









Planting Ceremony 2009



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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Ushiku 3rd Junior High School

 *Japan*

 *Ushuku-shi, Ibaraki*

 *12 Mar 2009*

The tree planting at Ushiku 3rd Junior High School was realized because a city council member of Ushiku learned about the project when it took place at Toride Second Junior High School in the neighboring city and introduced the project to the city's education board. Ushiku-City dispatches representatives of students from junior high schools in the city to Hiroshima as peace missionary. When they come back from Hiroshima, they present what they have learned about war and the atomic bomb at a reporting session called "Peace gathering in school" every year.

To the "Peace gathering in school" held on 21st November 2008, head of the Kaki Tree Project, Tatsuo Miyajima was invited and those students



who went to Hiroshima presented a wonderful report on what they had learned. During the session, students watched a DVD on the Kaki Tree Project and heard Miyajima's explanations on the project, so they already had improved understanding of the project before sending the application form officially.

For the tree planting ceremony held on 12th March 2009, Teacher Fukuda, who was in charge, took the lead in preparations together with students. Mr. Ebinuma also came from Nagasaki to participate in the ceremony. Since the graduation ceremony was held on the day before,

there were no more third year students around, however, we played true or false trivia quizzes



on peace with first and second year students. Although there were some tough questions, a few of them got all the answers right. It was followed by a talk by Mr. Ebinuma and an address made by Miyajima and then two "seedlings from the bombed persimmon tree" were planted in the schoolyard. They surrounded the trees and sang "Furusato (Hometown)" in chorus. The voices of students were in wonderful harmony and left a strong impression on participants. Lastly we took group photos. Teacher Fukuda conveyed good news at the end of April that one of the two trees had put forth buds.

In 2020, our country was scheduled to host the Tokyo Olympics. Maroussi Junior High School in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, was scheduled to plant an A-bombed kaki tree in 2020, which was to be the year of the Olympics. They contacted Ushiku 3rd Junior High School through the Greek Embassy. They wanted to interact with the students of Ushiku 3rd Junior High School through the Kaki Tree Project. The students have sent a video of their Japanese drumming performance and a message to the students as they planted trees in Greece. Unfortunately, due to the spread of the coronavirus in 2020, the tree-planting ceremony at the Marousi Junior High School was postponed. With the postponement of the Olympics, we are hoping that the exchange between the two junior high schools will happen in the future to coincide with the Olympics.

“Antonio Campi” Middle School



Italy



Cremona, CR



13 Mar 2009



“T.Reytana” High School



Poland



Warszawa



20 Mar 2009

After hearing about the Kaki Tree Project from Mr. Yoshinori Ogawa, who is a member of the Kaki Tree Project Executive Committee, a school teacher in Poland applied to plant a kaki tree. This year is also the 90th anniversary of the friendship between Japan and Poland. The original plan was to plant the trees at an elementary school in Warsaw, but the actual planting took place at the Tadeusz Leytan High School in Warsaw.

Restaurant ‘Castello Malvezzi’



Italy



Brescia, BS



21 Mar 2009

Ristorante “Castello Malvezzi” is a very famous restaurant situated in the suburbs of Brescia. Ms. Enrica Bortolazzi, manager of the restaurant, took part in the tree planting ceremony held in the province of Brescia in 2008 and realized that this is a very meaningful project to convey the message of peace and to connect people or with younger generation. So she applied for the project in the hope that it would become “a symbol of peace” for children and the tree planting took place on 21st March 2009.

The tree planting was carried out in the middle of the garden of the restaurant. There are many animals kept in the garden and it serves as a learning place of nature for

children from nearby elementary schools. This place is an excellent location for people of various generations to know about the persimmon tree since this is a busy place.

Mr. and Mrs. Manisera from Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji, who promote the Kaki Tree Project in Italy every year, also participated in the ceremony. Although there were only about ten children among participants, they did the drawing and wrote messages on the big table in the garden. All of them had an opportunity to put soil over the roots, wishing it to thrive.

A concert as well as other events around the tree are planned in June 2009.



Botanic garden next to S. Rocco Church

 Italy

 Gussago, BS

 21 Mar 2009



Mrs. Pieranna Venturell, mayor of the city of Gussago, signed a proposal for a public appeal for support for Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November 2008 and the city also supported a campaign “Future without nuclear weapons” from September 2007 until March 2008, which collected more than 60,000 signatures in Italy. The mayor serves as the chairperson of the “Council for peace and solidarity” of the city as well. The “Peace-Solidarity Conference” is engaged as the local government organization in activities to set the concept of good and evil solidly in people’s mind through a culture of peace in order to avoid the mistakes of the past. With such thoughts, people of the city of Gussago planted the “seedlings from the bomb survived persimmon tree” on 21st of March 2009 in the Botanical Garden next to San Rocco Church in the city, wishing these trees to become a symbol of peace and hope.

San Rocco church is located on top of a small hill in the center of the town. People can walk up to the church enjoying peace and a pleasant scenery and the view from the top of the hill is magnificent. This time unfortunately neither Mr. Ebinuma nor the executive committee members could attend the tree planting ceremony from Japan, however, Mr. Shouzo Tanaka, who kept and had taken a good care of five persimmon trees

for one year since the arrival of these trees a year ago and Mr. and Mrs. Manisera from Associazione culturale italo giapponese Fuji attended the ceremony. More than 50 children from local elementary and middle schools and their parents gathered to the trees in front of the church. Mr. Manisera introduced Mr. Ebinuma’s message in Italian and Mrs. Manisera introduced a message in Japanese as well. After an address made by mayor Venturell, children tied the Kaki Furoshiki to a pole and hoisted it up like a flag and all the participants followed the flag walking down to the planting site. When they planted the trees, they buried a small capsule that contained messages, too. All the children put soil over the roots with both hands and adults followed suit. Afterward, Mr. Tanaka explained how to grow persimmon tree and answered a few questions.

Prior to the tree planting, the city held a screening of a film and a study session on nuclear disarmament. There was also an exhibition called “Hiroshima,” which was held from 14th until 21st of March 2009. Meanwhile, the government is proceeding with preparations for review conference of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2010. From now on, the church caretaker will join with a volunteer group in taking care of the trees for children.

Cellatica Primary School



Italy



Cellatica, BS



21 Mar 2009



Monfalcone Rotary Club



Italy



Grado, GO



24 Mar 2009



Children Center



France



Bordeaux



Mar 2009

