



We are more than our past,  
more than our traditions,  
at a new frontier!

This Logo mark of Team "WA" represents the unity of 15 local areas toward their future.

It is an honour to embark on this 'Mission: Possible' with you. You have experienced the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake and rebounded with such courage and determination. We have a lot to learn from you. It is through the lifelong process of learning that we conquer our future and have access to new horizons. As students of the OECD-Tohoku School, you are ambassadors, appealing to the world to discover your imaginative and creative efforts in the recovery of your beautiful region and country. Learning has no borders; it is a gateway to the world.

Barbara Ischinger,  
Director, Directorate for Education

We are team "Wa" by about 100 the junior high school student and high school students of the Tohoku district stricken by the Great East Japan Earthquake of Japan on March 11, 2011. Many of we are in an earthquake disaster, tsunami, and a nuclear power plant disaster, they lost the house and the area, parted from the family or the friend, and have experienced many pain and sadness till today. We concentrated to the OECD Toohku school, studied many things about the area or the world, were connected with many friends, and have fought for revival of the area. And the event which will advertize a northeastern charm in the world on August 30, 2014 and 31 under cooperation of Paris and many people living in Paris centering on Parc du Champ de Mars in Paris will be held. It could tell wonderfulness of believing the future, while telling our thought in this event.

OECD Tohoku School team "Wa" Sato Riku



*Mission Possible:  
Appeal to the world  
the charm of Tohoku from Paris in 2014!!*

Overcoming the Earthquake Disaster,  
Toward Creation of New Education



March, 2012, Tohoku  
» August, 2014, Paris

<http://www.oecd-tohoku-school.com>



OECD 東北スクール

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**At the OECD Tohoku school, I am receiving the contribution from you for working-funds reservation.**

Contribution is transferred to the account only for the OECD Tohoku school established in Fukushima University.  
Information: <http://gakujyutu.net.fukushima-u.ac.jp/category/cat-id15/>  
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## Starting with the idea, “We must change.”

After the 3.11 earthquake, Fukushima was hit by a tsunami, radioactive contamination, health hazards, and more. We were overwhelmed by various kinds of fear. But now our life appears to be coming back to the normal one that we had before the earthquake.

Though we remain hurt and feeling empty in our hearts, many are trying to accept this circumstance, provided that we can live peacefully. But in fact, the radioactive contamination problem remains unsolved. To me, it looks like people are living day-to-day life with confused feelings even now.

Then, I had a chance to join “OECD Tohoku School”, which enabled me to make friends with those from other prefectures who had suffered from the disaster. I couldn't hold back my tears while listening to their talks. Their experiences were more than I could imagine. For all that, they have been trying their hardest to accept and overcome the situation that they have now. I find they are strong spirited people.

We, the people of Date City, are fighting against the radioactive contamination that other afflicted prefectures don't have. People worry, maybe sometimes too much, about unfounded rumors because no one can tell when it will stop.

Elderly people, who once had enjoyed working on their farms, seem to have lost their hearts.

Even so, we must make a stand against the surging problems which might become more serious in years to come. Fukushima Prefecture has always produced a wide array of vegetables, fruits and other foods. We must restore what was lost.

“Tohoku School” is, for me, the starting point of the idea, “We must change”. I could do nothing but just watch troubled parents and people around me. Is there anything we can do? What do we have to do for our dearest Fukushima? I want to think of the best that we can do with the help of many people we meet through this Tohoku School.

Not to be knocked down by the enemy named “DISASTER”.

A Student of Yanagawa Junior High School, Date-city, Fukushima  
Yurina Sato

On 11 March 2011 along the eastern coastline of Tohoku region as many as 20,000 lives were lost.

By contrast, along the same coastline, many times as many lives were saved.

It was the borderline of life and death.

Change the borderline of despair into that of hope.

The center line of this symbol, named “Leaf Vein of Life,” shows the coastline of the Tohoku region hit by the tsunami.



Iwaki Student-Body Summit Team

As they are the largest team with 30 members, they play a role as the engine of OECD Tohoku School. The chief leader and 4 thematic leaders are all from this team. They work on the recovery of regional damage from the tsunami and from harmful rumors.



Date City Joint Team

The sale of fruits, which are their local specialties, dropped dramatically due to the harmful rumors caused by the nuclear accident. We hit upon an idea to develop a fruit jelly working with the local office of Japan Agriculture, and this idea has been realized. The fruit jelly will be actually sold commercially. A famous confectioner in Paris tasted it and said, “It's delicious.”



Okuma Junior High School Team

We are all Junior High School 3rd graders (2013). We lost our home region after the tsunami and had to evacuate to Aizu-Wakamatsu City, which is located inland. Since we don't have our home region now, we video-tape and edit our self-documentary and sending out letters to companies to ask for help. We are planning to make a short film with the theme of Yae Nijima.



Soma High School Team

We are Broadcasting and Drama Club members. After the Earthquake, we wrote a film script about a high school girl afflicted by the damage from the earthquake and nuclear accident and have performed it on the stage. Many people have shared the same feeling with us. Soma regained hope by holding the historical Soma Nomaio Festival right after the earthquake. Our dream is to show the festival's knight procession to people in Paris.



Adachi High School Team

We are members of Natural Science Club. Although our region is far from the nuclear power station that had the accident, we have places that were contaminated by radiation. And the rumors are a serious problem. We study the radiation in scientific way to overcome those rumors. It's our objective in the Tohoku School. We also work as the communication team and are in charge of the logo mark design and the homepage.



Onagawa Kogakukan Team

We are from a coastal area devastated by the tsunami. We make art pieces out of rubble, collaborating with people from NPO. We have made candles out of wasted oil and used them for events to promote the local shops. We'd like you to get a feeling for what has been going on in the damaged areas.



South Sanriku Tokura Area Team

Our town was wiped away by tsunami. Our local specialty, oyster, was also seriously damaged. We have collaborated with the local fishermen's union and have restored an oyster market for the recovery of our region. We want to work together with people in Japan and in Paris for people to enjoy our oysters.



Team Kesenuma

At the 3rd Intensive School, the number of members doubled. Our region is busy with fishery, including products such as sea urchins and shark fins. We want to let people know Kesenuma is blessed with sea food. A kite called “Tenbata” is locally the symbol of recovery. We want to fly it in the blue sky of Paris.



Otsuchi Team

Everything was washed away in tsunami. In our region, high school students are playing a big role in preserving the traditional performing art that has a long history in Otsuchi. We, junior high school students, are planning to hold an exhibition to show Otsuchi's “Past, Present and Future”.

## Tohoku School Participating Municipalities (As of April, 2013)

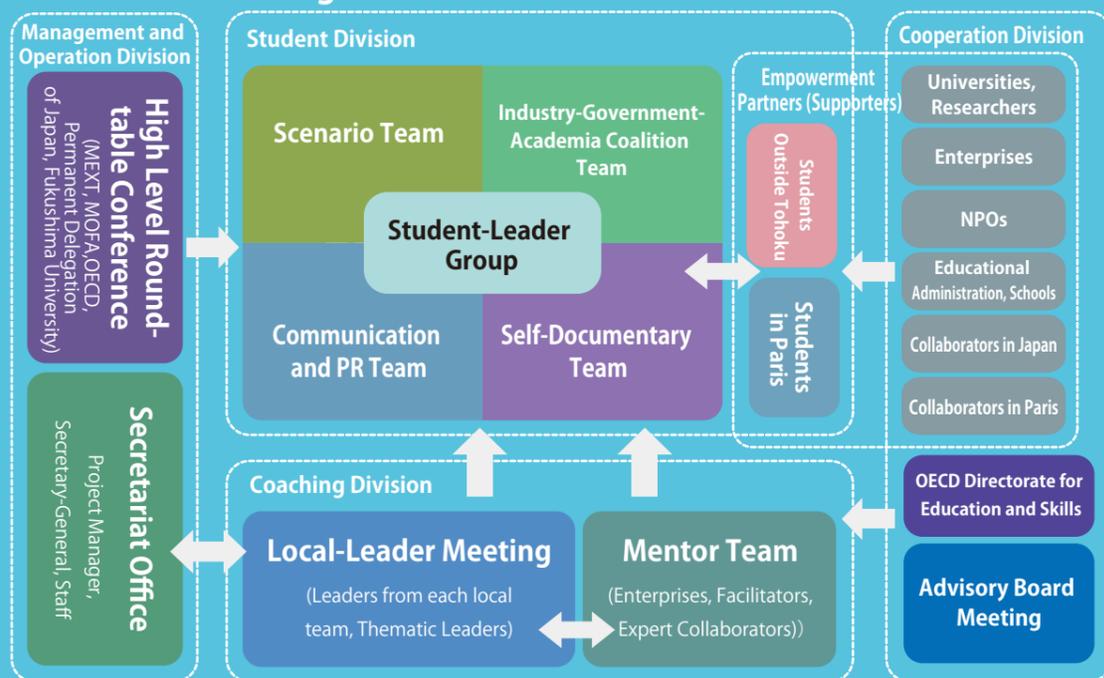


## Local School

Mr. Andreas Schleicher from OECD talked with Date Joint Team members. The team developed a jelly with local fruits, collaborating with the local JA to overcome harmful rumors.



## OECD Tohoku School Organisation



## Thematic Activities

<b>Scenario Team</b>	We're working on the arrangement for the final event in Paris. We collect event plans from local teams and compile them into one splendid story, collaborating with many professionals.
<b>Industry-Government-Academia Coalition Team</b>	We connect people who support OECD Tohoku School such as companies, municipality and individual persons. We introduce this project and have talks about the concrete ways of cooperation. We try our hardest to help this project to move forward smoothly.
<b>Communication and PR Team</b>	We're in charge of preparing an environment for communication and making the homepage and posters to get it publicly known. From now we try to activate our communication using iPads.
<b>Self-Documentary Team</b>	Our goal is to videotape the activities of Team "WA", edit the film and appeal to people. With a video camera in one hand, we go on recording tours in damaged areas with the help of experts.

## About OECD Tohoku School

On 11 March 2011, the entire Tohoku region was hit by a powerful earthquake, followed by a massive tsunami. This disaster caused an enormous amount of damage and left an estimated 20,000 people dead or missing, mainly in the coastal areas. On top of that, there was a hydrogen explosion the following day at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, operated by Tokyo Electric Power Company, leading to the largest nuclear accident ever to occur in Japan.

In April of that same year, the Secretary General of OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, headquartered in Paris) came to Japan and made a commitment to support the recovery efforts in Tohoku. In cooperation with Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) and Fukushima University, they created the "OECD Tohoku School" (an education recovery project commissioned by MEXT).

OECD Tohoku Schools is a two and a half year project, in which 100 junior high and high school students from disaster areas in Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate Prefectures come together for a programme of study at Intensive Workshops and Local Schools. Through this project-based learning, the students will produce an event in Paris in 2014 to appeal the wonders of Tohoku to the world.

Support for the project comes from MEXT, local boards of education, NPOs and related organisations. The secretariat office is located at Fukushima University. In addition, there is an advisory board to provide guidance for various aspects of the programme. The project is managed by Fukushima University. The OECD Office for Education incorporates previous education and recovery examples from other countries, and, building on them, designs the core curriculum.

This project is not limited to recovery; we are also thinking about the "new Tohoku, Japan's future," including business and economic revitalisation in the Tohoku region, and development of human resources needed for innovation. To accomplish that, we are engaged in various projects to encourage children to be independent, to help them think about the region's recovery and put their thinking into practice, and to foster innovative ability. For example, in children we work to develop the ability to lead, to make plans, to be creative, to think critically about construction projects, to put ideas into practice, to negotiate, to work well with others, and to be internationally-minded. In our present-day global, diverse, knowledge-based society, we call these the "OECD key competencies for the 21st century." In order to foster the perseverance which people will need for a long-term recovery, this will not be just a one-time event, but learning through a two and a half year programme.

## Main Flow Until 2014

OECD Tohoku School will conduct the following activities and events:

- Intensive Workshops.....** Hold five workshops (each about one week long), with lecturers from a wide range of backgrounds, hands-on workshops, and discussions. These general meetings are for all participants, with participants from each region and school attending as a team, headed by the adult leaders from the region.
- Local Schools.....** In the time between Intensive Workshops, Local Schools will be held in each region to plan and enact projects for recovery, according to the local situation. The Local Schools will, in part, consist of weekend activities and general study, and after school activities to be held about two times a month.
- Thematic Activities.....** To ensure the success of the Paris event, we will conduct dynamic inter-regional activities to focus on the following topics: "scenario," "cooperation with industry, government, and academia," "communication and PR," and "self-documentary."
- 2014 Event.....** The final goal of the project is an event to appeal the recovery of Tohoku to the world. Our aim for this is to have a wide variety of people cooperate in this event and on their own, plan the content of the event, conduct fundraising and publicity activities, and keep a record of what they do.





The Birth of Team "Wa"



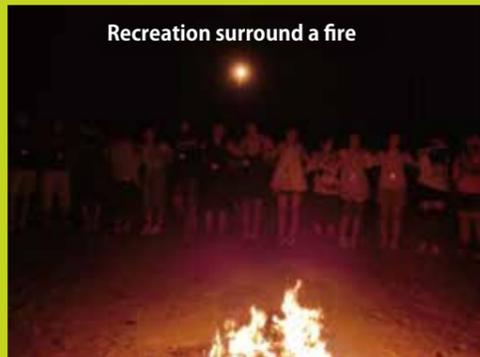
Ikegami's workshop



Making a poster



Uchida's Workshop



Recreation surround a fire



Presentation



Onagawa team local school



Otsuchi team local school



Isozaki's workshop



Commemorative photo



Surround Mr. Gad



The situation of talks

## Intensive School #1 - The Birth of Team "Wa"

80 junior high and high school students gathered in Iwaki. These young people were thinking seriously about the recovery of their regions and what they could do. They were eager to study many things and gain an international outlook in order to take on that task. Even with the sadness and suffering that came from losing friends and family, and even whole regions in one night, there was no hint at all that the students wanted people to feel sorry for them. High school students from Tokyo and Nara also joined as "empowerment partners" and broadened the circle of friendship.

At the opening ceremony, Barbara Ischinger, OECD Director for Education, gave a description of the overall goal of the project, "Mission Possible: August 2014 in Paris, event to promote Tohoku's attractiveness to the world," and the long two-year journey began.

At many of the workshops, it became apparent that a change was needed in their way of thinking about the project. The words, "Don't just sit there worrying. Get up and think!" left a deep impression, and were engraved on the minds of every student.

At the workshop led by Gad Weil (international event producer), all attendees came together in one big circle to discuss a name for the whole group. The name chosen was "Wa" (ring). The name came from the thought of all the participants, from disaster areas and non-disaster areas, coming together in a circle with the goal of recovery. In an extremely moving scene, all of the members, standing shoulder to shoulder, shouted "Wa-" together.

"Until now I thought I was the one suffering most, but getting together with people from other regions, and seeing how hard they were working, I gained courage." On their feedback forms, many of the students wrote comments like this. Through forging relationships in this way, new possibilities can be born.

## Intensive School #2 - We Knew Nothing

The main purpose of the second OECD Tohoku School was to discuss the event ideas from the first School and to narrow them down to the best ones as Team "Wa". To achieve the objectives, we need to keep discussing patiently without taking anything personally, and to think logically and decide correctly, always returning to the original purpose.

Since we did not make much progress in the discussions, we were not able to put everyone's ideas together in the time allowed. If we can't make decisions in time, we won't be able to hold the Paris event. Then students raised a voice, "Please give us time. We don't need free time at night. Since we can't make any decision in this form, please let us bring back the leaders' group from the spring School and make a ground plan."

The students realized that, even if the central part of the plan is decided, if they were unable to come to a decision about the rest, there would no meaning to it. They needed to know what they are doing it for and what they should do to achieve it. This whole process led them to be aware of one thing: that they didn't know what they should have known.

We also had a workshop named "What is Tohoku?" led by Mr. Norio Akasaka, the director of Fukushima Museum. He said the primary theme that the students thought of was coincidentally the same as the theme "Death and Rebirth" that underlies the festivals in Tohoku region. That gave spirit to our project.

## Intensive School #3 - Expanding the Network

From our failure to come up with a plan for the event, we became aware of our need for better communication. Beginning shortly after the second school, meetings were held each month with student leaders and local leaders, and about once a week separate topic-based meetings were held via Skype. Many avenues of communication were established, enabling the teams to share information with each other, to form relationships with local organizations, and to coordinate the sharing of information between Japan and Paris. Through implementing the plans for product displays that were decided at the Local Schools, and seeing how highly they were valued by outside organisations, we were able to see results with our own eyes, a little bit at a time. It was as if the third School had actually started in September, rather than waiting for March.

The third Intensive School was held in Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, which was heavily damaged by the tsunami. On the second day we put together a tentative outline for the event. On the third day we assembled the plans from the four theme-based activities, and put ourselves on the road to the project's goal. Concentrated efforts and teamwork produced an energetic atmosphere at the meeting location, and we think all of the participants were surprised at how much they had grown.

It has been exactly one year since the project began, and many of the students have moved from junior high to high school. At the end of the Intensive School, we had the students share their thoughts about the past year. What they said made a deep impression on us. Although difficulties continue in their regions, through participating in the OECD Tohoku School, they have found companionship and hope. They feel as if they are growing, and have found meaning in living at this time.