

## ***AMDA High School Club in Otsuchi Members' Farewell Party***

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, AMDA held a farewell party for the graduating members of "AMDA High School Club in Otsuchi". During the party, certificate of appreciation was presented to respective members.

These students got together right after the March 11<sup>th</sup> Disaster at the evacuation center set up at Otsuchi High School premise where AMDA was conducting emergency medical relief activities. They helped the evacuees at the evacuation center, and afterwards, they established "AMDA High School Club in Otsuchi".

For two years, they helped AMDA's activities tirelessly. It was really heartwarming to see them volunteer for the people who went through so much hardship in Tohoku. They, too, had lost their families and friends in this disaster. AMDA staff members were very appreciative of their contribution, and expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to each member.



Two members from "AMDA High School Club in Otsuchi" visited AMDA HQs in Okayama in August 2012 for an exchange program with AMDA High School Club in Okayama.



"AMDA High School Club in Otsuchi" members graduating from their high school in March, 2013.

## ***Update on AMDA's International Scholarship***

AMDA has been awarding the scholarship to the high school students living in Tohoku region, where the life have been impacted by the March 11<sup>th</sup> Disasters. Each student receives 15,000 yen / month (180,000 yen/year) until she/he graduates high school.

In 2011, 84 students received this scholarship, and 101 students for 2012. We are happy to announce that 47 students graduated from their high schools in March, 2013 to make their new step forward. We are in the process of choosing more scholarship recipients for this year.

## ***Voices of the High School Scholarship Recipients***

### **My Dream**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for granting me the AMDA International Scholarship. When I heard that I was to receive this medical scholarship, I was really excited knowing that my dream may come true. At the time of application, I was picturing myself to become a physical therapist. However, my heart at the moment is toward becoming an acupuncturist. Becoming a physical therapist was my mother's dream long time ago. She has been telling me about this occupation, and I found it very interesting. However, because my parents run an acupuncture clinic, and adding the fact that my brother is currently going to acupuncture school, I am uncertain about which to choose from. Watching my parents treat their patients at their acupuncture clinic, and receiving treatment from family when I am not feeling well, certainly makes me want to become an acupuncturist in the future.

I spend a lot of time reading lots of books on both occupations, as both engage in people's health support, and will need high technical knowledge.

I am lucky to have another one and half years to decide. During the time, I'm sure there will be days when I feel down, but I know how to overcome the situation! To picture myself in becoming either physical therapist or acupuncturist, my dream job I still cannot decide yet. I will cherish this opportunity, will always be thankful for it, and will achieve my dream.

### **My future dream**

Becoming a medical nurse has been my dream. My mother is a nurse, and I have seen her work. In the future, I want to become a nurse with kind heart just like my mother.

There is another reason for choosing this future career. During the East Japan Great Disaster, I went through so many fearful moments. Through that experience, I realized that our daily lives can change in a blink of an eye, and that we need to stop taking things for granted. Looking back at that time, there could have been a life or two that I could have saved. Acquiring the knowledge and skill to save people's lives has been my priority.

When I graduate from high school, I would like to study nursing at a technical school, and achieve my dream to become a nurse. I am sure there will be so many things to challenge through. I am grateful for my mother whom I will be sharing the same occupational background in the future, for guiding me to achieve my goal.



### ***Scholarship Recipient Details as of March, 2013***

Below is the detail of AMDA International Scholarship recipients.

| <b>Future Occupation (Entire scholarship students) for 2013</b> |    |                                |    |                 |    |
|---|----|--------------------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| medical doctor  | 9  | health worker                  | 2  | care worker     | 3  |
| pharmacist  | 7  | clinical laboratory technician | 1  | nursing teacher | 2  |
| nurse   | 33 | radiation technologist         | 2  | other           | 26 |
| mid wife  | 1  | physical therapist             | 15 |                 |    |