

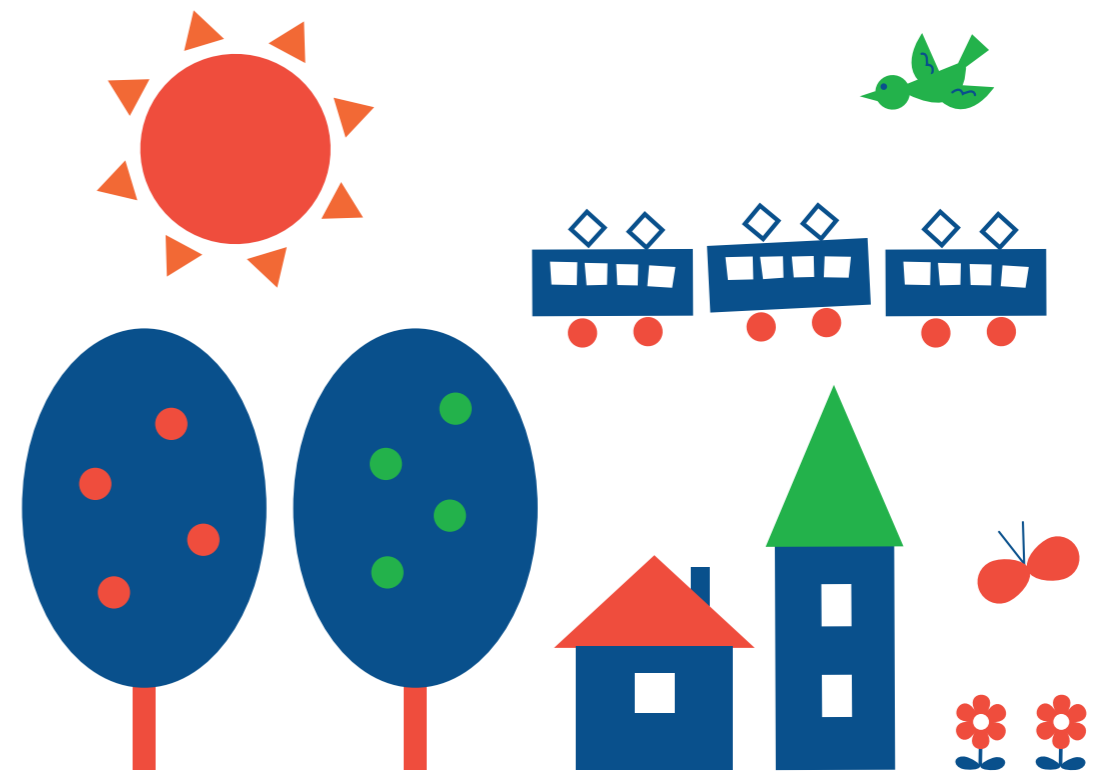
Action

"Action," the title of this report, was proposed and voted for by the members of the Children's Community Building Clubs.



Building Better Communities Through the Participation of Children!

Soft
Speaking Out From Tohoku



Speaking Out From Tohoku

~Building Better Communities Through the Participation of Children!~

by the Children's Community Building Clubs

■ ■ About Save the Children ■ ■

Save the Children, an international non-governmental organization (INGO), works in 120 countries to realize children's rights to survive, develop, be protected, and participate. It provides emergency relief assistance to disaster-affected areas as well as support in the areas of education, nutrition improvement and public health.

In 2003, Save the Children launched a programme in Japan called, "Speaking Out: Let's Talk Together," to enable children to take part in decisions that concerned them. It is based upon the idea that when it comes to children, children are often the ones who know best. In 2010, the programme, "Speaking Out Against Poverty: Keeping Hopes and Dreams from Being Stolen," was initiated to help tackle the issue of poverty in Japan, together with local, prefectural and national authorities.

Soon after the March 11th earthquake and tsunami in 2011, Save the Children launched its recovery assistance programme in Iwate, Fukushima, and Miyagi Prefectures. The "Speaking Out From Tohoku" (SOFT) Programme was aimed at building better communities through the ideas and participation of children, and has been part of Save the Children's recovery programme ever since.



■ ■ What is SOFT? ■ ■

SOFT stands for **Speaking Out From Tohoku**, and is a programme that literally means to convey messages from the people in Tohoku.

We think it is very important for children to speak out and actively participate in the recovery plans and building processes being formulated by all levels of government, as they also belong to the community.

Save the Children is using its experience in child participation from its previous "Speaking Out" programmes, and promises to work on the recovery with all the concerned authorities, members of the communities and parents.



■ ■ What is a Children's Community Building Club? ■ ■

The survey conducted by Save the Children in May and June of 2011 revealed a large number of children in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures who "wanted to consult with other children and do something for the community."

In response to the findings of the survey, Save the Children created a "Children's Community Building Club" project.

The members of the clubs, from 4th graders to high school students, regularly get together. They work together on the recovery of their communities by sharing their opinions with other community members or by talking to relevant authorities or experts. As of November 2012, Children's Community Building Clubs have been established in Yamada-town and Rikuzentakata-city in Iwate Prefecture, and Ishinomaki-city in Miyagi Prefecture.

[Names and Concepts of the Clubs]

● Yamada-town, Iwate Prefecture

Name: Keppare Yamada Toekomst (KYT)

Concept: Future and Tradition ~A community that overflows with love~

To learn more, please see pg. 6 and 7

● Rikuzentakata-city, Iwate Prefecture

Name: Kizuna ~save the hope TAKATA~

Concept: A community where people do not just live, but lead full and rich lives

To learn more, please see pg. 8 and 9

● Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi Prefecture

Name: THE Rolling Stones ~Now That's What We Call ROCK!~

Concept: A community where the new and the old rock'n' roll together and life is pleasant for children and adults

To learn more, please see pg. 10 and 11

■ ■ Hear Our Voice ~Children's Voices~ ■ ■

Save the Children has been collecting children's voices through interviews and surveys about community recovery plans and building processes, and making those voices heard in the larger society. We also advocate policies to local and national authorities that reflect the children's opinions about their local, prefectural and national recovery plans.

To learn more, please see pg. 13 to 17

Activities in 2011

Hear Our Voice 1 ~Attitude Survey on Children's Participation~

http://www.savechildren.or.jp/jpnem/eng/pdf/spotlight/201206_01_hope.pdf

Hear Our Voice 2 ~Attitude Survey on Community Building~

Hear Our Voice 3 ~Attitude Survey on Recovery Planning~

■ Past Activities of Speaking Out From Tohoku ■

Initiated the activities of the Children's Community Building Clubs for 2012



This November marked a year and a half since the launch of the SOFT programme in May, 2011. The members of the Children's Community Building Clubs came up with their local "dream community plan" last year. While adding more members and receiving support from local authorities and community members, the clubs have been acting to make their dreams come true. Let's review what "Actions" the children have performed over the past year since November 2011.



The 2nd Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects

Children's Community Building Clubs Local Training Camps

The 3rd Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects

Children's Community Building Leadership Tour

The 4th Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects

Children's Community Building Clubs Local Training Camp



The 1st Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit ~Communities Where Everybody Can Dream~

Hear Our Voice 3 Submitted to each city/town and prefecture

Hear Our Voice 4 Submitted to the Reconstruction Agency

Hear Our Voice 5 Published Future Newspaper

The 2nd Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit ~Communities Which Everybody Can Love~

Hear Our Voice 6 Submitted Opinion Paper at the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku

Hear Our Voice 7 15,000 children's voices compiled and sent out

Club members attend the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Indonesia

Children's Community Building Clubs Video Message 2012 released



■ SOFT Interim Report published ■

The Interim Report for the SOFT Programme is published annually on Universal Children's Day, 20th of November.

■ Action (SOFT Interim Report 2) ■

"Action" reports the activities of the SOFT Programme from Nov. 20th, 2011, the day of the "Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit," to Nov. 2012. For previous activities, please refer to "HOPE: SOFT Interim Report 1." http://www.savechildren.or.jp/jpnem/eng/pdf/spotlight/201206_01_hope.pdf

Keppare Yamada Toekomst (KYT)
Future and Tradition
~A Community That Overflows With Love~

About Our Club

Yamada-town is located on the coast of Iwate Prefecture. Yamada is well known for the culturing of oysters and scallops, and Matsutake and Shiitake mushrooms grow abundantly here. We also have a famous event called the Yamada Festival. We want more people to visit Yamada and enjoy what Yamada is all about. We named our club Keppare Yamada Toekomst (KYT), to express our hope that we in Yamada will do our best in moving toward the future. "Keppare" means "gambare" (go for it) and "Toekomst" is Dutch for "future." The reason we used a Dutch word is that we have long kept in close communication with The Netherlands and we want to continue to nurture this relationship. Since we feel that Yamada is filled with love, and that we want to keep moving toward the future while preserving our traditions, like our festivals, we came up with the concept of "Future and Tradition: A community that overflows with love." We usually use KYT's open space for our activities.



Footsteps of Matsushii



Matsushii is created by the club members!



Matsushii's photo frame!

Mini Matsushii!

Matsushii at the event!



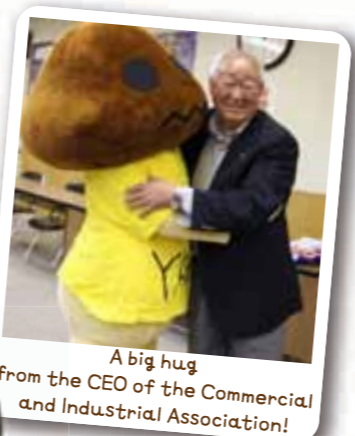
Discussing how to vitalize Yamada-town



Interviewing community members on their opinions about the recovery



Publicizing the activities of KYT through blogs and newsletters



A big hug from the CEO of the Commercial and Industrial Association!



Please visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/KYTmatsushii> for our videos!

Our Activities♪

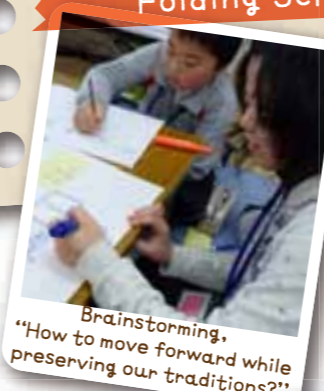
●Matsushii●

We thought that a mascot might help in revitalizing Yamada-town, so all of us worked together to create one from scratch. We named it "Matsushii" after our specialty Matsutake and Shiitake mushrooms. We also came up with ideas for Matsushii's friends and his house. Hopefully, Matsushii and Matsushii products become popular enough to bring many tourists to our events and festivals so that Yamada is revived.

●Future and Tradition Folding Screen●

We picked our traditional festival as the theme of the folding screen we created, as we are trying to move toward to the future while preserving our traditions. Before the disaster, the Yamada Festival was full of power and people. The earthquake and tsunami, however, took away our practice field and the shopping street where the festival used to take place. To realize our "dream community," we will keep on working.

Future and Tradition Folding Screen



Brainstorming, "How to move forward while preserving our traditions?"



Interviewing a Shinto priest in order to pass on our tradition accurately



Putting our passion for the traditions and future of Yamada into a canvas with a "festival" theme



Folding screen designed for "Future and Tradition: A Community That Overflows With Love" - done!

Voices of the Community

●From the Area Meeting



Please stay tuned for our future activities!♪

I heard about a lot of fascinating ideas to be carried out. Thank you very much for giving me power!

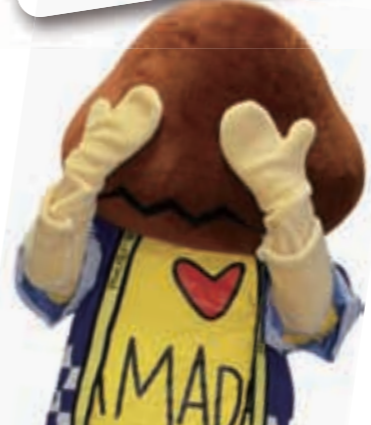
●From the Interviews

Soon enough it is going to be your time. The adults tend to have low energy nowadays, but the children give us energy. So, please keep up the good work.

Voice of Save the Children Japan Staff

You need to let more people know about your activities. Listening to more opinions from different fields helps you to make your proposal better. Well-thought-out opinions can surely attract the interests of parents, the community, and the authorities.

The community building process is for both children and adults. Thus, we keep spreading the word about our activities, and hope to continue working on the recovery of Yamada and its future, together with community members and adults.



Kizuna ~save the hope TAKATA~
 A Community Where People Do Not Just Live,
 But Lead Full and Rich Lives

About Our Club

Rikuzentakata is well known for its Tanabata, a Japanese star festival. There are "Kenka" (meaning "fight" in Japanese) festivals and "Ugoku" (meaning "moving" in Japanese) festivals. It consumes a lot of time and energy to make the decorations and to practice playing the accompanying music for a festival, however, it is worth it as the festival is such a fun event and many people come. Also, Rikuzentakata offers tasty and nutritious seafood and mountain vegetables. People here value a sense of community, so we named our club "Kizuna" (meaning "human bond" in Japanese). We wanted to cherish the bonds between people in Rikuzentakata. The so-called "Kizuna club" was established on June 25th, 2011, and consisted of 5th graders to high school seniors who kept smiles on their faces all the time. We have been conducting activities such as sharing opinions or working together with community members, as we value our close relationships within the community.



A bench designed for the four seasons
 Painted by members of the club and the community

Open space in the shopping street and the "Mini Tree of Light"



Making the "Mini Tree of Light"

January to September, 2012



1 January
 The "Mini Tree of Light" will be set up there.
 Oh really? Is that it?
 Exciting!
 Visiting the site inside the Tsudoi-no-oka Shopping Street where the "Mini Tree of Light" will be set up



2 February
 Discussing the concept of the "Mini Tree of Light"



3 March
 Reporting to and sharing opinions with people from the shopping street



4 April
 Creating the half-sized "Mini Tree of Light"

Voices of the Community

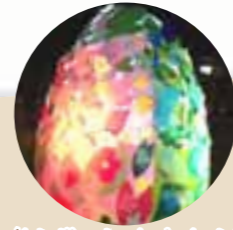
I was impressed to witness how the children created something from scratch based on their own ideas.

I think it is wonderful that the children created something tangible out of their dreams.

For the children to actually participate and share their opinions with us about the community helps our community. Hopefully they are proud of what they do and keep up their good work with confidence.

I had been wondering if there was anything I could do for the community when I first heard the idea of the "Tree of Light." I immediately fell in love with the idea because I thought it would help in the development of the community by giving us hope. In fact, a lot of people now stop in front of the tree to take a photo and to talk about it. By nurturing the bonds that they developed through this project and by becoming more confident, they can definitely grow as people. Meanwhile, I will keep helping the children so that their strength and passion can be reflected in the recovery of our community.

Good Luck Charm Clock
 You may see the pigeon with a clover in its beak!



It is illuminated at night, and the colors are changed seasonally.

Our Activities

We wanted to create a space for men and women of all ages to relax and socialize. Many people are still forced to live in temporary housing. So we came up with the idea of a "Tree of Light," hoping to create a symbolic place for the future of Rikuzentakata. We wanted to make it very large so that many children and community members could utilize it.

Last November, people from the temporary shopping street in Rikuzentakata invited us to set up the "Tree of Light" in their open space. Since it is was going to be inside the temporary shopping street, we made a smaller-sized "Tree of Light" which we called the "Mini Tree of Light." We discussed the concept of the "Mini Tree of Light" at our club and shared our opinions with community members. We also designed the leaves and painted the tree along with members of the community. We finally finished the "Mini Tree of Light" on September 9th! We hope it will become a symbolic light for our community.



5 May
 Sharing opinions with community members



7 July
 Working together with community members to create the necessary parts with cardboard



8 August
 Painting the tree with community members. Almost done!



9 September
 The "Mini Tree of Light" (3.75m) is placed at the Takata Osumi Tsudoi-no-oka Shopping Street!

Voice of Save the Children Japan Staff

Although the club members differ in their ages and interests, they share the same passion for their community. They also share and appreciate the value of Kizuna. Making good use of each other's differences, they all are working hard for the community.

The "Mini Tree of Light" at the Takata Osumi Tsudoi-no-oka Shopping Street



Ishinomaki city Children's Community Building Club

THE Rolling Stones ~Now That's What We Call ROCK!~
 A Community Where the New and the Old
 Rock 'n' Roll Together and Life Is Pleasant for Children and Adults

About Our Club

Ishinomaki is rich in nature and is surrounded by the sea, mountains and rivers. People here value their relationships with each other. "Ishi" means stone and "maki" means rock in Japanese, so it's a city of Rock 'n' Roll.

Our club consists of 30 members, from 4th graders to high school seniors, living in Ishinomaki. We all have a strong passion for the recovery, and hope that Ishinomaki will become a great community to live in by adopting new things while making good use of our rich nature.

We will support our loving Ishinomaki.

We will not forget 3.11 and will pass on our memories from generation to generation.

We will keep moving forward in the recovery and towards our dreams.

To "make Ishinomaki a better place," we have been giving our best.

Launch of the Children's Center Construction Project

- 1 January**: Visiting the site for the Children's Center!
- 2 February**: Visiting Hachinohe Portal Museum in Aomori Prefecture. *It gave us a tip for our Children's Center!*
- 3 March**: Brainstorming for the Children's Center!
- 4 April**: Creating a model of the center. "I really hope a lot of people can come!"

Voices of the Community

I like the fact that the children are having a lot of fun! I am expecting more and more children to get involved in the club.

You all are going to be the future of Ishinomaki. The community can stay positive as long as the children are cheerful. Please stay positive and keep up the good work for a long time!

Finally your dream is coming true. I was very excited to see the design and the model. It is full of fresh ideas such as changing the floor level, and I am looking forward to visiting it!

To revive their loving Ishinomaki, club members continue inviting their friends to the club, and with a lot of members, the club is firmly united. There will be a Children's Center to send out the powerful voice of the children in Ishinomaki. Playing music or hosting local events with the people in Ishinomaki, these children never seem to run out of ideas! Please don't miss it!

Voice of Save the Children Japan Staff

Quiz

Let's find 5 Sasakama (fish paste cakes)!

10



Our Activities

"We need a relaxing place where men and women of all ages can relax and socialize!"
 "Since agriculture is one of our main industries in Ishinomaki, we need the 'Field of the Next Generation' to attract more people's interest in agriculture!"
 We thought that if we can create a large facility based upon our dreams and ideas, it will entertain everybody and eventually revive our community. That is why we decided to build a Children's Center in Tachimachi shopping center in Ishinomaki-city. It has been created for the community and will be managed mainly by children. Hopefully, it will provide our community members with a place where they can relax, and also be a place where children's voices can be heard in the community. We have come together and worked hard to realize our plan of a Children's Center where children, the people of Ishinomaki and visitors can come to have a good time.

- 5 May**: The 3rd Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects Brainstorming session with community members. *We get to communicate with community members!*
- 7 July**: Interviewing local students about the Children's Center.
- 8 August**: Final evaluation of the Children's Center Construction Project Plan.
- 9 September**: The 4th Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects Presenting the Children's Center Construction Project Plan!
- 10 October**: Finalized the Children's Center Construction Project Plan with unanimity! *I like it!!*

Ishinomaki Rocks!

11 Taking photos with the model of the Children's Center

Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit

Based on the children's voices collected through the activities of the Children's Community Building Clubs and the "Hear our Voice" survey, we presented our opinions to policy makers, local authorities, parents, and community members. To build a better community, children and adults came together and shared ideas and opinions.

Universal Children's Day, November 20th, 2011

● The 1st Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit~The Community Where Everybody Can Dream~ in Sendai-city, Miyagi Prefecture

246 Participants (98 Children and 148 Adults)



I learned how much each child cares for their community. (Adult community member)

Children's Day, May 5th, 2012

● The 2nd Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit~The Community Which Everybody Can Love~ in Tokyo

265 Participants (89 Children and 176 Adults)



I was happy that I was able to share my opinions with and got to know, not only the people from Tohoku, but also people from other parts of Japan. I was also very grateful that there were many adults who paid close attention to us. (Junior High School Student, female)

Children's Community Building Leadership Tour

The local children from Yamada-town in Iwate Prefecture and Rikuzentakata-city and Ishinomaki-city in Miyagi Prefecture got together, promoted relationships, and discussed the community building process toward recovery.

August 8th to 10th, 2012

● Tour for the Leaders of the Children's Community Building Clubs in Hananomaki-city, Iwate Prefecture

58 participants



I really enjoyed participating in the discussion, listening to the others, and expressing my opinions! (Member of the Children's Community Building Club in Ishinomaki-city, High School Student, male)

Hear Our Voice 4

~What We Want From the Government For the Recovery~

[Summary]

In October 2011, HOV3 conducted the "Attitude Survey on the Recovery Plan" to ask the members of the Children's Community Building Clubs about the local and prefectural recovery plans. Then, each club put the results together in their opinion papers and handed them directly to the mayors of their towns (Yamada-town, Rikuzentakata-city and Ishinomaki-city) and the governors of Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures in December 2012. The next step (HOV4) was to collect together what the clubs wanted from the government for their local recovery activities. The clubs' collected opinions were handed to Mr. Tatsuo Hirano, Minister for Reconstruction, and the children shared their opinions with him on February 25th, 2012, at the newly established Reconstruction Agency.

It is encouraging for us to hear children's voices like yours when we are working on developing a plan. (Mr. Hirano, Minister for Reconstruction)



[Contents of the Opinion Paper]

1. Please consider not only the opinions of the adults, but also of the children

After the disaster, the children tended to be excluded from the discussions and we had only a few opportunities to express our opinions. This is our country, it is not just for adults, so please pay attention to the voices of the children and of the seniors.

For instance, we think that our opinions are not well reflected in the recovery plan. Also, the temporary housing built in the schoolyard of our elementary school, taking up half of the space, made it impossible for us to use it in class anymore. We do understand the situation, but we thought it was unfair for the people higher up to just do that without giving us any explanation. If you need to build something in a place for children, please explain to us why next time.

We believe we can provide viewpoints that are different from those of adults because we genuinely express and deliver our messages. For example, we think our opinions can help our communities to become more fun and vital than before, as the HOPE report states.

We enjoy community building, and we also think it provides a great opportunity for everybody to become more interested in their own communities. We want more people in other areas to know about it and to start their own activities. We have been conducting activities as the Children's Community Building Clubs only in the affected areas, but we believe that children in other areas are as powerful as we are. If the children can put their ideas together, such as "we want a gym," or "we wish there was a park in that empty space," it helps to create a better community.

2. We would like the Japanese government to give support to the affected areas

Being a community, we can't achieve everything we want by ourselves as we have limits, especially in the areas of hiring professionals, constructing cultural facilities, or providing financial support for the regeneration of industry. Therefore, we would like the Japanese government to support our ideas as expressed in our opinion papers for the mayors and governors. It will accelerate the speed of the recovery if the government and local communities worked together.

To make our communities better, we need your support. Please come and visit our communities so that we can start our discussion together.

3. Please take nationwide countermeasures against earthquakes and tsunamis

The disaster could happen anywhere. The East Japan Earthquake created a massive tsunami, but the damage varied depending of the area. It is not just our problem in East Japan, but also everybody's problem. Therefore, we think it is important to listen to the voices from the affected areas and to take nationwide countermeasures against future disasters.

Voice of Save the Children Japan Staff

To the question raised by the members, "How are you going to reflect upon our opinions?" the Minister for Reconstruction responded, "I will try to reflect your opinions in each community. I am going to set up an opportunity where your voices will be heard, so please do not hesitate to express your opinions." Currently, local Reconstruction Agencies are actually working on including children's voices little by little. Save the Children will continue listening to children and continue to help them to have their voices reflected in policies!

Hear Our Voice 5

~The Future Newspaper Project~

[Summary]

The Children's Community Building Clubs have produced the "Future Newspaper." It is a newspaper set and published in the future, 10 years after our "Dream Community Plans" have been realized. Dreams are not for wishing, but for granting. They will come true if we have a clear vision. Thus, with the hope of receiving more support from those who learn about our dreams by reading the paper, we published our "Future Newspaper" on April 1st, 2012. The "Future Newspaper" was handed out on the street not only by members of the Children's Community Building Clubs, but also by children from outside of Tohoku in 14 different locations nationwide.

ノーベル復興賞 誕生
東北連合体が受賞

東北6県の生活水準の変化
2012年度の目標を100とした場合

県	2012年度	2021年度
青森	100	100
岩手	100	100
秋田	100	100
宮城	100	100
山形	100	100
福島	100	100

◆東北連合体の主な業績◆

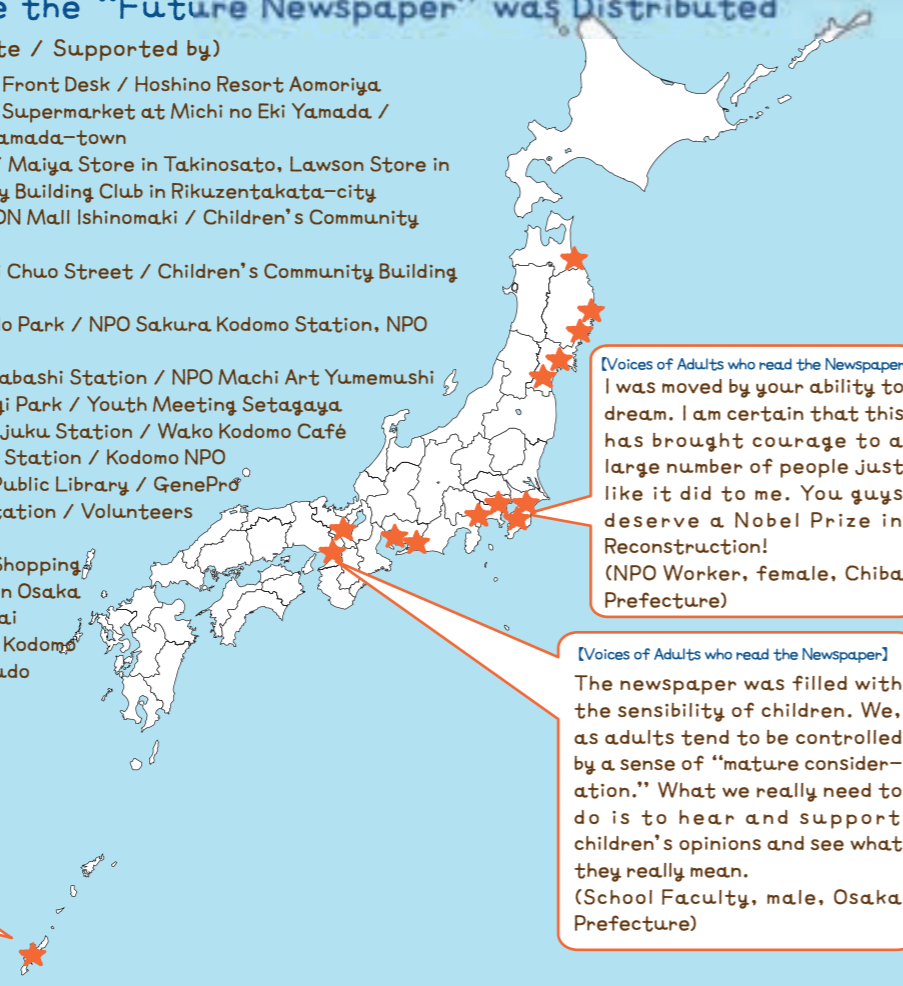
- 1 交通網の改善 東北内の幹線網・高速道路網計画資料
- 2 雇用創出 失業率の低減
- 3 観光客増加 往年前と比べ、東北外からの観光客が800%増
- 4 農産物の地域均等化 都市圏から、全市町村に運ばれる
- 5 IT導入 東北全域で全ての市町村がインターネット利用になり、夜間も生活も充実できるようになる

東北六県祭 来年開催
東北6県が一斉に各地で伝統の祭りをくり広げる

List of Locations Where the "Future Newspaper" was Distributed

(City, Prefecture / Distribution Site / Supported by)

- Misawa-city, Aomori Prefecture / Hotel Front Desk / Hoshino Resort Aomoriya
- Yamada-town, Iwate Prefecture / Ohan Supermarket at Michi no Eki Yamada / Children's Community Building Club in Yamada-town
- Rikuzentakata-city, Iwate Prefecture / Maiya Store in Takinosato, Lawson Store in Takatatakekoma / Children's Community Building Club in Rikuzentakata-city
- Ishinomaki-city, Miyagi Prefecture / AEON Mall Ishinomaki / Children's Community Building Club in Ishinomaki-city
- Sendai-city, Miyagi Prefecture / Sendai Chuo Street / Children's Community Building Club in Ishinomaki-city
- Sakura-city, Chiba Prefecture / Nanaido Park / NPO Sakura Kodomo Station, NPO Kodomo No Machi
- Funabashi-city, Chiba Prefecture / Funabashi Station / NPO Machi Art Yumemushi
- Shibuya-ward, Tokyo Prefecture / Yoyogi Park / Youth Meeting Setagaya
- Shinjuku-ward, Tokyo Prefecture / Shinjuku Station / Wako Kodomo Café
- Nagoya-city, Aichi Prefecture / Nagoya Station / Kodomo NPO
- Nisshin-city, Aichi Prefecture / Nisshin Public Library / GenePro
- Kyoto-city, Kyoto Prefecture / Kyoto Station / Volunteers from the Colleges in Kansai area
- Ibaraki-city, Osaka Prefecture / AEON Shopping Center / Matsubara Public High School in Osaka
- Naha-city, Okinawa Prefecture / Kokusai Street / Yonabara Akagi Children's Hall Kodomo Eco Club, Tomari Kids Club, Ishimine Gakudo Children's Afterschool Club



[Voices of Adults who read the Newspaper]
I was moved by your ability to dream. I am certain that this has brought courage to a large number of people just like it did to me. You guys deserve a Nobel Prize in Reconstruction!
(NPO Worker, female, Chiba Prefecture)

[Voices of Adults who read the Newspaper]
The newspaper was filled with the sensibility of children. We, as adults tend to be controlled by a sense of "mature consideration." What we really need to do is to hear and support children's opinions and see what they really mean.
(School Faculty, male, Osaka Prefecture)

[Voices of Adults who read the Newspaper]
Your dreams gave me a lot of courage, smiles and inspiration. We people in Okinawa will dream as powerfully as you!
(College Student, female, Okinawa Prefecture)



* To read the entire "Future Newspaper," please visit <http://www.savechildren.or.jp/jpnem/jpn/pdf/20120401-HOV5.pdf> (Japanese)

Hear Our Voice 6

~Our Message to the World~

【Summary】

On July 3rd, 2012, the members of the Children's Community Building Clubs presented our proposal to representatives of the government at the side event of the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction, held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of the United Nations.

【Content of the Proposal】

1. Please listen to children's opinions, in addition to listening to adults.
2. Please establish child-centered disaster risk reduction programmes everywhere in the world.
3. We propose the establishment of a system through which children around the world can collaborate.

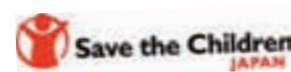
Your proposal is wonderful because it is very practical and concrete. We can upload your proposal to our website to receive feedback from children all over the world. (Ms. Wahlström)



Voice of the Attendees of the Side Event

I learned that there are many things that the adults don't see while the children do, and things only the children who survived the disaster can say. (Researcher, female)

I thought we should listen to the children's opinions ahead of time and start reflecting upon them in the evacuation plan, because I don't believe we will hear them in times of emergency. (NPO/NGO Staff, male)



3 July 2012

Proposal

Ishinomaki City: THE Rolling Stones
The Rolling Stones: Now That's What We Call ROCK
Yamada Town: KYT (Keppare Yamada Toekomst)
Go for It! YamadaToekomst (KYT)
Rikuzen Takata City: Human Bonds - Save the Hope TAKATA

We are the Children's Community Building Clubs. We meet once a week in three areas - Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture, and Rikuzentakata City and Yamada Town in Iwate Prefecture. We discuss how we can make our communities better through the reconstruction of our communities.

In the future when we grow up, we will be supporting our own communities - therefore our aim is to build communities that are even more enjoyable and lively.

Right after the disaster last year, we received support from people all around the world. Some sent us stationary, stuffed animals, other necessary items and donations. Many people visited us, played with us, and also told us about different countries. We interacted with them a lot.

We were very happy to see that people from around the world were thinking about us, and we were also very encouraged. Thanks to your support we now live the life we have.

We really hope you do not forget us and also visit us again.

We have been discussing at the clubs how we can best help other people in the world, and are presenting our ideas here. Please hear our voices.

1. Please listen to children's opinions, in addition to listening to adults.

First of all, what we would like to share with you is "please listen to our opinions, hear our voices." Please do not decide by simply listening to adults - we are not asking you to simply listen to us. We would like our ideas and opinions to be treated equally just like those of adults.

We have reasons why we want our voices to be heard - and one of them is the experience we had during and after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami last year.

Adults took the lead in the evacuation. We did not know what tsunamis were, and evacuated to higher points without knowing what was really happening. We were not aware of how panicked the

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The proposal of the Children's Community Building Clubs was uploaded to the website of UNISDR and published among their publicity papers as proposed by Ms. Wahlström. <http://unisdr.org/archive/27835> To honor the achievements of the Children's Community Building Clubs, including HOV6, the members were invited to the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction on 22nd to 25th of October, 2012, in Indonesia! Three high school students from the clubs attended the conference as delegates to discuss activities and disaster reduction with delegates from other countries. They came up with a "Declaration of the Children and the Youth." The message from the children in Tohoku has been delivered to the world!

Hear Our Voice 7

~Attitude Survey on Child Participation 2012~

【Summary】

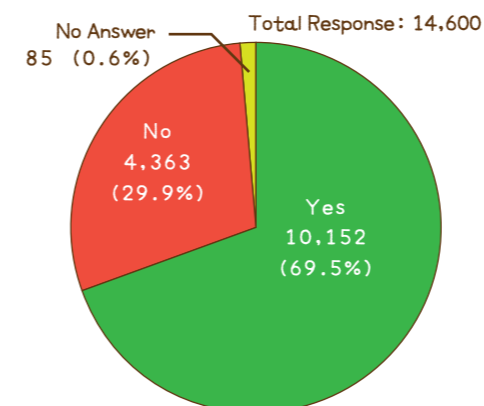
As a sequel to the Hear Our Voice 1 survey, between June and August 2012, we conducted an "Attitude Survey on Children Participation 2012." The survey targeted 4th grade to high school students, in Yamada-town and Rikuzentakata-city in Iwate Prefecture and Ishinomaki-city in Miyagi Prefecture.

"Do you want to participate in the recovery of your own community?"

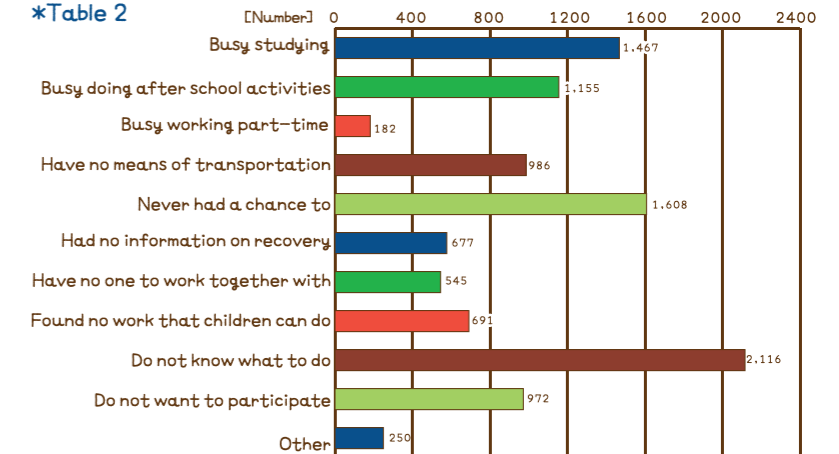
A large number of children actually wanted to participate in the recovery of their community, but had found a lack of information and opportunities.

- The results showed that almost 70% of 14,600 children answered, "I want to participate in the recovery." (Table 1)
- However, only 60% responded "yes" to the question, "Have you done anything for the recovery of your community?" This number is smaller than the number of children who wanted to participate. Also, where the above two questions were answered negatively, the most common reasons given were: "Do not know what to do," and, "Never had a chance to." (Table 2)

* Table 1



* Table 2



※ For the detailed report in English, please see:

http://www.savechildren.or.jp/jpnem/eng/pdf/spotlight/120928_CCFC.pdf

Voice of the Children

I am still a 6th grader, but I as well as people around me want to participate in the recovery... We children have our own feelings or viewpoint on the recovery, which the adults can't see. I believe the sky is the limit if adults and children can work together. So, adults need to trust us and include us in the recovery process. I hate it when people say, "I can't do it because I am still a child." That is why I want to join the recovery process. (6th Grade Student, female, Ishinomaki-city)

Voice of Save the Children Japan Staff

This year we have collected the voices of almost 15,000 children, which exceeds the number from last year. Together with local authorities, community members and parents, we will keep providing children with various opportunities to express their opinions and to take part in the recovery process. Speaking Out From Tohoku!

Y a m a d a
town



I learned about the Children's Community Building Club for the first time at the Children's Community Building Leadership Tour in 2011. I also learned that the club in Yamada-town was then called KYT. I was impressed by the fact that some of the members were younger than I am. So I joined KYT, hoping that I could do something useful, and have kept working for the community to this day. (In club 15 months, 15 years old, male)

Watching my father doing something for the community after the disaster motivated me. In the club, we all express our thoughts in words and share them with each other, which I found very important. It also made me recognize a lot of beautiful things about Yamada. I now like Yamada more than ever, and I want to learn more about it. My father told me, "It's very fortunate that you get to do a lot of things, to visit a lot of places, and to have various experiences, so just remember what you learn at KYT." I am strongly convinced that I am very lucky to be a part of KYT. From my experience, I have learned that support is a major aspect of our everyday life. (In club 16 months, 14 years old, female)

I used to be very shy and didn't like to socialize with people. I didn't like making speeches and never wanted to be in the spotlight. So I was worried at first if I could make friends at the Children's Community Building Club as some members are from other areas, but everybody was nice and I didn't have a problem talking to them. I was happy that the members paid attention to my opinions. Also, listening to their opinions widened my views. I am now interested in learning more about our community. Our community consists of not only the adults but also the children, so our opinions should be reflected upon more, which is why we will keep working. (In club 15 months, 15 years old, female)

In KYT, I can be myself and I can learn about opinions that are different from mine. We think there is no room to judge or to be judged, rather, any opinion is appreciated and nurtured. I think the children need more encouragement from the adults and teachers so that we can have our own opinions and know how to speak out. Actually I learned that last year, and that is why the past year means a lot to me. My experience at KYT motivated me to push myself to be more active. I am also very grateful that I had such a wonderful experience, being a part of community building. (In club 16 months, 15 years old, female)

The Children's Community Building Club guides us in the right direction, promotes our independence, and provides us with opportunities to make actions. On that note, I think it is more beneficial and practical than school studies, and that it should be adopted into the school system. Since we have to do all the work from planning to execution, we learn responsibilities and planning abilities. I am confident that what we are doing will be very useful in the future. (In club 16 months, 14 years old, female)

People started calling us "the child survivors of the affected area" after March 11th. Right after the disaster, I neither knew what was happening nor could face reality. When people referred to us as "the child survivors of the affected area" three months after the disaster, I felt sad, but at the same time, I thought it was natural for people to do so because it had only been three months. I am shocked that people still call us "the child survivors of the affected area" today, after a year and a half has passed. There are things that the children in Tohoku can do for our communities. Please do not keep labeling us as "the child survivors of the affected area." (In club 15 months, 12 years old, male)

R i k u z e n t a k a t a
city

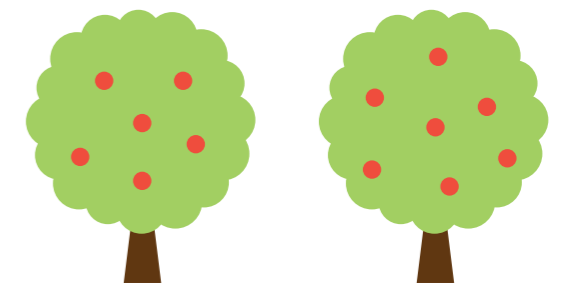
I used to keep my opinions to myself and barely shared my thoughts. Even when I said something, all I heard was "that's an excuse" and people didn't really pay attention to what I was saying. It has changed since I joined the Children's Community Building Club where I learned how to speak out. I am happy that I also made a lot of friends at the Leadership Tour who respect my opinion. I want everybody to understand that even children can achieve something this big by working together. (In club 16 months, 11 years old, female)

The Children's Community Building Club means a lot to me. Thanks to the club, we could share our opinions with each other and deliver our messages on TV. Without the clubs, we would have been having a hard time. Since I joined the club, I have started to share my thoughts with other people and importantly, have become stronger than before. I hope more people join us. (In club 16 months, 12 years old, female)

The Children's Community Building Club taught me that there are actually a lot of children who care for our community just like I do. From my experience at the club, I learned how to express my opinion and execute it. When I do well, it always gives me joy. I used to think that the recovery is an adult's job, but my perception has completely changed! We participate. We have opinions and passion, too. When we speak out, please listen to us. (In club 17 months, 17 years old, female)

I can carry out my thoughts through the Children's Community Building Club. With help from a lot of people, we can create something out of hazy ideas. I was impressed to see how our ideas were realized into something as tangible as the "Tree of Light." I am glad that we have been working hard. What we do is to realize our dreams. I want more people to know about our activities so that they can join us. (In club 15 months, 12 years old, male)

I am really grateful for the fact that I experienced various things and learned a lot through the club. What I find wonderful about the Children's Community Building Club is the "connection" of people. We started as such a small club, but little by little, we made our connections to many people. If we keep connecting with more people, I think the world will be such a beautiful place. So I hope we can spread our activity to the world. (In club 15 months, 15 years old, female)



Voices of the Children ~Looking Back On Our Past Activities~

Ishinomaki city

I was never interested in community building before I joined the club. Even when I had a great idea about it, I used to think that it was useless as I had no one to share it with. Then, I came across a handout the school gave out after the earthquake and learned about the Leadership Tour. The tour provided me with a lot of opportunities to share my ideas. It changed my perception as I realized that there are actually a large number of adults who respect my ideas and friends who can share feelings with me. There are things only the Children's Community Building Clubs can do, and I hope we can expand such activities. (In club 15 months, 13 years old, female)

When I heard "presentation, reporting and discussion," I thought, "Wow, it's not me." But I actually enjoyed giving presentations for the first time in my life! Now, I even look forward to my turn. Save the Children, you should have come to us earlier! I am mad at you! I want the adults to know that we have a lot of fun ideas because we are having fun. Please do not assume that the children don't know anything, because we actually do know. (In club 16 months, 14 years old, female)

Since I joined the club, I have become more assertive. Before, even when I had something to say, I felt there was no need to say it. But my experience in the club has taught me that I can't make myself understood without speaking out. Besides, I used to get nervous very easily, but now, I can make public presentations without feeling nervous. I think I got stronger! (In club 15 months, 15 years old, male)

By being constantly disapproved of, children develop negative attitudes and eventually lose their creativity. Without new ideas, there will be no development. Instead of simply expressing our opinions, if we can exchange opinions with adults and listen to each other without getting stopped, I think we can make our community a better place. (In club 15 months, 13 years old, female)

Until recently, I had been scared to express my opinion. I didn't want to be disapproved of. However, in the club, nobody disapproves of anybody, rather, we respect any opinion and compensate for each other. Everybody's opinion is respected here. We can make our ideas better if we can extract good aspects of everybody's opinions and put them together. And if we can convey our message to the community, I think it brings a positive influence. (In club 15 months, 16 years old, female)



'Voice of the Children: Looking Back On Our Past Activities' was put together by those members of each club who have been a member for at least a year, based on discussions and the survey.

Voices of the Adults ~Looking Back On Our Past Activities~

A lot of communities were damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. It is highly significant for the children to come up with the community's recovery plans on their own. Yamada-town will be an even better community if they keep up their work. I am counting on them to be leading the future recovery 10 years from now. (Takashi Furudate, Assistant Manager, Yamada-town Board of Education, School Education Division)

In the beginning, the club members were nervous just to stand in public, but they all looked so confident making a presentation at the Summit in Tokyo in May, and it made me cry. Now they even enjoy talking in public. All of the members, especially the girls, grew so much. It will be great to see if some of you are leading the recovery plans in the future. (Kumiko Konno, parent of a club member in Yamada-town)

Even when the discussion was poor and the ideas lacked logic at first, the children seemed to be having fun. As they became more involved, they improved the delivery of their ideas. Finally, they could express their opinions and passion about the recovery on their own. I can clearly picture them leading the recovery of our community in the future. (Wataru Iguchi, Vice-Principal, Yamada Junior High School)

By being asked by her friend, my daughter started participating in the club activities shortly after we moved into temporary housing. It was impressive to see the children making it happen, from having ideas that were very vague to have actually created the symbolic "Mini Tree of Light" in the shopping street. Through the whole experience, I think they developed psychological maturity. They work hard because they enjoy it. They like the fact that the adult members of the community pay attention to their opinions, because it makes them confident enough to know that they can make changes. More importantly, I appreciate the staff members of Save the Children Japan for providing the children with the opportunities to speak out and for your support. (Mutsu Kono, parent of a club member in Rikuzentakata-city)

It is so encouraging to see you all care a lot about the recovery and reconstruction of our community, put your opinions and ideas together, and propose it to the city. Your work and passion contribute to create a better community. Please keep participating in the recovery and let's build a new "Rikuzentakata" together! (Futoshi Toba, Mayor of Rikuzentakata-city)

Congratulations on completing the "Mini Tree of Light"! I remember seeing you all looking at the tree at the unveiling ceremony with excitement and satisfaction on your faces. It was also a learning experience for me to see you trying to make it better by adopting the opinions of the community members and supporting organizations, because it is actually similar to the recovery process of our community in the bigger picture. I feel your passion, which is growing everyday. I think we definitely need to have more opportunities to share opinions with you. (Yoshiya Sato, Community Worker in Rikuzentakata-city)

The very first time I met the children was at the 1st Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects. I remember attending the session, wondering who they were and what they were going to do, because I was totally blown away by their "Dream Community Plan"! It really was a dream department store! I could tell that they were getting nervous while talking to us, which was actually sort of heartwarming. After having a lot of experience as club members, they now all look very confident. I am very proud of them, and I feel fortunate to be a part of it. I hope they grow up eager to listen to the voices of the next generation. (Kazuya Monma, Chief Investigator, Ishinomaki-city Welfare Division, Child-Care Support Section)

I was impressed to see the growth of the children. They looked shy in public when they were making presentations in the beginning, but each time they became more and more confident in expressing their opinions and ideas. They taught me the importance of having dreams and hope. Let us work together for the recovery of our loving Ishinomaki-city and make it a better place to live. (Manabu Mitama, Chief Instructor, Ishinomaki-city Board of Education, School Education Division)

Our children from Tohoku with such energy and big dreams did very well in the Children's Community Building Clubs of Tohoku Summit! For the "Attitude Survey on the Children's Center," they interviewed children who play sports, who are involved in after school activities, who attend a cram school, and who live nearby. They even hosted the Area Meeting to Report on Activities and Projects. While they enjoy expressing their sensibility, the members are also growing day by day. Their experience has taught them that they can do anything. They met friends who shared the same passion for the community's recovery and reconstruction and discovered new aspects of themselves which they were unaware of before. It's been quite an experience for me as well to see my daughter growing so much. (Yoshiko Miyamoto, parent of a club member)

