



Voices of Tohoku Global Giving Update

In the past three months, Voices of Tohoku extended its outreach to local communities and academic world. In addition, a new project director was inaugurated. This report introduces the latest activities and the new VOT director, Ko Sakai.



March 4-6, Fukuoka.

Japan IsraAID Support Program BOD members – Professor Ito Takehiko and Inoue Takayo, as well as IsraAID Country Director, presented Voices of Tohoku (VOT) related research at the 5th World Congress of Asian Psychiatry. Senior UN and WHO personnel as well as psychiatrists, psychologies, social workers and medical doctors from Japan, Asia and around the world attended the 3 days congress. The presentation title was "Voice of Tohoku: A Narrative Approach to Mental Health by Expression of Experience".

URL of AFPA: http://afpa.asia URL of WCAP2015: http://www.wcap2015.org



March 7, Sendai.

JISP hosted a community event for survivors and disaster-supporters – "Voices from Tohoku". At the event, VOT material was introduced to the audience, alongside other archiving projects in Tohoku.





VOT new program director , Kou Sakai, introduced his previous work at the event and facilitated a discussion among the participants about archiving projects.

March 19, Tagajo-City

VOT Director, IsraAID Country Coordinator and other team members were invited by the local municipality to attend an open day at Tagajo city. The event included a guided tour at the tsunami hit area, temporary housing and new housing complexes built for the evacuees, as well as workshops. The invitation came as part of a relationship building process between JISP, Tagajo municipality and local residents.

April 5, Ishinomaki

VOT Director, IsraAID Country Director and Healing Japan Director visited VOT archive in Ishinomaki, located at the local museum of Newsee. The team met with Mr. Takeuchi, an avid VOT supporter, and the head of a local museum and a newspaper. Mr. Takeuchi updated the team about current development in the city of Ishinomaki and future activity of VOT was discussed.



Meet Kou Sakai, VOT Program Director.

Sakai studied film and art at a university in Tokyo. Following 3/11, he moved to the disaster area. Soon, Sakai began to document the disaster through the eyes of local people and together with a like-minded people they initiated a documentation project : "The Sound of Waves". The project culminated in 4 documentaries featuring personal stories and interviews of the survivors. His experience, sensitivity and communication skills are valuable to the Voices of Tohoku project.

The next report will detail further developments in the project,

Thank you for your great support !