

## The Great East Japan Earthquake Support Activities Report

### Educational Environment Support Team

Catch the “specific characters” to support “individuality” for future

**-Work of Minamisoma City Kodaka Middle School-**

Foundation for Global Children (FGC) Educational Environment Support Team  
Mutsuko Mimori, Minako Fukui, Kazuo Kawai

First

Our team has been counseling students in Minamisoma City Kodaka Middle School since April, 2012, the second year of the Great East Japan Earthquake. We will show a brief of activities and goal.

#### 1. The State of Kodaka-ku in Minamisoma City

Among east-north Prefectures that have been effected by earthquake disasters, Fukushima Prefecture is significantly damaged by the earthquake, tsunami, nuclear reactor meltdown, and misinformation. In Fukushima, Minamisoma City is one of especially damaged cities that no-go zone of 20km radius has been set due to the meltdown. Most of our supporting schools in Kodaka-ku are included in that zone. Unlike Haramachi-ku and Kashima-ku in Minamisoma City, damage is severe in Kodaka-ku that infrastructure is not constructed; therefore, there is no future sight on reconstruction. Even if no-go zone has been released, people can visit home, but cannot stay over.

#### 2. Support Activities in Minamisoma City Kodaka Middle School

Kodaka Middle School building was temporarily moved to temporary building in Kashima Primary School ground. Before the earthquake disaster, 400 students were in the middle school. After the disaster, 42 students are now increased to about 100 students.

When we started the support activities on second year of the earthquake disaster, environment and daily life of students have been somewhat stabilized. At that time, students' characteristic of “difficulty in studying” and “weakness and bias in communication” appeared again like before the disaster. At first, our team interviewed with all students about study condition, school life, relationship between friends, and home environment. In addition, our team discussed with school doctor and homeroom teachers about their students. In discussion, we got

permission from them and students' parents to carry out psychological tests (WISC III and other tests) on the students, who especially needed help. From the test results, we made a diagnosis. Then, we had consultation with school doctor and homeroom teachers. At the same time, we carried out a face-to-face talk with parents as well. Problems of students' development such as poor academic performance, truancy, and rebellious behavior should be viewed as "specific characters" of students in order to understand between teachers and students.

On the other hand, psychological tests may lead to discovery of unseen ability or strength of students. In study support program during classes and counseling, our team made feedbacks on students' strength and made study methods with students to cover their weak points. When good results were showed to students, they become more active and motivated. People are all different and no one is the same. Understanding background of individual student will lead to clear understands of student. Not only treat student's irregularities as uniqueness, but also it is irreplaceable student's individuality.

When students are accepted and agreed as they are, then they would be able to accept and agree with others.

### **3. Summary**

Due to the earthquake, many adults lost their jobs such as agriculture, fishery and others. In addition to that, people in Kodaka district lost their places so that they have anxiety about daily life and feeling of loss. That made students feel behind from reconstruction because they are still living in school's temporary buildings or temporary shelters. Also, the earthquake separated their family. Furthermore, they cannot see future role model of how they will become adult and what kind of adult they will be. Our team have been helping students to be able to accept themselves and use their own individuality to explore their future life. We think that lighting up children's future will leads to reconstruction of Kodaka district.

### **Soma City Board of Education Summary**

#### **Achievements of SEISA staff in Soma follower team in Year of 2013**

Visiting schools as school counselors, there was no diagnosis of PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorders) among students, parents, and teachers. The follower team seems to stop worsen of mental health and leads to better status by taking into actions before problems like PTSD to appear. Therefore, treating cares beforehand are effective.

There are some middle school students who cannot go to school regularly. SEISA staff

members, involved as a school counselor, were counseling with the students' parents for study support and high school entrance. As a result, they still could not go to school yet their problems are clearly recognized and worked to resolve.

In year of 2014, middle school students, who are in truancy, are going to graduate. In addition, the earthquake victims' house reconstruction are now on progress in different areas ;therefore, there will be a rise in numbers of family moving out from Isobe elementary and middle school district and Nakamura secondary elementary and middle school district. SEISA staff assume that counseling in Kodomo Art Maison and start visiting families in new places will be important. Not only school counseling in school, but also we will need staff members in office to take proper steps to meet the circumstances every time from year of 2013.

Soma follower team employed school counselors who are poor in experience and also some counselors have been changed every year. So that SEISA staff members are now central members of the team.

In order to advice properly and widely on development and study of children, physical symptoms, acts of self-injury, and methods to escape from danger, support from experienced SEISA staff are necessary in Soma City and surrounding areas.

Numbers of People Came After the Great East Japan Earthquake Support Activities  
 << 2011 May ~2013 December >>

	Activity	Participants	Designated Area
Medical Support Team	Heath Checkup Radiation Ray lecture	2,962	Fukushima Prefecture: Soma city, Minamisoma city, Koriyama city, Kawauchi village, Iidate village
Educational Environment Support Team	Counseling, Behavioral Observation, Information Exchange (Students, Teacher, Parents)	3,752	Soma City Middle 2 Elementary 4 School: Minamisoma City Middle 3 Elementary 6 School: Shinchi Town High 1 School:
SEISA Dormitory	booked place for volunteers to stay over	2,899	SEISA group: 1,466 people Tokyo University Medical Staff: 637 people Volunteer: 796 people

## Medical Support Team

### Hope for Healthy Growth of Children in Fukushima

FGC Medical Support Team Dr. Seiji Tsubokura  
Doctor in Institute of Medical Science in the University of Tokyo  
Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital Part-Time Doctor

Since after the Great East Japan Earthquake, I have been working as a member of medical support team in Foundation for Global Children at Soso district in Fukushima Prefecture for three years. In past three years, tests for internal exposure to radiation have been changing gradually and aligning with the school health check-ups in Minamisoma City and Soma City. These are checked periodically whether radioactive materials are build-up or not in children's body.

As I reported in last year, there was no signal of radioactive material from children's body. In the spring of 2013, approximately 3,200 students from elementary and middle schools in Minamisoma City got the school health check-up and, no-one had a sign of radioactive cesium. It was because radioactive materials could be excreted from body and also no radioactive contamination occurred in food that on current market.

We discovered that some food can be easily contaminated with radioactive materials and others do not. Therefore, as long as people are not consuming untested food, there won't be severe internal exposure to radiation. Hereafter testing each food for safety is necessary, but our team know that severity of radioactive materials are low enough not to cause health issues and affect daily life in Fukushima Prefecture.

However, information about this condition is not spread through children. Many children do not have enough knowledge that "radioactive materials have been existed everywhere in the Earth before the Fukushima melt down" and "exposure to radiation is not either 0 or 1, a degree of exposure is a problem." In addition to that problems, some students feel stress and anxiety due to exposure to radiation. For example, "I'm done with my life because of exposure" or "I cannot have a child when I become mature." These voices are not sent out loud, but I feel that some students are feeling inferiority.

Unfortunately the nuclear reactor accident occurred; however, exposure to radiation are not even approach the level that will endanger future health. These can be proved by results of many kinds of tests have been done in Fukushima Prefecture. Flood of information hurt many children in Fukushima. Therefore, we need to pick them up from that situation and settle the environment which they can live with confidence and dignity.

As a part of movement, radiation education has started gradually in elementary and middle school. There are still trials-and-errors on the education, but I hope that children will grow up well with proper knowledge on radiation.

### [For Smile on Children in Fukushima](#)

## **University students from Kanto region played soccer with children in Fukushima for support!!**

### **Yasuhiko Okudera Soccer School**

#### **(In Koyo Soccer Field, Soma City, and Fukushima Prefecture)**

(November 16 & 17, 2013)

Now, soccer interchange supports are done by student volunteers from several universities in Kanto region. Location for the soccer support is Koyo soccer field in Soma City, which renewed in October, 2013. There are two artificial turf fields and three turf fields at that place. 114 elementary and middle school students were able to play soccer while they were enjoying and thinking about team play.

Volunteers who came to Soma were amazed by the size of soccer fields and studied how to teach soccer to children while they interchanged with children. At night, they heard commentary on Japan vs Spain soccer game from Yasuhiko Okudera (Principal of SEISA Okudera Sports Academy) and Makoto Ono (Football Association Kanagawa Japan). After the interchange activities, student volunteers visited Futaba town and coastline that had been damaged by tsunami, where led them to think about the disaster.

We are hoping that university student volunteers from Kanto Region think that “feel something, do next action, and spread next support” by feeling an atmosphere of town and interchanges with children in Soma.

(Involved students and volunteers)

Adults, University of Tokyo, Yokohama National University, the Sanno University, Kanagawa University, and Kanagawa Institute of Technology.

## **The Great East Earthquake Restoration Support Charity Concert “Brussels String Quartet Concert 2013”**

Foundation for Global Children held the charity concert for supporting the Great East Earthquake Restoration in Yamaha Hall, Ginza, Tokyo on October 31, 2013 by Brussels String Quartet. This charity concert was the second time by the same quartet.

Approximately 300 people came for the concert. Not only Beethoven's and Brahms' were played, but also Belgian composer Huybrechts' quartet was also played at night. Beautiful sound from string made wonderful night.

From this concert, profit of 226,275 yen and all will be donated for the restoration.

Thank you for coming to the concert.

114 tickets were sold, 490,000yen

From each ticket, 1,000 yen will be donated

114 x 1,000 = 114,000 yen

+ ) Donation at night 112,275 yen

Total 226,275 yen

## *Japan*

### **"The Owl of Minerva and the Future of Japan" Gallery Exhibitions <Hokkaido>**

The exhibition "The Owl of Minerva and the Future of Japan" were taken into place in Oiso-machi, Kanagawa Prefecture in September 2013, in Sapporo City, Hokkaido in October 2013, and Obihiro City, Hokkaido in February 2014. In total of 2,585 visitors arrived at these three sites.

Our group got a message from gallery staff member that "the exhibition was very valuable that art work of 21 artists gathered in Hokkaido." In addition, we got many messages from visitors as follows: "I was so impressed that I was able to watch the art work very close.", "I wish to decorate my room with these pictures if I can buy." Especially, Mr. Seiichi Kasai's and Mr. Ryoji Ikeda's, they are Hokkaido artists, work attracted a great deal of attention.

In addition to 21 art works, we displayed a prize-winning work, which was a work of Dohto University student who is in fine art, in Japan Fine Arts Exhibition. There was a visitor observed the student's work for long time and mentioned that "I wish I can draw a huge picture (1620mm x 1620mm) like that on canvas."

59,113 yen was collected at the three sites and donated for the Great East Earthquake Reconstruction Support Activity. Thank you for your cooperation.

Exhibition of these 21 artists' work will take in place in different parts of Japan.

## Installation of Dosimeter by Space Weather Association (Supported by FGC) ~for local residents to discover current condition of Nanie-machi~

The objectives of Space Weather Association, part of SEISA group, are that to research, spread, and do educational activities on how the activities of sun changes space environment, called space weather. The space weather cast is that forecast possible effects of sun activity and prevent a disaster. Since the activities of sun have several impact on the Earth, Magnetic Data Acquisition System (MAGDAS) were placed in 64 different region of the world by one of foundation group of Space Weather Association, Kyushu University, in order to observe the activities. The observed data is sent on live.

By using the system, Space Weather Association and Foundation for Global Children started radiological dosage measurement and transmission of data from June 2011. With a request from town office of Nanie, Futaba-gun, Fukushima, dosimeters are installing now.

Space Weather Association (SWA) and FGC are installing dosimeters place where Japanese Nuclear Regulation Authority (JNRA) did not placed monitoring posts such as mountains and forests area and living space. These places are requested by local residents and office. The live data can be checked on internet (<http://133.5.162.9/plot>). Moreover, the data is taken for long-term that changes can be observed and estimate effects of weather and decontamination.

After April 2014, there is a plan to install dosimeters by the request from Idate-mura.

Space Weather Association Home Page (<http://club.spaceweather.or.jp/>)

### <Installed Places in Nanie Town>

①Nanie Town Office ② Kaga Sport Park ③ Central Park ④Nanie Higashi Middle School  
⑤Takase Baseball Field ⑥Yazawa-cho Fureai Center ⑦Onoda Sogo Ground ⑧Kawazoe District ⑨Ukedo Ohirayama

## **Myanmar**

### **SEISA Lunch for Action in Yangon**

On November 20, 2013, a reception party “SEISA Lunch for Action” took place at Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon to make announce SEISA’s activities and also to wish a further development. It was attended by more than 80 prominent guests including officers of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and members of the ruling party (USDP) of Myanmar’s Congress, members of Myanmar-Japan Association, members of Embassy of Japan in Myanmar, and Mr. KUROIWA, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture visiting the country at that time.

It consisted of two parts, i.e. “Ceremony” and “Luncheon”. In the ceremony, Mr. Yasuo MIYAZAWA representing SEISA Group delivered an opening address, followed by Mr. Ryosuke TSUCHIYA, Director of the Foundation for Global Children. Then two ambulances were donated to the Ministry of Health, and radio-monitoring devices to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, respectively. Mr. KUROIWA also announced he would welcome the planned study trip of Myanmar’s high school students.

During the luncheon followed, participants discussed frankly but seriously in every corner how Myanmar’s further development could be assisted.

Dr. Thein Thein Htay, Deputy Minister of Health, said “I was very much impressed with Mr. MIYAZAWA talking about his dreams and objectives with passion. The party was closed with an address of Mr. SEKI of Japan-Myanmar Association having wished strengthened cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

### **Promotional Activities through Amateur Radio in Myanmar**

As part of Myanmar’s projects, we organized a DXpedition in the capital city, Nay Pyi Taw, from November 14 through 26, 2013 to promote FGC activities and also to call for contributions. Like the operation organized in Cambodia in December 2012, an international team was set up by volunteers and made the operation to gain supports from as many people as possible all over the world, through deepening their understanding of FGC’s activities.

Official DXpedition did not take place in Myanmar after the one held in 2003. Hence, the country ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the list of “Most Operation-desired Countries and Areas”. After many rounds of negotiations for many years, Mr. MIYAZAWA, FGC Executive Director, received a permission from the Ministry of Communications and Information

Technology in August/September the previous year. Based on that experience, he carefully organized the team of this time consisting of 11 persons in total, i.e. 3 Japanese, 1 German, 2 Thais, 2 Americans, 2 Brazilians, and 1 Hong Konger. They were supported by 3 staff members.

During the 11 days of operation, the team made about 55,000 contacts, which were more than double compared to Cambodia's operation. In addition, about US\$25,000- was donated as of February 15, 2014.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation and assistance rendered by radio operators all over the world.

### **Myanmar's technical high school students came to Japan under Japan Study Program 2014**

#### **- SEISA's Three Guiding Principles prevailing in the world**

FGC invited 5 high school students and 1 lecturer selected by the Ministry of Science and Technology to Japan as part of its support activities which had been made for many years to improve the circumstances of children regarding Health and Education. They were in Japan for two weeks from January 16 through 29, 2014, mainly staying at SEISA Nakai Dormitory.

#### **- Attend lectures/trainings at technical high school**

They experienced Japanese education for three days at the Hiratsuka High School of Science and Technology (HHSST), mainly participating in Class 1 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. In addition to the lectures, they attended practical trainings which were not available at Myanmar's technical high school. What they made were 1/ to make a cubic figure out of crushed pet bottles by an injection molding machine, 2/ to make a ramen timer including soldering practice of a circuit board, 3/ to program a software with C Language, and so on. They also experienced table tennis in the class of physical education which was also not available at Myanmar's school. After the school, they visited several club activities, too; e.g. they drove a solar car, and they showed a keen interest in a mini car driven by a cassette gas bombe. All the members were impressed with the facilities of the Japanese school. However, the most impressive and surprising thing was that the relation between students and teachers was very close in Japan and that Japanese students learn in freer circumstances than Myanmar.

On the last day, they were given commemorative things by the students' council, and left the school, seen off by many students and teachers of HHSST.

#### **- Technical visits**

They visited Yokohama Plant of Nissan Motor Corporation, Head Office of Yokohama Litera Co., Ltd. (printing), Head Office of Yokohama Dry Co., Ltd. (cleaning), Zuikodo Museum of Olympus Corporation, GE Healthcare Japan Co., Ltd. (medical equipment), Kitahara International Hospital, Megumi Plant and Kamaboko Museum of Suzuhiro Co., Ltd. (boiled fish paste), Famm Co., Ltd. (multi-story parking garage), Nippon Broadcasting System, Incorporated (radio).

They were surprised very much at robots and automated machines working in production lines. Quality Management activities like “Kaizen” and “5S” were introduced, too. They were impressed with many efforts made for qualitative, stable and safe production.

- **Interaction with people**

They paid a courtesy call on Mr. KUROIWA, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, who visited Myanmar in November last year, together with Mr. MIYAZAWA, FGC's Executive Director and made a report on the study program. On the occasion of the visit to SEISA Junior High and High School, they received a warm welcome by many students, which they appreciated very much. After that, they joined the training of Wadaiko, Japanese traditional drums, interacting with Wadaiko players. A welcome party was also held, which SEISA's students joined from its various schools located around Tokyo area. They tried to communicate with Myanmar's students, introducing themselves in English and Burmese, and it seemed they wanted to communicate more even when the party came to the end. The day before the last day, they visited the Embassy of Myanmar, together with Mr. MIYAZAWA, and reported their activities in Japan. Who welcomed them on behalf of the ambassador was friendly, so it seemed the students could be relaxed to a certain extent.

They also enjoyed free time in some sightseeing places like Asakusa, Kamakura and Akihabara. They liked a JPY100 shop, too. They seemed to have a difficulty with the cold weather of Japan, but none of them became sick. On the other hand, they were delighted to see some snow which it was not possible to see in their country.

- **Commitment of the students**

In the end of program, each member received the Certificate of Completion, which was made with the Japanese paper hand-crafted by themselves, from Mr. MIYAZAWA and Mr. INOUE/FGC Managing Director. Mr. MIYAZAWA encouraged them, saying “After the last war, Japan restarted from the completely burnt out field with nothing. Every Japanese made full efforts. Especially thanks to best efforts of young people and children, Japan has been able to develop to the country of today. It is you all to do the same in Myanmar, who have seen/experienced Japan. It is your job.”

Mr. INOUE also encouraged them, saying “This certificate shows not only you participated/completed the Japan Study Program but also you have been able to interact with people with smiling faces. Do not forget SEISA’s Three Guiding Principles, and let us meet again.” He gave each member the Certificate of Completion and a school badge of SEISA (incomplete triangle). In return, Myanmar’s students committed themselves, saying “I will make a good use of what I have learned in Japan”, “I will never forget SEISA’s Three Guiding Principles – Leave nobody out, Understand each other, and Make friends - , and practice them at home.” From their words, we felt their strong will “to move the nation forward since they were selected out of many candidates who wanted to come to Japan.”

They gathered together in the dormitory till late night to make a report in English on what they had experienced on that day. We also recognized their dedicated attitude to understand SEISA’s vision from their honest inquiries about the meaning of the school badge as well as the Guiding Principles.

Last but not least, we at FGC appreciate the cooperation and support provided by Kanagawa Prefecture Office, HHSST, Companies which accepted their visits, and all people involved.

## **Bhutan**

### **Bhutanese students have graduated.**

**“You are all always welcome to Bhutan. Looking forward to seeing you again in our country.”**

Pema and Kinzang delegated by the Royal Government of Bhutan have graduated from SEISA Gakuen, Okudera Sports Academy (OSA) in March 2014.

Both surely met each other at the time of the selection interview organized by the Ministry of Education. However, they could not remember when they met again each other in Japan. After two years, they are so intimate, that both families also come to each other.

They always thought about returning home in the first months. But it has gradually changed; they now enjoy the stay in Japan and pay attention also to newspaper articles on what is happening in Japan, which are used as learning materials.

Both will go different ways after the graduation. We hope they will make new challenges and also make new friends there, forgetting neither what they have learned in Japan nor the friends who they have made here.

### **Message from Pema:**

SEISA will continuously have new students from Bhutan and/or other nations.

Japan is a foreign country for them; they will be worried about lots since everything will be new and unknown to them. In addition, they will not be able to speak Japanese. Without giving up, however, you will please try to communicate with them; through that, you can make new friends as done with me. This is what I want to ask you all by putting my hands together.

We were lucky because we had nice coaches of Okudera Sports Academy (OSA). In addition, all teachers and staff members provided us with their full support, so that we could go to the national tournament. Therefore, we thought not only about ourselves but also about the coaches, teachers and staff members who made efforts for us. I am convinced that SEISA's team will be able to fight in the national tournament in the near future, so I ask my younger colleagues not to give up under any circumstances. I will be always with you wherever I will be, in Bhutan or in other country.

### **Message from Kinzang:**

I came to Japan in order to learn football and Japanese. In the beginning, there were lots of difficulties. Out of them, the most difficult one were classes since I could not understand Japanese at all. In addition, trainings were also hard for me since I had no experience on football in Bhutan. In the course of time, however, I have got used to both thanks to daily experiences, and have gained a certain self-confidence. But I know I still do lots of mistakes, but tell myself I have to do various challenges with self-confidence. During the stay of one and a half years in Japan, I have been able to learn lots, including Japanese culture which I could never learn if I had not come to Japan. In addition, I was given a chance to visit Germany and to see how Germans are living. I also learned new things by playing football with German students.

After return to Bhutan, I will do new challenges by making a good use of what I have learned in Japan. Thank you very much again.

### **Bhutanese students in Japan:**

RTC's students came to Japan also this year under the 3<sup>rd</sup> exchange program between RTC and SEISA University. Accompanied by one lecturer, ten members studying Politics or Ecology or Business stayed in Japan for nine days from February 3 through 11, 2014.

They visited Ueno Zoological Gardens and Tokyo National Museum, studying the preservation of nature and the Japanese culture respectively. They also paid a call on the University of Tokyo, the Institute of Medical Science, and saw Japan's state-of-the-art technologies like Super Computer and Bio-Bank. In addition, they showed a keen interest in the development of sustainable energies and their use on the occasion of the visit to RiSuPia/Odaiba; it seemed to have given them hints to use them in their country effectively.

During the stay, they communicated with many Japanese including SEISA's students/lecturers. On-line open campus was held in SEISA's headquarters for them, connecting to its local schools like Okinawa, Koriyama, Yokohama; on that occasion, they made a presentation on GNH and also introduced traditional dances. Both welcome and farewell parties were attended by many people of SEISA. All the members appreciated the hospitality and well-organized arrangements of SEISA Group, which could make the tour informative and instructive for them.

In return, SEISA students will go to Bhutan and stay at RTC from March 27, 2014 through April 2. We do hope this kind of exchange of students will continue in the future, too and the partnership between RTC and SEISA will be further strengthened.