












Planting Ceremony 2003



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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Nishikawa Junior High School (Closed)

🇯🇵 *Japan*

📍 *Yoshino-gun, Nara*

🌱 *28 Feb 2003*

Mr. Toru Nukui, the PTA president of the Toride City Second Junior High School, introduced the Kaki Project to the school and the school applied for the project to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the school. Every year, 2 students are chosen from each junior high school in the city and are dispatched to Hiroshima as goodwill ambassadors. The student council and school staff worked together to plan the tree planting ceremony in order to convey what the students had learned in Hiroshima – the foolishness of war and the preciousness of peace.

As the school brass band performed at the tree planting ceremony, a chorus consisted of 300 first and second year students sang “The only flower in the world” and the two school goodwill ambassadors vowed that “We will never forget the misery of war and vow to live powerfully in the present.” After they watched the DVD of the project, two persimmon trees were planted in the presence of Mr. Ebinuma at the main entrance of the school. Since the third year students had to



prepare for the high school entrance exams in a week, the ceremony was attended by

the first and second year students only. However, after the third year students had watched the NHK news which covered the ceremony, there was a request from them, so the DVD screening of the Kaki Tree Project was urgently organized for the third year students.



On the 9th of January 2005, “Toride Youth Message Contest” was held at the Toride Civic Center and the representatives from the student council of the Toride City Second Junior High School made a presentation on planting of the seedlings from the bombed tree. On the 29th October 2005, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the school was held and Tatsuo Mijyajima presented “Illustrations of the Kaki Tree Project” to the school in celebration of the school’s 50th anniversary. The school’s project was continuously introduced in the city report afterward and in 2009, a story on the project appeared in a supplementary reader from Mitsumura Tosho Publishing for moral class (for the first year of the junior high school). The tree planting ceremony at the school is introduced in the story in the book. Nishikawa Junior High School was closed in March 2012.

Adam-Riese School

 Germany
 Bad Staffelstein
 27 Mar 2003

Mr. Udo Mohrstedt, who runs a solar power company, applied for tree planting in July 2000. For 2 years we communicated with each other so that the background of the Kaki Tree Project was fully understood. After repeated negotiations with the local elementary schools, Mr. Udo succeeded to have Adam Riese School to understand the project and tree planting was finally realized after 3 years. Teachers of various subjects at the elementary school created a persimmon week in their classes and prepared for the tree planting ceremony.

At the tree planting ceremony, children of the Adam Riese School did a performance which they had rehearsed for this day. Everyone who participated in the event was very much moved and the ceremony was just wonderful.

Tree planting was carried out in the time of the Iraq crisis, under threat of the Iraq war. Both teachers and pupils understood the project very well and everyone strongly wished for peace under such circumstances.

Later we heard from them that the tree grew steadily and borne fruit in 2008.

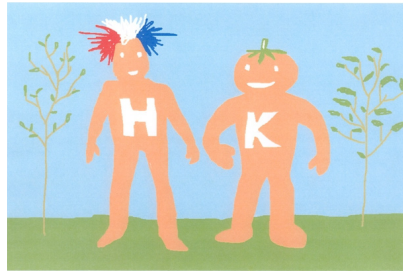


Kröller Müller Museum

 *The Netherlands*

 *Otterlo*

 *30 Mar 2003*



Mr. Jaap Bremer of the Kröller Müller Museum visited Japan in July 2000 and informed us that they were keen to participate in the project. That was how the Kaki Tree Project at the museum started.

The Kaki Tree Project participated in the exhibition “Ikiro/Be alive, Contemporary Art from Japan 1980 until Now” at the Kröller Müller Museum, which was held from 7th of April through 8th of July 2001. Though the seedling that was displayed at the exhibition was to be planted in the ground of the sculpture garden in March 2002, it became weak due to change in environment, so the museum reconsidered the time of planting. After taking a good care of it for one year, the official tree planting ceremony was held in March 2003.

The tree planting ceremony was held in conjunction with the festival to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Van Gogh. In the beautiful weather, Mr. Piet de Jonge and Mr. Eddie Morren, who were in charge of the persimmon tree at the museum, invited Japanese families and planted the tree in a very good place in the sculpture garden.



Dzegvi Children Center

 Georgia

 Tbilisi

 13 Apr 2003

Georgia is situated in the Caucasus region of West Asia, an important strategic spot on the Silk Road where exchanges among various ethnic groups happen since prehistoric times. It is bounded to the west by the Black Sea, to the north and east by Russia, to the southeast by Azerbaijan, and to the south by Armenia and Turkey. It is a wine-producing country and is also well-known as the birthplace of wine.

The artist from Gloucester, UK, Mr. Bruce Allan (who carried out the Kaki Tree Project on the 15th of March 2002 in Gloucester, UK) and Novvy introduced the project to Chiko



in Georgia, and that was how the project was expanded to Georgia. Chiko and Marina Khatiashvili applied for the project.

The planting site is located on a small hill, 600 meters above sea level, and is very close to the Children's Center, a facility for orphans. Everyone was waiting for "the seedling from the bombed persimmon tree" from Japan and the photos taken at the airport when they had received the seedling were immediately sent to us via email. The children at the center, who lost their parents when they were very young and

had hard days, worked hard to make the ceremony wonderful. The children rode on a cart that was drawn by a thin horse and they also put dozens of seedlings including the seedling arrived from Japan as well as a brown goat whose big eyes were staring at the children and a couple of big husky dogs on the cart. Then they marched down a few miles singing together from the Botanical

Garden to the planting site, Mtskheta, which is located outside of Tbilisi. A friend who was carrying a small donkey also joined them on the way. The children who were the brass band members tried very hard to play the used

tubas and trombones with their tiny bodies. The event was innocent and full of energy being surrounded by the blue sky with a hint of a milk color, the gray mountains and Jvari Church that sits on the hill. (A partial excerpt of the report by Anthea, the person in charge on site)

At the tree planting ceremony, Mr. Mamuka Japharidze (an artist who exhibited at the Georgian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 1999), who was the local person in charge of the Kaki Tree Project, conducted the workshop for children.

Mulgrave School

 Canada

 West Vancouver

 16 May 2003

Ms. Ricarda McDonald, the person in charge of the local office, is a tough and passionate artist who always has a smile on her face. In March 2001, the seedling arrived safely in Vancouver, Canada and was temporarily planted in a pot.



On the 10th of May 2001, Ms. Ricarda McDonald conducted the workshop for 29 students in the 6th and 7th grades of Fromme Elementary School.

She introduced them the Kaki Tree Project and they wrote haiku about the persimmon tree and made Origami persimmons together with the help of Motoko Ogawa, a Japanese woman who lived there. Although at that time the seedling was planted in a pot, it was full of life and seemed to be even ready for producing buds.

The tree planting was originally planned in March 2002 and with the efforts of Ms. Ricarda it was finally concluded that the Margrave School to be the planting site. However, it was postponed due to the school's busy schedule with other events. The tree, in the meantime, was kept at a local gardener. After many twists and turns, Ms. Ricarda's efforts paid off and the tree planting ceremony was going to be held at

the Margrave School in March 2003. Yet again, it was postponed until 16th of May due to the Iraq War that broke out in March. The executive committee member from Japan who planned to attend the ceremony had difficulty traveling and in the end could not attend the ceremony. Also, Motoko Ogawa, who cooperated with the project from the very beginning, passed away due to illness. On the 16th of May 2003, the day of tree planting ceremony, Motoko's friends participated in the ceremony and the tree was at last able to take root in West Vancouver.

In June 2005, we visited Margrave School when we participated in the tree planting ceremony at Collingwood School, Canada. Our visit this time was accompanied by the family members of Motoko Ogawa and the executive committee member of the project who was also a friend of Motoko, and all of us could deepen our friendship with Ms. Ricarda. The tree is planted in a sunny place and is growing steadily.

