



Overcoming the Earthquake Disaster,
Toward Creation of New Education

OECD 東北スクール OECD TOHOKU SCHOOL



What is OECD Tohoku School?

It is an educational project to foster a workforce that can lead the local recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. It is hosted by Fukushima University in cooperation with MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD). This two-and-a-half year project involves about 100 students from junior and senior high schools in three heavily-damaged prefectures, Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate.

Team "WA"

Students from Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate are in the center of Team "WA". The team has been also embraced by many other people, including young people from Tokyo, Nara and Paris, and also enterprises. Our logo-mark symbolizes our catchphrase, "We are more than our past, more than our traditions, at a new frontier".

Objectives

This project is not only for recovery, but also for opening a new way for the future. Through this project, students are expected to develop capabilities for driving innovation, including skills for leadership, creativity, planning, critical and constructive thinking, getting things done, negotiation, cooperation, and thinking globally. In addition, through public-private cooperation activities, an unprecedented inter-regional network has been established, creating a bridge to education reform.

The Rebirth of Tohoku- Japan Rising Towards the Future 2011-2014



The main theme of the event in Paris is "Japan Rising Towards the Future". This event is the given-mission of this project. The event will be held at Champ-de-mars Park at the foot of Eiffel Tower on August 30th and 31st with the special support of the city of Paris, where we will appeal to the wonder of Tohoku. There will be balloons and dominos to symbolize the tsunami and recovery from it, storytelling by students who experienced the disaster, and 100 panels surrounding the main stage to tell stories about students' past, present and future. There will also be booths by Fukushima Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture and Iwate Prefecture, and some enterprises partners. On September 2nd we will hold a ceremony to plant cherry trees in the courtyard of the OECD Headquarters, and an International Conference by students and adults. The theme is "My School, Our Future and Schooling for 2030".

Activity of OECD Tohoku School

First Intensive School, Mar. 25th~Mar. 30th, 2012 in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture

Ms. Barbara Ischinger, OECD Director for Education, gave students a mission: "In 2014 from Paris to the World, appeal to the Wonders of Tohoku!" and the OECD Tohoku School began. Team "WA" was organized by the students. After hearing lectures on recovery, critical thinking, strategy and other topics, students made presentations about the recovery in their own local areas.



Second Intensive School, July 31st~August 4th, 2012 in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture

There were many kinds of activities including large-scale art to express the future, a discussion session for adults, thematic workshops led by experts, and interviews with people who actively work in Paris. The most important purpose was to make a ground plan for the event. Though students worked hard, they were not able to reach the right one in time. Their comment, "We knew nothing about Tohoku and the world," left a deep impression.

Funding Activity Dec. 25th and 26th, 2012 in Tokyo

We were invited to a charity event, "Cheer! NIPPON!". Students had a talk with some athletes. They kindly offered some goods for charity. Some of the students made a presentation at UNIQLO, which was well-received, and which laid the foundation for future fundraising.

Third Intensive School, Mar. 26th~Mar. 29th, 2013 in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture

Some new students were added. The concept of the event and the logo mark of Team "WA" were decided. Students also decided the basic framework of the event, and the main attraction that each local team would provide. 100 iPad terminals were provided to student so they could communicate more actively over a wider area. We also had a meeting with Minister Shimomura of MEXT.

Preliminary visit to Paris, May 1st~May 6th, 2013 in Paris

A delegation consisting of 16 students and 15 adults visited Paris for feasibility study of the event in Paris. Another purpose of this visit was to seek more cooperation from potential partners. A conference with those potentially involving people was held at the headquarters of OECD. Students explained about the project. At a reception given for Japanese-affiliated companies, students asked for cooperation. They successfully established a good relationship with students of the Japanese school in Paris and a library association in Paris, people in the Permanent Delegation of Japan to OECD, the Embassy of Japan and other organizations.

Fourth Intensive School, Aug. 4th~Aug. 7th, 2013 at Tokyo Olympics Memorial Youth Center

There were discussions to give a clearer shape to the event and thematic activities. We held a presentation about the project with the honor of having the Crown Prince and Princess attend, and a reception party with more than 60 enterprises where students actively asked for more support. An Adult Intensive Discussion session was also held with Mr. A. Schleicher, Mr. H. Gabor and Mr. H. Gaby as facilitators. Some people joined even from outside Tohoku School. Students also made presentations at some enterprises in Tokyo.

Open Rehearsal, Dec. 25th~Dec. 28th, 2013 in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture

We had an open rehearsal at an elementary school in Iwaki and a resort facility in Iwaki. With help from an event company, students rehearsed their exhibits of dominos, balloons, a historic dance and booths of local teams. In the evening session, a serious talk was made about the balance of the fund and the event scale. We were able to find the direction in which to proceed.

Fifth Intensive School, Mar. 22nd~Mar. 25th, 2014 in Takizawa City, Iwate prefecture

This was the final intensive school. Students looked back over the things they have worked on in workshops. The day before, some people got together for discussion on the nuclear accident and the core message for the event. In addition, there were workshops for thinking about the future and branding of Tohoku, and time for 100 stories.

OECD Forum and LA FOLLE JOURNEE au JAPON

Two students were invited to the OECD Forum held on May 5th and 6th. It was the first time that high school students participated in it. It drew the attention of many people in the Tohoku schools and from around the world. The students gave a presentation with the focus on "resilience". The audience welcomed them with applause. Prime Minister Abe mentioned about OECD Tohoku School in his key-note speech.

From May 3rd to 5th, a music festival named "LA FOLLE JOURNEE au JAPON" was held by French artists in Tokyo Japan. There, Tohoku School put up a booth, where we sold Jelly from the Date Team and seaweed from Minami-sanriku. They were very popular with visitors and sold out.

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