











Planting Ceremony 2007



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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Karako Primary School

 Japan

 Higashimatsuyama-shi, Saitama

 26 Feb 2007

Higashimatsuyama City is actively engaging in environmental conservation together with local residents in projects with the theme “Revitalization of community and nature” such as making a home for fireflies. Karako district, where the home for fireflies is in place and “Ten no sono (The Garden of Heaven),” one of Muraji Uchiki’s children’s literature, is set in. Karako Primary School with a history of more than 130 years, Karako Central Park and the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels are also located in the district, which is blessed with the precious resources, so people can learn about environment and peace.

Mr. Toshihiko Kato who works at the environment conservation department of Higashimatsuyama city government watched the tree planting at Hara Museum Arc broadcast in a news program on NHK in 2005 and that was how he got to know the Kaki Tree Project. He learned that children in the community can directly get involved in the project, so he applied for it. Karako Primary School was chosen as the planting site since it is near the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels.

The municipal government of Higashimatsuyama and the third graders of Karako Primary School took one year for the preparations for welcoming the trees. On 8th of February, before the tree planting ceremony, a “Delivery workshop” was conducted at the school by the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels and artist Ms. Etsuko Maneyama and children freely drew pictures with persimmon tannin on the bamboos that were

cut from a bamboo grove in the “home for fireflies” by citizen volunteers.



On the day of the ceremony, after talks given by the principal of the school and Tatsuo Miyajima and



a message delivered by Mr. Ebinuma, presentation of the Kaki Furoshiki (Persimmon wrapping cloth) took place. Following addresses given by a representative from the municipal government of Higashimatsuyama, artist Ms. Etsuko Maneyama, Mr. Anken Kidani and a representative from Karako district, the third graders announced the name for the trees “Kakkiko Taro” and “Kakkiko Kuuta.” All the children took turns in covering the trees with soil. Then, the children placed the bamboos that they made during the workshop surrounding the trees in a semicircle. Pictures drawn on the bamboos were very beautiful. Lastly, a message was delivered by the representative of the third graders. So the project in which the municipal government, school, museum and community members work together has started and various activities are in progress in Higashimatsuyama City.

Karako Central Park

 Japan

 Higashimatsuyama-shi, Saitama

 8 Mar 2007

Karako Central Park, where local people get together, was chosen as the planting site as well as Karako Primary School.

Prior to the tree planting ceremony, all the pupils of Karako Primary School gathered in the gym in the morning to listen to the talks by the principal and Mr. Ebinuma. Mr. Ebinuma and Tatsuo Miyajima also gave lectures to local people of Higashimatsuyama City at the Karako Community Center.

Two third grade classes moved to Karako Central Park and attended the tree planting ceremony held in the park. Children prepared for the ceremony in pairs by placing the bamboos with pictures drawn on them that were made during the delivery workshop conducted by the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels prior to the ceremony.

The ceremony started off with an address made by chairman Suzuki of Heartpia, Karako District Town Development Council. After the introduction of people involved, a child



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on behalf of Karako Primary School announced the name for the tree. The tree

planted in Karako Central Park is named “Kaki Taro.” They named the tree after Momotaro, a Japanese folk tale hero, wishing the tree to grow strongly like Momotaro. As children covered the tree with soil, they said to the tree “Grow well!”

Also, children gave presents of origami persimmon fruits to adults and lastly children of Karako Primay School presented the song “Echo of Peace” , a filk song of “I’ve been Working on the Railroad” with choreography as a song of celebration. It was a wonderful ceremony with cheerful voices of children echoed throughout.

Karako Primary School still continues to conduct workshops related to the project a few times a year.



Crystal Palace Garden

 Portugal

 Porto

 21 Mar 2007



those sessions and took many days to prepare to welcome the tree.

On 21st of March, the day of tree planting ceremony,

The city of Porto, Portugal, has a sister city relationship with the city of Nagasaki since 1978. As a symbol of the sister city relationship and to remember the atomic bombing as well as to express its solidarity with the city of Nagasaki, the city of Porto applied for the project through the Japanese Embassy in Portugal.

Jardins do Palacio de Cristal, the planting site, is the biggest garden in the city center and surrounded by the Sports Pavilion where concerts and sports games are held, Almeida Garrett Library and restaurants. The garden is crowded with local residents who enjoy strolling as looking at beautiful trees in the city or the lake.

Prior to the tree planting ceremony, a person who knows how to make origami taught teachers at elementary schools how to make origami cranes and then those teachers taught their children how to make those. Kindergarten teachers taught children about the atomic bomb, peace and the girl named Sadako using drama and a shadow play. Many children at about 10 elementary schools and 5 kindergartens participated in

more than 600 children and local people attended. Children sang the song called "A Thousand Cranes." An address was given by the mayor and messages from Mr. Ebinuma and the Japanese Embassy in Lisbon were also introduced. A display of origami works and pictures made by children ages from 3 to 10 was there at the same time. The representatives of children who gathered in the vast garden planted the tree by covering it with soil using a shovel which was about the same length as their height.

The ceremony was also broadcast on a national television network and covered in newspaper, and thousand origami cranes made by those children were later sent to the city of Nagasaki.

