







Planting Ceremony 2004



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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Toride 2nd Junior High School



Japan



Toride-shi, Ibaraki



20 Feb 2004



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 Miyajima 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.

In August 2020, the Toride City magazine “Public Relations Toride” was covered by a large kaki tree and students from Toride 2nd Junior High School.

Garden of Via Aleardi Kindergarten

 Italy

 Desenzano, BS

 20 Mar 2004

Mr. Rosario Manisera of Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji, a friend of Mr. Duilio Zogno who led the project in Brescia, Italy in 2000, introduced the project and tree planting was carried out at 3 sites, Aleardi Nursery School, Rivoltella Nursery School and the Garden Center.

On the day of the tree planting, the tree planting ceremony at Rivoltella Nursery school was held in the morning and the ceremony at Aleardi Nursery School was held at 3pm. A lot of children from the school and their parents gathered and they planted a seedling in the presence of Mr. Ebinuma in the schoolyard. A number of persimmon tree pictures were pasted on the school windows

and an original dance theater piece of the story of the bombed persimmon tree was performed by the children at the center of the school with light music. They surrounded the tree and danced together in a circle. At the end, they released the persimmon-colored balloons into the sky. There were something like leaves that tied to the balloons and a poem was written on those leaves: "We grow like a persimmon tree and comes the spring. In winter we keep our heads down and dress with the rain of sorrow in the fall. We soak in the sun and branch, and as we twist the hands around like the branches, our bodies are filled." It was a delightful ceremony filled with sparkling energy of the children.



Garden Center



Italy



Desenzano, BS



20 Mar 2004



Mr. Rosario Manisera of Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji, a friend of Mr. Duilio Zogno who led the project in Brescia, Italy in 2000, introduced the project and tree planting was carried out at 2 nursery schools (Aleardi Nursery School and Rivoltella Nursery School) as well as the Garden Center in the city.

In the morning of the 20th of March, the day when the tree planting ceremonies at the two nursery schools were to be held, two seedlings were handed over to the Garden Center staff from the executive committee members of the project.. Later, the trees were planted in front of the house. The same plate which is installed at the two nursery schools is installed at the foot of the tree.



Garden of Rivoltella Kindergarten

 Italy

 Desenzano, BS

 20 Mar 2004

Mr. Rosario Manisera of Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji, a friend of Mr. Duilio Zogno who led the project in Brescia, Italy in 2000, introduced the project and tree planting was carried out at 3 sites in the city of Desenzano, namely Aleardi Nursery School, Rivoltella Nursery School and the Garden Center. Aleardi Nursery School and Rivoltella Nursery School were new schools just opened in that year. They applied for the project to celebrate their opening of the school. The nursery school initially wanted to plant the seedling in September 2003 at the same time as the opening of the school, however, they take the planting conditions for the seedling into account and carried out the tree planting ceremony in March, which was the best planting time for the seedling.

Prior to the ceremony, a special class called "Chemical reaction for peace" was conducted. The contents of the class were such: "War" is generated by the chemical reaction of man and in the same fashion "peace" is generated by the chemical reaction

of man such as bonds between people and encounter. Also, to let the children

learn the preciousness of life, each classroom had items such as "food" and "Marine life" on display.

The tree planting ceremony was attended by a lot of children from the school and their parents and they planted a seedling in the presence of Mr. Ebinuma in the schoolyard. After speeches given by the Mayor and Mr. Ebinuma, they showed a few pieces of work by the children such as a torn paper collage of persimmon. Then, everybody sang merrily together accompanied by guitar. The ceremony was filled with smiles and conveyed the warm welcome shown to the seedling by the teachers, parents and each children who came all together.



From this year on, Mr. Rosario Manisera has carried out planting of the seedlings from the bombed persimmon tree at more than 20 sites in the Province of Brescia where Desenzano is situated.

Villa Venier Via Bassa



Italy



Desenzano, BS



21 Mar 2004

Mr. Lucio Allegri, the chairman of the Associazione Culturale Locomotiva Fumante (Locomotiva Fumante Cultural Association), applied for the project and the seedling was planted in the Villa Venier Park. Inside the park, there is "villa Venier", a historical building that was built in 1800 and on the day of the tree planting ceremony, many colorful drawings and messages by children were on display inside the villa.



The tree planting ceremony was held in the park and after speeches given by the acting mayor, the chairman and Mr. Masayuki Ebinuma, the two seedlings were planted by the children while the local brass band performed. They also released a lot of colorful balloons with little notes on which wish for peace was written into the sky. After the tree planting, several workshops of Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony and Origami were held inside the villa with the cooperation of "FUJIKAI" of Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji. The local project office was making its own book to introduce the Kaki Tree Project under the supervision of Mr. Lucio Allegri and Ms. Rucia Cipriani. It also made posters and cards for the tree planting ceremony. Those products were distributed to the guests who attended the ceremony so that more people came to know about the project.



St Elizabeth's Centre



UK



Hertfordshire



24 Mar 2004

St. Elizabeth's Centre is a 100-year-old care facility for people with epilepsy. The Centre also comprises a special school for young people with epilepsy. That year, the Centre was planning events in which the Centre, the school and local residents could join together to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The project leader of the 100th anniversary events was Mr. Ray Rolfe, an artist.. He also participated in and helped run the tree planting ceremony at the Finsbury Park, London in 2001. At that time, he felt that "a positive consciousness was developed among the participants" and that's why he applied for the tree planting at the St. Elizabeth's Centre.

On the day of the tree planting ceremony, patients and their families got together at the Centre's chapel and put the persimmon leaves with wishes for peace on the tree of shimmering rainbow colors. The ceremony was attended by patients and their families, the local high school students and the director of the Henry Moore Foundation. After they listened to the introduction of the project, they all marched down to the planting site

carrying flags of peace and keeping rhythm with flags, drums, maraca, etc. They planted two seedlings and at the same time buried a box contained persimmon leaves on which wishes for peace were written at the foot of the trees.

A lot of patients who were staying at the Centre participated in the ceremony and especially the older generation who had experienced war made warm remarks. They are the ones who lost their friends and town in the war, and they are the living witness to the war, yearning for peace. They were truly happy to meet with the seedlings. Sister Annette, the representative of the Centre, told us that "We are not just going to nurture the seedlings alone but we will invite and encourage exchange of various types of people and trees there, and will definitely make it "a forest of peace'. It's not going to be a woodland where the same kind of trees grow but by making it a forest, we will nurture and protect everything – we want to make it such a place." "Persimmon tree of peace" and "Peace tapestry", which were



on display on the day and "Persimmon tree mosaic", the work in progress, will be displayed at the additional facility that will be opened sometime in the near future.

Hollygirt School



UK



Nottingham



26 Mar 2004

Ms. Wendy Atherton, a teacher of Hollygirt School, applied for the project in 2003. The school conducted several workshops in class before the tree planting ceremony and put up decorations on the screen inspired by the Japanese culture.



Mr. Ebinuma and the executive committee members of the project visited the school on the ceremony day. The ceremony was attended by 50 students and teachers. The executive committee member presented the Kaki Tree Project DVD to the school and they watched it together. The KaKi Tree Fusoshiki (wrapping cloth) was introduced and a simple workshop using the furoshiki was conducted. In the presence of Mr. Ebinuma they planted two seedlings in big pots in the schoolyard. These two seedlings will be planted in the new garden later on. After planting the trees, there were a music performance by the students of the Japanese song “Yuyake Koyake” with violin and flute and other performances such as a fashion show of Yukata and Chinese dress to introduce the Japanese culture.



Francavilla al Mare



Italy



Francavilla al Mare, CH



1 Apr 2004

Dr. Filippo Cerasoli is the executive manager of the city of Francavilla al Mare. He implements projects of environmental conservation and green space promotion in the city. He heard about the Kaki Tree Project from an artist who was previously involved in the project in Italy and applied for the project.

They planted two seedlings on 1st of April, during the city's flower expo. At the tree planting ceremony, the children from the Japanese School in Rome arranged Ikebana.

Ajonc Garden



France



Lille



23 May 2004



There were two persimmon seedlings displayed at the group exhibition of Japanese artists “Donai Yanen!” which was held from 22nd of September through 15th of November 1998 in Paris. One seedling was planted at the Cistude Nature Park in 1999 after receiving the application from Mrs. Chantal Russell Le Roux, who lives in Bordeaux, France. The other one was kept and well taken care of by Mr. Eric Mezil, the organizer of the exhibition, after he moved to a museum in Avignon.

In 2004, Mr. Mezil was going to organize a similar exhibition called “Akimahen!” in Lille and he informed us that he wanted to introduce the Kaki Tree Project and plant the well-kept seedling at the same time. Jardin des Ajonc, the planting site, is a community garden managed by the expert landscape gardeners.

Prior to tree planting, Ms. Chantal Russelle Roux, an artist based in Bordeaux who led

the project at the Cistude Nature Park, and her daughter Nadia conducted the workshop in which they together with children made plaster birds and by doing that they contributed to exhibition. On the day of the tree planting ceremony, Ms. Chantal conducted the workshop in which children wore the costumes made from paper and lotus leaves taken from the nearby pond as hats. The children put various colors of pigments on the lotus leaves as they liked, then put these leaves in the pond and watered them a little. The pigments on the leaves dissolved in water and created beautiful paintings of water. During the workshop, Mr. Makoto Nomura, an artist who also participated in the exhibition, and his friends casually joined the event without notice. They pumped up the event through making a sound like bird chirping in the background and doing an improvised performance of melodica during the ceremony.