











# Planting Ceremony 2001



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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# Tohoku Seikatsu Bunka College High School (Former Mishima Gakuen)



Japan



Sendai-shi, Miyagi



17 Feb 2001

Mr. Ikuya Kuramoto, a teacher at Tohoku Seikatsu Bunka College High School (Former Mishima Gakuen Girls High School), applied for the project after seeing the works of Kaki-an at Echigo- tsumari Art Triennial and that was how the tree planting was realized. That year also commemorated the 100th anniversary of Mishima Gakuen. So the kaki tree planting ceremony was conducted as part of the commemorative events.

The tree planting ceremony was a big event, with almost 850 participants including the students from the school, related parties and neighbors, and the students buried the "Kaki Tree Bottle" containing about 1,100 messages addressed to themselves 10 years from now. Another kaki tree was also planted at Niji-no-Oka Community Center, located in the city.

Unfortunately, the tree planted at the school that year died due to soil problems. However, in the month of March, following year, the first anniversary of tree planting was celebrated and a new tree was planted. Mr. Nobuo Koike from Tokyo also participated in the event and gave a lecture. The location where the new tree was planted gets much sunlight and its soil is in good condition. The message role, introduced during the anniversary event, was very big in size, just impressive. The current length of the scroll is 35m and each student pasted "What happiness means to me" or "Message to my life-long friend" and so on inside the scroll. Pasted outside the scroll was the database such as newspaper articles of this year concerning peace issues, etc. As the more than 10 students carried it around within the event venue, the people cheered. Mothers of PTA members were also

quite impressed by the work.

The 10-year-scroll message role was created by a few volunteers and the administration division of the student council before the tree planting ceremony. Based on the concept of the Kaki Tree Project, it was carefully planned so that the project will be on-going and properly shared by all of the students for the period of 10 years, that is between the tree planting ceremony and harvest festival. Every year, a new

scroll will be made and it will be 10 of them 10 years from now. To share a sense of achievement of the project with the students, the 10 scrolls will be connected and made into one huge scroll of about 500m in length and will be presented at once at the harvest

festival 10 years later. The persimmon tree keeps growing and every year peace study is conducted on 27th of February. The project is in progress and heading towards its 10th anniversary event.

We planned to release these 10 trees at the harvest festival 10 years later. After that, the kaki tree continued to grow, and peace learning was conducted every year on February 27. The 10th anniversary of kaki tree planting, which was held on October 30, 2010, was also the same day of the 110th anniversary of Mishima Gakuen. At the time of the 10th Anniversary Festival, the student council president at the time attended with his own children and gave a speech. Ten original scrolls continued to produce every year, were also completed and presented to the attendees. A time capsule "Kaki Tree Bottle" with about 1100 messages was also taken out and exhibited.



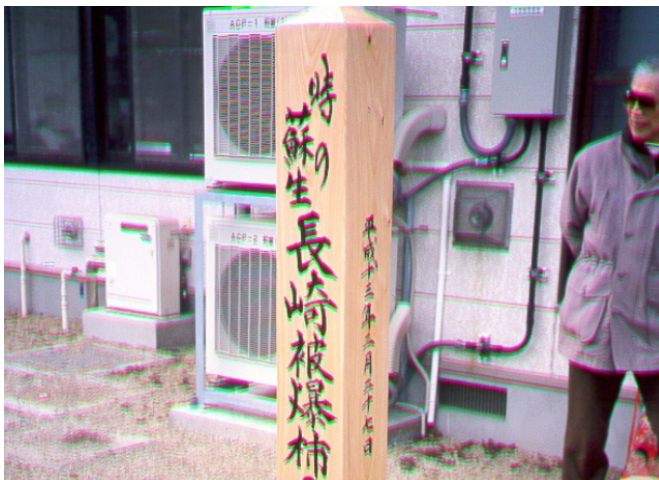
# Niji-no-Oka Community Center

🇯🇵 *Japan*

📍 *Sendai-shi, Miyagi*

🌱 *17 Feb 2001*

In the afternoon of the same day when the tree was planted at Tohoku Seikatsu Bunka College High School (Former Mishima Gakuen Girls High School), a persimmon tree was planted at Niji-no-Oka Community Center. A few student representatives and teachers from Tohoku Seikatsu Bunka College High School (Former Mishima Gakuen Girls High School) attended the tree planting ceremony. When we visited the site on the occasion of its first anniversary event, the tree was fine and growing. Adjacent to the front yard where the tree is planted, there is a children's house so the tree can be seen well by children. The sign board that explains the tree planting is highly visible and contains information on the second generation persimmon trees that are from the atomic bombed tree.



# Takaho Elementary School



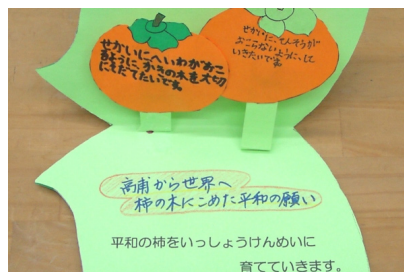
Japan



Suzaka-shi, Nagano



1 Mar 2001



Takaho area of Suzaka City has been famous for persimmon tree production since early times and the school emblem design of Takaho Elementary School is based on a persimmon flower. Though the local people still have a special feeling toward persimmon, the most of the persimmon trees were destroyed by the powerful typhoon came to Ise Bay in 1971 and there is not many remnants of “the home of persimmon trees” any more. Mr. Seiji Arai, chairman of the regional development committee, read a newspaper article on the Kaki Tree Project and applied for the tree planting because he wanted to make it as “a starting point of peace movement” by planting “the second generation persimmon trees from the atomic bombed tree.”

Prior to the tree planting, children made three dimensional message cards wishing for peace. When cards were opened, two persimmons pop up and on the persimmons there were messages written by them about peace and how they want to take a good care of the trees.

The tree planting ceremony was attended by the pupils of all grades and the local people.

At the ceremony, the persimmon trees were presented and Mr. Seiji Arai, chairman of the regional development committee and Mr. Masayuki Ebinuma gave speeches. A drum and fife band performed some music and the trees were covered with the soil.

In the following year, persimmon tree nickname contest was held there and the ones by a first grader were adopted. The trees were named “Takky” and “Nacky.” The trees have grown and even borne fruit. Takaho Elementary School organizes an “Experience persimmon peeling” event in which all the pupils participate in every November after the tree planting. At the event, participants including children and people from elderly association, women’s group, PTA, the regional development committee as well as other locals enjoy making Hoshigaki, skewered dried persimmons, which are later delivered to pupils, kindergartens and other nearby institutions.

Principal Akinori Horikome, who promoted peace activities at Takatsugu Elementary School at the time, has been watching over the kaki trees at the elementary school even after he retired.



# Sintra Museum of Modern Art



Portugal



Sintra



6 Mar 2001

Sintra City is a sister city of Omura City of Nagasaki Prefecture. It first flourished in the 13th century as a summer resort for the royal family and was designate as UNESCO's World Heritage Site, where a number of beautiful castles and churches from the Middle Ages still remain intact.



Ms. Maria Nobre Franco, director of the museum, expressed an interest in joining the project after seeing the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at Venice Biennial. The city of Sintra emphasizes on cultural policy and the museum was already conducting workshops and guided tours for children every week, in cooperation with elementary schools. So the museum was very keen on welcoming the persimmon tree there. In the meantime, Ms. Marina Sequeira Costa encouraged the city and schools to consider how they want to welcome the tree, and the tree planting project was developed during the course of 2 years. A variety of programs such as theater pieces and songs were performed at the ceremony. Especially, Mr. Jose Manuel, a teacher, at A.J. school along with his students



beautifully expressed the theme of the Kaki Tree Project, "Revive", through a performance, which they had rehearsed for 6 months. At the opening of the "Exhibition with the theme of Kaki Tree", little children did a performance expressing different ways of communication in the world such as bowing and kissing.

# National Botanic Garden of Wales



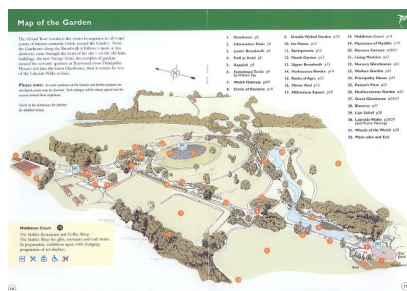
UK



Wales



8 Mar 2001



National Botanic Garden of Wales is located in the rural area in South Wales, which is about an hour and a half train ride heading West from London. Mr. Michael Nixon, an art adviser, expressed an interest in joining the project after seeing the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at Venice Biennial held in 1999.

On the day of tree planting ceremony, comings and goings of people were strictly controlled by the garden due to epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease and the restaurant was also closed. So the people and children who were invited to the ceremony could not enter the garden. We presented the persimmon tree and conducted a temporary tree planting ceremony.

The garden has been taking a good care of the tree.



# Finsbury Park



UK



London



9 Mar 2001



Finsbury Park is a public park located in the northeast of London, on the top of a hill from which visitors can enjoy a nice view of the city. Next to the park, there is Park Studios Artists Co-operative where 25 artists create their works.

Mr. Hans Diemel and Be van der Heide, (one of the artists), applied for the tree planting after seeing the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at Venice Biennial held in 1999. In order to realize the project, Hans phoned dozens of schools and visited 5 schools. Finally, he encountered Stroud Green Primary School and the project was realized after waiting for one year. Stroud Green Primary School is a state school where anyone from any race can attend. A very appropriate school for the Kaki Tree Project. The staff members also showed their understanding and through the workshops conducted at the school prior to

the tree planting, children deepened their understanding of the project.

The workshops were conducted for a period of 2 days, on the 6th and 7th of March prior to the tree planting ceremony. Be Van Der Heide, an artist and wife of Mr. Hans Diemel, planned the workshops. With and led by 5, 6 artists based in the Park Studios, which is located near the school, the large-scale workshop involving 450 pupils from all grades of the school was conducted. All the pupils created message cards for the day of the tree planting ceremony, they marched from the school carrying their messages and buried them under the tree.

The ceremony was attended by about 100 pupils from the school, ages from 5 to 10, and their parents. The weather on the day of the ceremony was fine and the mayor of the London Council of Haringey was also present to give a speech to celebrate the occasion.





# Taihei Park



Japan



Tokamachi-shi, Niigata



10 Mar 2001



The Kaki Tree Project participated in Echigo-tsumari Art Triennial in 2000 and in cooperation with people of Tahei district of Matsudai-cho, an unoccupied private house was remodeled and exhibited as "Kaki-an". Inspired by this exhibit, Taihei Tomo-no-kai and Tahei Kodomo-kai applied for the tree planting and it was realized in the district. Since this region is deeply covered with snow during the winter, the tree presentation ceremony was held on the 10th of March and the official tree planting ceremony was held on the 28th of October.

On the 10th of March, the tree presentation ceremony was held on the stage at an local event called "Fuyu-no-Jin." During the ceremony, there was an explanation of the Kaki Tree Project and presentation of the tree by Mrs. Junko Ebinuma as well as a speech made by Takeda on behalf of Kodomo-kai.

A lot of people gathered to the event despite



the deep snow and freezing temperature.

The tree planting ceremony was held on the 28th of October and Yoshida Yu conducted a workshop. The workshop was attended by



several local children ranging from Kindergarten to high school, who participated in the tree planting ceremony. During the workshop, the participants were divided into two groups and drew persimmon trees with fruit on a big drawing paper using their imagination how the tree, which was planted on the occasion of Tahei's harvest festival, would look like with fruit 10 years later. Two pictures were accomplished: one is depicting a persimmon tree growing with the sun, whose color is the same as persimmon, shining in the background; the other is depicting different expressions of persimmon. These pictures were to be displayed at Sato-no-ie in Matsudai.

The people in Tahei district of Matsudai-cho have been taking a good care of the tree and it continues to grow. As the staff participated in the event lived in Kaki-an for a while after the exhibition, the local people and the Kaki Tree Project executive committee member still actively communicate with each other to this day. There is a plan to invite people together again on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the tree planting.

At the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial in the summer of 2015, an exhibition and workshop "Iroiro Fluttering" by artist Misa Asano, and at the 2018 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Paella making by "Asobitokurashi ●▲■" and Asano Misa held a flag making workshop. The local people who watched over the kaki trees for a long time and kept protecting the kaki trees from the snow succeeded in growing the bombed kaki tree III.

# Tasmajdan Park



*Serbia (Former Yugoslavia)*



*Belgrade*



*11 Mar 2001*

Once inside the city of Belgrade, destroyed buildings by the NATO airstrikes in 1999 during the Kosovo War are unavoidable scenery. Mr. Aleksandar Djordjevic, who expressed his interest in joining the project, said “Until we actually experienced bombings, we thought bombings in Irak and atomic bombs were their problems, not ours. However, it’s different now. This is a problem to all of humanity and that was the reason why I wished to join and do the Kaki Tree Project here in this place, because it has a special meaning to us.” He even came to Japan moved by his passion to realize the project.

The tree planting ceremony was held at SKC Gallery. Children from the local elementary school, alma mater of Mr. Aleks, gathered bringing along their drawn pictures and pasted them on the wall of the gallery. On the wall facing front, the footage of the tree planting at Yanaka Community Center, Japan, was introduced on the projector. The ceremony was attended by the pupils from the elementary school, Minister of Culture of (then) the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, people from the Japanese Consulate and Mr. Aleks, Mr. Ebinuma and Minister of Culture gave speeches.

Then all the participants, together with children and Mr. Aleks, who held the potted tree, marched through the city to Tasmajdan Park, the tree planting site. At the site, a few children read some poems celebrating the coming of spring and the tree was planted. After the planting, there was a marionette performance, through which a message that asking the children to carefully nurture the tree was delivered.



# O.B.S.'t KOFCHIP

 *The Netherlands*



*Zonnemaire*



*21 Mar 2001*



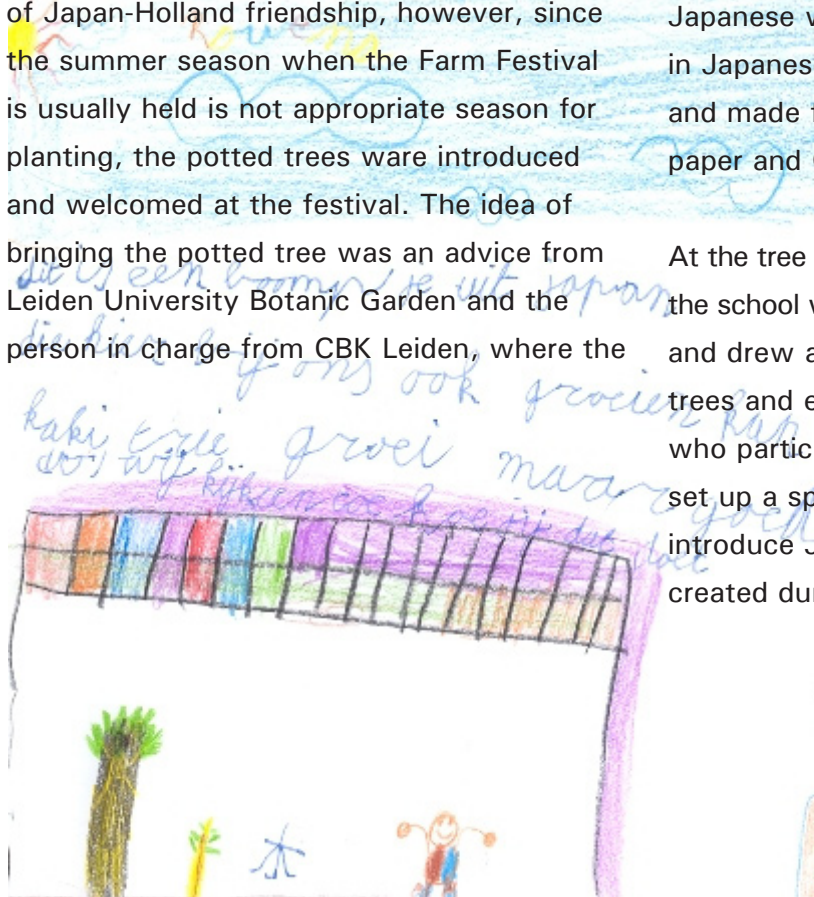
A farmer in Zonnemaire, Mr. Jaap Verseput, applied for the tree planting. Mr. Jaap grows vegetables such as potatoes but he also places art works in his vast farm and every year organizes and enjoys “Farm Festival” with the local people, where artists from all over the world are invited to do performance of music, theater, poem, etc. As Mr. Jaap was impressed by the purpose of the Kaki Tree Project, he established the local office with the local people including local artists. At first, they wanted to plant the tree in 2000, the year which marked the 400th anniversary of Japan-Holland friendship, however, since the summer season when the Farm Festival is usually held is not appropriate season for planting, the potted trees were introduced and welcomed at the festival. The idea of

bringing the potted tree was an advice from Leiden University Botanic Garden and the person in charge from CBK Leiden, where the

trees were planted in the same year. These two tree planting sites shared information and cooperated in proceeding with the project such as accepting the seedlings. Mr. Jaap visited Kofschip Primary School in Zierikzee, which is located in the north of Zonnemaire, to explain the purpose of the Kaki Tree Project and ask for understanding from the school, and finally in 2001 the tree planting was realized.

Before the tree planting ceremony, a workshop by an artist, Teja Van Hoften, was conducted. Children tried to write some Japanese words such as “why” and “what” in Japanese calligraphy wearing Kimono and made fan, kite, persimmon seeds from paper and Origami as well.

At the tree planting ceremony, all the children at the school welcomed the trees by singing a song and drew a number of pictures of persimmon trees and executive committee members, who participated in the ceremony. They also set up a special exhibition corner in a room to introduce Japanese culture and the art works created during the workshop were displayed.





# Brooklyn Botanic Garden

🇺🇸 USA



New York



27 Apr 2001

The tree planting this time was realized because a city gardener expressed an interest in the project after seeing the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at “The Edge of Awareness” exhibition held in 1998 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Then the gardener met a teacher of the Family School and they officially applied for the project.



The Family School is located near the UN Headquarters, which is in the central part of the city, and it does not have a garden. So we negotiated with Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which is located a little distance away, and the tree planting ceremony was carried out on the 27th of April. Actually, Brooklyn Botanic Garden was interested in the Kaki Tree Project from before. During the workshop on the day, children drew pictures and wrote messages to the seedling of the bombed persimmon tree on a huge canvas. They powerfully read out peace messages under the beautiful blue sky. Since the ceremony day also coincided with the annual “Cherry Blossom Festival” of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, children sang “Sakura Sakura” in Japanese. However, because of the circumstances at that time, the persimmon tree was temporarily planted in a big pot during the ceremony. On the 11th of September that year, the World Trade Center buildings were destroyed by terrorist attacks and the Kaki Tree Project took the initiative in delivering messages to encourage children at the Family School.



The teacher informed us later on that unfortunately the persimmon tree died.



# "M. Montessori" Kindergarten



*Italy*



*Crema, CR*



*7 May 2001*

5 students of IT.IS."G. Galilei" expressed their interest in joining the project after seeing the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at Venice Biennial held in 1999. They participated in the project as part of their graduation project. They also plan to make CD-ROM with the themes of peace, culture, history and atomic bomb.

The tree planting ceremony was held at Scuola Materna "M. Montessori". The entire event was held indoors due to rain. With students from IT.IS."G. Galilei" taking the lead, children from Scuola Materna "M. Montessori" as well as from neighboring elementary schools and junior high schools (lower secondary schools) were invited. The mayor of Crema, Chairperson of Crema Cultural Association and Crema town councilor also attended the ceremony. 4 animators cooperated in the workshop, in which children drew pictures and made persimmon trees from paper and polyethylene. There was a child who made Kimono for a Samurai, too. At the ceremony, people took turns in burying the tree while a number of balloons with peace messages were released into the sky. After the band played music, people made a work of art together by hanging all the messages and pictures on the wooden persimmon tree created during the workshop.

# Townshend International School

(Transplanted from The Town Park in Cesky Krumlov)



Cesky Krumlov is an ancient town with beautiful nature and historic buildings from the Middle Ages, and is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The town was also once part of the so-called Sudetenland, annexed by Nazi Germany.

After encountering the second generation seedling of the bombed persimmon tree at



Venice Biennial in 1999, Mr. Ivo Moravec, a biologist, planned the tree planting with his friends of Independent Company of Art in order to remember the war times in Cesky Krumlov.



Prior to tree planting, the tree presentation ceremony was held on the

4th of March. At the ceremony, the seedling was planted in a special pot by children and a small concert was performed by String Quartette Watzko.

At the tree planting ceremony on the 19th of May, a ceramic workshop was held in the garden in front of Mr. and Mrs. Petr Sladek's studio. 6 children made their unique pieces in clay with guidance from Mr. Petr Sladek. Children's parents and other local people also joined in Origami making. After that, everybody moved to the concert hall. The concert hall is a beautiful building, a former noble's house remade into a hotel. Before the concert began, there were some talks on the significance of the concert which celebrated the occasion and the Kaki Tree Project. After a 15-year-old girl played a piano solo, the Bohemian City Orchestra also joined and performed a wonderful piano piece by Mozart. Japanese artists based in Germany, Tanaka and Shimojo, also attended the ceremony as representatives of the project.

The tree was moved to International Townshend School, which is located in a town 30km north of Cesky Krumlov in 2002 due to flood that damaged the town. The school has been taking good care of the tree.