

Planting Ceremony 1997



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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Watari Nursery School



Japan



Kuma-gun, Kumamoto



28 Feb 1997

A director of Watari Pre School, Mr. Fukami applied for the project because he knew how important it is to extend message for peace through his experience of World War 2 that he lost many his fellow. This pre school set August 8th as "The day for bringing up peace" and has taught about peace on that day in every year since 1980. So they prepared for planting ceremony with parents of children. Before the ceremony, they sought applications for names for kaki trees and made a time capsule with message for their children ten years later. In ceremony, children announced that names for kaki trees decided "Kaki-maru kun" and "Kakie chan." They also made a picture-story show, "the story of parent of kaki tree and their children" to understand the war easier for children.

Moreover, they hold an event with an artist, Keiichi Ninomiya, who lives same region and doing "Fly a balloon project". In this project, they filled over 200 balloons with air and connect those altogether to fly. And they had lunch with watching balloons flew



and talk about kaki trees. One of the aims of this event was let people in other region know that they planted kaki trees. Another significant reason is to provide the place to meet various people and share the time with them and kaki trees. Balloons are familiar objects for children. So, the reason of using balloons is that to reminder kaki trees when children see balloons in their daily life.

Even after that, they continued to teach about peace under the kaki trees every year. And in 2001, they finally harvested 7 seeds form kaki tree. Thus, Bombed Kaki Tree 3rd was born in May 30th, 2002.

The 10th anniversary ceremony was hold in August 5th, 2006. Mr. Ninomiya, students at that time and their parents opened the time capsule and cerebrate their reunion and growth of kaki trees.



Hirose Elementary School



Japan



Oshu-shi (former Esashi City), Iwate



24 Mar 1997



Mr. Kakuya Matsumoto, a principal of Hirose elementary school, who was supposed to retire in that year, applied for planting kaki trees. As he was leaving the school he wanted to leave kaki trees as the significant message for children. At the ceremony, Dr.Ebinuma gave a special lecture for children to think about kaki trees, atomic bomb, and the war.

Being impressed by Mr.Matsumoto, Tatsuo Miyajima hold a workshop “Kaki trees in ten years later and our 10 years later”. This workshop was consisted of two parts; shooting interviews to students of sixth grade, and drawing by whole students of the school.

In interview part, they recorded 20 students of 6th grade answering the question on videotape. It focuses on contact of spirit between kaki trees and students. They told about their dreams or future and gave more than passing thoughts to how kaki trees will

be in ten years later.

In the same time, parents of students organized the committee of kaki trees and began to act. They set up the board for the caption right behind kaki trees and have meeting regularly. And they hold the event to put protected nursery to avoid snow in every January. Even in Iwate where is the colder part in Japan, kaki trees has grown up with supports by people.

In August 15th 2007, an event to celebrate 10th anniversary was hold. Mr. Mastukomo, Mr. Koike, Dr. Ebinuma, Tatsuo Miyajima, and students in that time were gathered again. They saw drawings and video of interview that they did 10 years ago. They also put red L.E.D. lights on kaki trees under the night sky with many star shines.

Some of them were married and even had kids. They feel that kaki trees was handed down from them to next generation as time goes by.



Sotoasahikawa Kindergarten



Japan



Akita City, Akita



22 Apr 1997



Akita prefecture has been attacked while World war 2 although it is located at north part of Japan where had little experience of the war. But unfortunately, that experience has been forgotten. Soto-Asahikawa Pre School applied to the project because they wished it brings the memory of war to children and makes every generation to think about the world peace. So they prepared to plant the trees and applied to the committee.

They planned some events that whole students of the Pre School could participate for the planting ceremony. They announced name of the kaki tree and had time capsule ready to put drawings by children. At the last part of the ceremony, they released balloons to the sky and watched it with wishes for the peace.

A Japanese artist, Ms.Kazue Mizushima who plays "STRINGGRAPHY" performed with children at the ceremony. "STRINGGRAPHY" is the performance of playing music at the space filled by weaving string telephones. They did this installation with filling their gymnasium of many strings telephones to

play the music and named it as "Kaki Trees in 10 years after". The beginning of the performance, children were looked at her playing with great interests and started to play by themselves. The sound they made sounded like birds singing. Those sounds by her and children sounded like dialogue between grew Kaki trees and children.

Ms. Mizushima thought that this installation might make children feel kaki trees closer. She also wished that they could see kaki trees again when they grow up. She talked to children those feelings at the ceremony.

The beautiful sounds played by them in that day remained in minds of participants.

In 2007, July 26th, they held a festival for celebrating 10th anniversary of planting kaki tree. The children in that time had a reunion at the Pre School. They opened the time capsule and received drawings that they drew 10 years ago from teachers. They looked back the time they spend with kaki trees with surprising and think about meaning of kaki trees again.