

We want to realize our wish for our future academic path, keeping a feeling of gratitude in mind ~ Award presentation ceremony for the Kirin SCJ “Kizuna” Scholarship

(July 30, 2012)

The Kirin SCJ “Kizuna” Scholarship is a collaborative scholarship extended by the Kirin Group, which wishes to value learning opportunities for children who will support the future development of disaster-hit areas, and Save the Children Japan (SCJ), which aims to establish a society where children’s rights are realized throughout the world. The scholarship is for students in prefectural agricultural high schools undertaking agricultural courses of prefectural high schools in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures. SCJ started awarding scholarships from October 31, 2011.

In June 22, for the 117 recipient students from Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Shoyo Senior High School, a scholarship awarding ceremony was held at Iwaki Meisei University which is currently rented as their satellite school.

During the last academic year, after suffering the Great East Japan Earthquake and a nuclear plant accident, the students of Futaba Shoyo Senior High School were divided and allocated to four different schools, and worked hard at their studies and clubs. While some students still travel to school, there are also many who stay in a dormitory away from their parents. The school itself also had to move twice. From this academic year, however, they were able to make a new start, after being reunified as one school at the campus of Iwaki Meisei University.



On the day of ceremony, Mr. Shigeru Morotomi, corporate officer and head of the Corporate Communication Department of Kyowa Hakko Kirin, gave an encouraging message to the students: “I assume that you are spending your school life with a complicated feeling in a different environment, being divided into four schools. However, you can have your high school life only once in your life. So please try to have a fruitful time with your friends, and, in future, I want you to take your responsibility for the future of agriculture in Tohoku and work for its revitalization.”



On behalf of the students, student council president Ryo Sugimoto spoke of his dream: spoke of his dream to this situation, we all at Shoyo are working hard for studying and playing sports, and having a fulfilling school life every day. In order to realize our wish for our future academic path, each one of us will use this scholarship with great care. And in future, in order to return the gracious generosity to those who supported us, we want to contribute to society.



The school principal, Mr. Joji Watanabe, also gave his message to the recipient students: scholarship with growths since we made a new start. Our students seem to have calmed down, and our environment has also gradually been re-organized. We are trying to have an ordinary school like we used to have, and again start practicum and conduct activities that are based on practical lessons, in addition to classroom lectures. But you shouldn't But you should act enough in this severe

situation; on the contrary, because you are in such a hard condition, you should set up your own goals and have courage to challenge various things and live your life. This will be the greatest return to the people who have supported you. Please make good use of your scholarship.



The Great East Japan Earthquake had a severe impact, not only on local agriculture but also on the educational environment for high school students who wish to work in the agriculture field in the future. It is because of this situation that as a part of Kirin Group's "Reconstruction Support: Kirin Kizuna Project" activities, the Kirin SCJ "Kizuna" Scholarship was founded in collaboration with SCJ.

Cooperating with the Kirin Group, SCJ will help students who wish to work in agriculture in the future to envision a bright future in terms of their study. We will also contribute to the development of the human resources who will take responsibility for the future of agriculture, one of Tohoku's main industry areas, through this scholarship project.

(Reported by Yoshinori Miwa, Public Relations)