phodrang Dzong in Bhutan
- Donated Goods Report

Misunderstanding on the Effects of Radiation Ray

Medical Support Team Dr. Masaharu Tsubokura (Medical Doctor, Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital)

Time has passed about 2 years since I have started medical support in Soso District in Fukushima. One of my continuous support on test for internal radiation exposure has now spread over and enforced in Fukushima prefecture. At my work place, Minamisoma City Hospital, more than 20,000 people were tested from July 2011 to end of 2012. In addition, approximate 10,000 people have tested in Soma City since June 2012. 230,000 people completed the test in Fukushima prefecture.

The results of these tests give us a lot of evidence on condition of internal radiation exposure. The most important fact is that **“There is almost no chronic internal radiation e in daily life.”** Since April 2012, the condition of no detection on radioactive cesium from 99.9% of infants has continued and gradual decrease of the detection on adults has been observed.

Current daily life in Fukushima prefecture does not cause severe internal radiation exposure, which indicate that **eating food from supermarket or inspected local food and drinking tap water would not cause internal radiation exposure.** This condition is completely different from the Chernobyl accident due to the efforts of farmers and parents in Fukushima.

On the other side, **the detection of high internal radiation exposure are found in these citizens who continued to eat non-inspected food that are restricted on distribution.** From these cases we need to continue and strengthen the inspection and awareness program in local. Therefore, the medical support team (MST) continue **the radiation ray information sessions and health check-up.** The MST not only supports on medical issues, but also on **radiation ray education.** The MST has continued teaching about radiation ray in all of middle schools in Soma City and some primary and high schools in Fukushima since end of 2012. Students were in daily life with more anxiety on radiation ray than adults due to the ambiguous information from their surrounding environment. So that we lectured what really the radiation ray is and how to deal with it. These information cannot be conveyed at once a time and needed to be taught continuously. By cooperating with educational environment support team, we make arrangements everyday about on **the states of children, degree of understanding, and decision on information that will be necessary.**

In Soma Central Hospital, Dr. Sae Ochi, who is a medical doctor and a visiting researcher in SEISA University, is also working here. She works here while she moves between Japan and England. I believe she is a great supporting member who makes connections among Japan and other countries. There are many supporters in activities enforced by the Foundation for Global Children, which these supporters help the activities to continue. Furthermore, we will continue these support activities with many people in order to make a better future for children in Fukushima Prefecture.

Think about further support in disaster area.

Educational Environment Support Team Masaaki Abe (SEISA University Lecturer)

1. Differences in regions

The support has continued for more than 2 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. From April, 2012, Soma City and Minamisoma City Board of Education were added to this support. Even though these two cities are next to each other, there are **differences in speed of reconstruction between two cities due to the effects of Fukushima nuclear reactor accident**. The Minamisoma city is composed of three regions. Two of three regions, Kashima and Haramachi regions, were reconstructed, but Kodaka region is not reconstructed because it is still designated as a warning zone. Children from Kodaka region have strong feeling that “When we can go back to Kodaka. We want to return as soon as possible.” The internal conditions of Kodaka region are also different.

- a. Mano primary school district · · · **completely collapsed due to the tsunami**
- b. Fukuura primary school district · · · **tsunami has reached, still a wet land**
- c. Kodaka primary school district · · · **houses are remained, but they are damaged**
- d. Kanabusa primary school district · · · **houses are remained, but high radioactivity measured**

Four different conditioned schools gathered and started temporary schooling at Kashima primary school and middle school in Kashima region. **Each classroom is divided into two and two classes are held**. There is no special purpose room, so that classes require loud sound, such as music and reading out, are taken place in normal classroom. I can't say educational environments are good, yet students are accepting these conditions at schools to meet with their friends at school. This helped resolve some stresses from living in temporary shelters and change in family structure. On the other hand, there are cases that difference in living conditions among students prevent them from having heart-to-heart talks. **Teachers and staff members who are the sufferers from the earthquake are working for** better educational environments.

2. Current Conditions on Educational Support Activities

Currently, our first concern on children suffering from PTSD has not occurred. In addition, obesity, which caused by lack of exercise, among children are not founded. At first sight, children seem okay. However, children are on periodic examinations on external and internal radiation exposure, condition of thyroid, and health that **continue chronic and mental stresses on them**. In order to deal with this problem, Dr. Tsubokura, Medical Support Team, has started “How to understand accurately about on radiation rays” study sessions. While handling carefully on privacy information of client, sharing information with school teachers is significant action for solving problems in schools. At the same time, I feel that it is a good chance to create an advanced education which meets the needs of the children.

3. Future issues

Children and teachers are now facing issues that are different from problems arise right after the earthquake. In case of children, there are development problems, trancies, and home environment issues (single parent, relative, or grand-parents rear children). In case of school teachers, redundancy in allotment of school management duties and daily base stresses are the issues. Moreover, the sufferers are in a condition that can live without any sort of employment. Therefore, job offers are out, but no one is applying. This will may affect children's career education. As numbers of family moving out from temporary shelters are

increasing, children who are leaving feels uneasiness for new environment. On the other hand, children who are left behind feels loneliness. We, the EEST, will continue helping children to adjust themselves to current and new conditions as well as to build an environment for daily life.

Activity Statistics (2012. April – 2013. January)

School	Counseling			Consultation	Behavior Observation	Information Exchange
	Students	Teachers	Guardians			
Middle Schools in Soma City	50	9	10	89	125	75
Middle Schools in Minamisoma City	51	5	6	26	56	41
Primary Schools in Soma City	82	31	5	31	154	93
Primary Schools in Minamisoma City	51	37	12	102	135	91
	234	87	33	248	470	209

For Smile Face on Children in Fukushima

Northern earth – Hokkaido Trip

Date: December 22 ~ 28, 2012

Place: Obihiro, Ashibetsu

Participant: 40 students, 4 guardians

Cooperator: Kokusai Gakuen Academy

It will be about a 2 years since the Great East Earthquake on March 11, 2011. There is a reality that reconstruction of those areas, which affected by nuclear reactor accident in Fukushima, are not on the track. Children in Fukushima are still living in temporary shelters and going schools, which buildings are temporary, and cannot play outside. This time, winter trip in Hokkaido was taken place. “Sled sliding and snow rafting,” “Ski activity,” “Christmas party” were added to their memory of winter.

Participated children’s voices ~Fulfill with smile face~

- Boy “I” 5th grade said “I have never seen a lot of snow like this! It was fun!”
- Boy “M” 3rd grade said “There is not much snow fall in Soma, but here I was happy playing with snow!”
- Boy “K” 5th grade said “This was my first time visiting Hokkaido. It was fun playing outside without thinking about radioactive materials!”

Exchange Support Activity through Soccer

Activities with Fukushima Soma City Kouyou Middle School Soccer Club

Date: November 22 ~ 24, 2012

Place: SEISA Shonan Oiso Campus

Participant: 16 Kouyou Middle School Soccer Club students, 3 guardians, 2 people from NPO Dream Soccer Soma, Hiratsuka City Kinkyoku Middle School, Hiratsuka City Shinmei Middle School, Belmare Odawara Okudera Sports Academy (OSA) Rhea <girls’ soccer team>

Contents: Interleague match, soccer school, and watching official youth soccer games

Soccer School at Fukushima Prefectural Soma City Koyo Soccer Ground

Date: January 12th 2013

Place: Soma City Koyo Soccer Ground

Coach: Mr. Yasuhiko Okudera (Principal of OSA), Mr. Kimiharu Tamakoshi (Football Association Kanagawa Japan)

Participant: 137 primary school students

(Soma SC, Soma FC, Ono FC, Estrela Girls, Shinchu SS, Haramachi Daiichi Primary School, Minamisoma City Kashima District, Haramachi District, and so on)

94 middle school students

(Shoei Middle School, Nakamura Daiichi Middle School, Nakamura Daini Middle School, Isobe Middle School, Koyo Middle School)

21 Assistant Volunteers

(4 volunteers from Kanagawa University Soccer Club and 17 volunteers from Soma Higashi High School Soccer Club) Thank you very much for helping this event.

These interchange activities play roles in

1. Giving energy to the kids in the disaster-stricken regions through soccer

2. Helping continue the supports for the disaster-stricken area.

The foundation think that continuing steady activities are much more important than event-type or one-shot activities. One of the features in these activities is that **Mr. Okudera or qualified coaches give clear aims on coaching to soccer players and coaches**. The second feature is **university students in Kanagawa prefecture joined these activities as volunteers** to have interactions with children from Soma.

This is the sixth time activity since August 2012 with help from Football Association Kanagawa Japan. In January soccer class, there was a request from PTA chairperson in Soma Higashi High School as follows: “There are some students who want to become soccer coaches. Could you please let them join to this activity as helpers.” High school students made a close arrangement with coaches beforehand and, were able to lead primary and middle school students with care.

We hope that continuous interchange activities leads to development of soccer players in Soso district.

Bhutan

Thanks for emergency support to Bhutan

Our donation activities have come to the end on October 15, 2012; they started with the aim of assisting in the re-construction of the Bhutanese historical temple, Wandue Phodrang, which had been burnt down on June 24 of the same year. Your generous support has totaled JPY2,390,240-. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your contribution. Within the temple there is a small school, hence the re-construction project will lead to supporting children of Bhutan, too.

In addition to the transfer of USD10,000- of July 2012, Ms. Yukiko MIYAZAWA, FGC Councilor (Vice-Chairman of the Yokohama Bhutan Friendship Association) has handed another USD10,000- as donation to Mr. Yeshe JINDO (?), Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Labor and Settlement on October 22. He has thanked very much, saying “representing the government and people of Bhutan, I express our sincere appreciation for your heartfelt donation, which I am confident will greatly help us re-build the temple”. The event has been shown repeatedly in news programs of the governmental TV of Bhutan and also in several newspapers, attracting the interest of people.

25th Anniversary of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature

Ms. Yukiko MIYAZAWA, FGC Councilor, and Mr. Hajime INOUE, Director, attended the ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature during their last stay in Bhutan. It is an organization supported by the current King and has cooperative relations with FGC. On that occasion, the Queen attending the event on behalf of the King welcomed both and conveyed warm thanks for the activities initiated by FGC in the country.

Concert by Tokiko KATO in Bhutan

Ms. Tokiko KATO, FGC Councilor, held a concert in Bhutan as the first Japanese singer. In the open-air event, she introduced for the first time KAZEUTA, the theme song of the TV drama, BYAKKOTAI, broadcasted in the last New Year holidays, together with Wadaiko-play (Japanese traditional drums) and chorus by Dako-On belonging to SEISA Group, and sang/played with Bhutanese children. Many people enjoyed the concert, which successfully contributed to deepening the relationship between Bhutan and Japan through music.

Support to Bhutanese students by the Ashi Kezang – Miyazawa SEISA Scholarship

Kinzang Gyeltshen and Pema Khandhu Wangchuk are first Bhutanese students delegated to Japan by the Ashi Kezang – Miyazawa SEISA Scholarship founded by Bhutanese Princess Ashi Kezang and Mr. Miyazawa, CEO of SEISA Group. They have studied at SEISA Group's Okudera Sport Academy (OSA) for about 9 months since July 2012.

Although they had a difficulty understanding Japanese in the beginning, both have meanwhile

improved remarkably thanks to Japanese lessons given as well as daily communications with other students. At present it seems they have little difficulties communicating with others. Working hard on daily trainings at OSA, they have also improved their soccer skills, Kinzang as goal keeper and Pema as midfielder. And their basic physical strength has increased, too, which is a key for athletes.

Apart from the school, they are encouraged to learn Japanese culture and lifestyle habits, taking every possible opportunity. In the New Year holidays, they cooked in a Japanese family and tasted OSECHI, special meals for the New Year. In January, they experienced skiing for the first time, joining the school's event. In February, they accompanied RTC's delegates to a damaged area of Fukushima Prefecture, having had an opportunity to see the current status of its recovery. In the months to come, they will also visit Hiroshima and Kyoto, which will give them a good chance to learn/study the country more. The above is financially supported by the Kamenori Foundation, too.

Strongly motivated by the mission "become a bridge between Bhutan and Japan", they have strived and will also strive to learn as much about Japan as possible. They will stay here for another year. We hope that the rest of their stay will also be informative and successful and will help them to further improve themselves as person. As of next fiscal year, another two students are scheduled to come to Japan.

1st Study Tour to Bhutan

In February 2012, ten students came over to Japan from RTC in the 1st short-term Student Exchange Program. In return, a total of six Japanese students (college and high-school students) visited Bhutan in September of the same year, accompanied by three teachers. They stayed there for 11 days from September 17 through 27. Their accommodations were arranged at RTC's guesthouse. In the itinerary were included visits to various schools (elementary school, high-school, school for traditional medicine, school for traditional arts, school for handicapped children/young people), Ministry of Education, Parliament, and temples, and also meetings with people and hiking in mountains to be familiar with the nature. RTC's teachers and students welcomed them in a very warm way. At a welcome party, RTC's students showed them songs and dances. Most of them were surprisingly American pops and hip-pops, contrary to the delegates' expectation that traditional songs and dances would be given. There may be no difference in the taste and interest of young people, regardless of country.

Bread was offered to the breakfast at the guesthouse, while Japanese students had Bhutanese meals at the cafeteria in the evening like RTC's students. Red peppers were used abundantly for the meals, hence those members who like hot ones enjoyed them, while others seemed to have a difficulty. In Bhutan, English lessons start soon after entrance into the elementary school. English and Dzongkha are both used as teaching language 50:50 in lower classes of the elementary school, but the former becomes a main teaching language when going up to higher classes. All subjects are taught in English at the university/college. Therefore, RTC's members are all fluent in English. Statements of tour participants were; "I have been moved very much by the atmosphere surrounded by wonderful nature, animals and people, and have also been impressed with strong messages given by them", "Every day has been fulfilling for me thanks to various, informative programs offered, and time has flid like an arrow here."

The objective of the study tour was to give participants a chance to learn “Live together” (KYOSEI in Japanese) through learning about Bhutan. The country tries to align all its efforts to the goal of improving GNH (Gross National Happiness). It aims at 1/ develop social economy in a fair and equal way, 2/ maintain/promote cultural and mental heritages, 3/ protect the environment, and 4/. stable governing.

The 2nd short-term Student Exchange Program is to take place from February 10 through 24, and the 2nd Study Tour is to be held from March 27 through April 4. Reports on those will follow.

FGC will continue assisting Bhutanese government and other related institutes in the area of Education, Health Care, Environmental Protection and so on.

Myanmar

Mr. Yasuo MIYAZAWA, Executive Director of FGC, visited Myanmar from December 12 through 15, and had meetings with the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister and other governmental officers in order to exchange views and opinions about future support activities as well as to study the needs of people working in the front line. In view of the current situation Myanmar is placed in, FGC will continue focusing on Health Enhancement/Hygienic Environment Program at Elementary Schools, Support to Remote-location Medical Care, and Improvement of Mother-Child Health Care. Concrete activities will be 1/ to set up hygienic environment by building toilettes and water places, 2/ to expand the habit of hand-washing by soap and the consensus of hygienic importance, 3/ to prevent major diseases, 4/ to study the situation of other diseases and compare it with other countries, 5/ to introduce vehicles for remote-location medical treatments, and so on. Myanmar is the country of the highest blindness rate in the world, and about 70% of causes are due to the cataract. To cope with the situation, FGC provided medical equipment/devices for the cataract operation. In addition, we will delegate an experienced doctor(s) who can do cataract operations by themselves and also train Myanmar's doctors on those medical treatments, in cooperation with the Tokyo University and the Osaka University.

FGC will continue support activities for the whole society as well as children through various sustainable programs aiming at the set-up of healthy environments in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Myanmar and NGOs.

Cambodia

FGC uses radio wave events as advertisement- and donation-related activities. They are also helpful to enhancement of the environment of medical care and education, job training, technical/scientific education. Below you will find the outline of our activities carried out in Cambodia from December 5, 2012 through 18.

In Cambodia there are still many children injured by land mines. They need specific job trainings to live with the handicap overcome. The Phnon Penh Thmay Vocational Training Center is to move, which has helped handicapped people and orphans for many years to become independent for many years. The objective of the visit this time is to assist the center in improving its facilities and environments.

Led by Mr. Miyazawa, 8 volunteers individually came to Phnon Penh on December 4 from Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Laos, and Hong Kong. Next day they started erecting antennas on the court of the hotel under the hot weather. A total of 7 antennas have been complete in 3 days, and have been put into operation one by one in order to announce the activities to the world and also to ask for donation to FGC. Although the propagation was not good, they did about 1,500 contacts a day, and reached 2,815 contacts on December 16. As a result, total contacts amounted to about 21,000, with which about 9,100 persons were contacted since there are some who contacted through different bands. Regional share was 44% for Asia, 9% for North America, 3% for Oceania, less than 1% for Africa and South America respectively.

Mr. Bhunty, head of the Vocational Training Center, and his staff, and Mr. Yamada, Executive Director of

Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association and its members understood the importance of our activities, and kindly offered their assistance and facilities for our use. Taking this opportunity, we want to express our sincere appreciation to them. And we received a total of \$1,700- as donation from amateur radio operators who participated in the event of this time. We also thank them for their generous support.

Bangladesh

The Agresara Orphanage (with a free school) is at the final stage of putting an internal sewing factory into operation. Yabe Procutting Co., Ltd. established a joint venture, and production and export/import contracts will soon be closed between both companies. The joint venture was named SEISA Seagull Agresara Garment as appreciation to SEISA Group and FGC which provided vigorous supports to the project.

Combining Yabe Procutting's needs to expand production to overseas and Agresara's support activities to make orphans independent, the project is being materialized successfully despite various obstacles. We at FGC will continue helping the Agresara Orphanage to improve the dietary life of orphans and provide them with necessary job trainings, so that they can become independent later.

Japan

Invited NTOY to Japan, lecture at Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), then visited Fukushima

From October 18 to 26, the Japanese government invited 2012 National Teacher of the Year (NTOY), Rebecca Mieliwocki. Since the United States has been short of teachers, the U.S. tries to produce many teacher with talent as possible through the NTOY program. Ms. Mieliwocki commented on NTOY award that “I just like to involve with children. There is no such wonderful job other than being a teacher. Being the NTOY does not mean that I’m number one. I was able to receive this award because of my surrounding people who support me.” During her stay in Japan, she did lectures at MEXT hall, SEISA University, SEISA Junior-High & High School, and SEISA Nagoya Junior-High School. Tremendous amount of questions and concerns were asked to her during the question periods that there were not enough time for answering all of them. She answered each question and concern with care.

One of the significant purposes of this invitation is to visit Fukushima. Many countries still hold misunderstood information about Fukushima. In order to clear the misunderstanding about Fukushima in the United States, the FGC sent the data of radiation reported by the Medical Support Team Doctor Masaharu Tsubokura and explained specific details about radiation to Rebecca. In addition, Rebecca visited Minamisoma City Kodaka Elementary & Middle School temporary campus to interact with children and teachers. Children in Fukushima were very anxious due to the rumors and information spread by mass media that they asked questions such as “If I had nosebleed, which mean I got leukemia?” and “Because Fukushima people are exposed to radiation, does it mean we cannot marry?” Rebecca told us that she will notify the current condition of Fukushima to children in the United States. At the Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital, Dr. Masaharu Tsubokura explained radiation ray by using whole-body counter to Rebecca. The director of a hospital, Dr. Yukio Kanazawa mentioned about medical care after the earthquake and did opinion exchange with Rebecca.

The purpose of this invitation project is to “contribute to education in Japan.” This time, the main sites were Kanto region, Nagoya, and Fukushima yet in order to achieve the purpose, higher opportunities to hear the voices from teachers and children in all of regions in Japan must be needed. We are looking forward to the future NTOY visit to Japan.