

Children produce a communication space! The Takata-Osumi “Tsudoi-no-Oka” Shopping Street opened (June 14, 2012)

Since January 2012, members of the Child-Led Club of Rikuzentakata have been working on a communication space at the local temporary shopping street. Finally on Saturday, June 2, Takata-Osumi “Tsudoi-no-Oka” Shopping Street had its grand opening, and the Child-Led Club members were invited to the opening ceremony! Here we would like to tell you about what they did at the opening ceremony.

The members are the guests!? They made the very first speech at the opening ceremony

Usually the Child-Led Club members are the ones inviting people from the community or administrative bodies to their local debriefing sessions or other activities held by their club. This time, however, they were the ones being invited by people from the shopping street, who said that they wanted the children to give a speech as they had produced this communication space. The members at first looked surprised, thinking, “Do we really have to give our speech before the deputy mayor!?” They were a little nervous during the rehearsal, but everyone helped each other.

The day finally comes!

The Child-Led Club of Rikuzentakata, “Kizuna ~ Save the hope TAKATA,” has been working under the concept of “Not only a town to live. A town to live in affluence.” The members explained how and why they came to produce the space, and about the “Akari-no-Ki (tree of lights)” monument that will represent their wish for the reconstruction of Rikuzentakata City. Construction of the monument will start soon. The debriefing was successfully completed at the venue where over 100 people gathered. Those attending included people from the shopping street and the local community, administrative bodies, and the volunteer club members of Nikken Sekkei that supported the designing of the space.



Matsu-Shii, the town character of Yamada-machi in Iwate, also came to celebrate the opening!

Although the members said that they had been nervous during the speech, they proudly explained their activities in their own words when people from the community came to talk to them after the presentation.

Advertising their activities on their own after the presentation!

After the opening ceremony, the club members talked to local people gathered in the shopping street and began to distribute newsletters about their activities!



The children didn't simply hand out newsletters, but also explained the content. The newsletter was also given to Mr. Kubota, Deputy Mayor of Rikuzentakata City.

The weather was excellent for the grand opening day and the club members were able to deepen their bonds with the local people.

After considering the opinions from local people, the club members created the idea of “Ikoi-no-Hiroba (resting place)” and “Akari-no-Ki (tree of lights).” Ikoi-no-Hiroba is already complete, and Akari-no-Ki is expected to be finished in September 2012. The members have been working hard to create a monument that everybody will love. We appreciate your continuous cooperation and support.