Academy Camp

Annual Report
2013 - 2014
Dear Friends of Academy Camp,

For the past four summers and three winters, Academy Camp has brought wide opportunities for playing and learning in an extreme fashion to children living in Fukushima, thanks to all your generous support, vigor of the children themselves and their families, and hard work of our volunteer staff members.

It all started as a resort for children in Fukushima, a place associated with the nuclear power plant accident that began on March 11, 2011 with the Great East Japan Earthquake, where people continue to live with many different kinds of difficulties. But today, Academy Camp is more than a disaster-relief activity. It is a new "school of fun" for the children and surrounding young and adults, to learn how to apply scientific thinking to discovering and solving problems, and to do so with collaborative efforts among friends with different backgrounds. We need such a school because we need to live the difficult times together. And if we need to do it anyway, why not do it with fun?

In the past year, we had a fortunate encounter with "dragon boat", a relatively new water sport that has its roots in an ancient folk ritual in Asia. We have founded the first children's dragon boat team in Fukushima, based in Lake Inawashiro, where we continue to practice paddling, and at the same time, to deepen our knowledge on our bodies and minds through related studies of natural and social sciences, including dynamics, nutrition, international relations and community building. It is a perfect instance of learning with fun and experiences, which we will continue to explore as one of our major activities this year.

Thank you once again for all you have done for children in Fukushima and Academy Camp. Our camps are like a lab, in a sense that we continue to experiment for the future of learning for the children who will live our future. We are making our future together.

With gratitude,

Kenji Saito
Representative Director,
Academy Camp
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On November 2 and 3, 2013, we had a camp in Koriyama City, Fukushima, hosted by some of past participants of our camps and their families. A guest from Taiwan who had wanted to visit Fukushima (a YMCA volunteer who helped us in the Taiwan camp in August) and 14 staff members of Academy Camp, including 9 university students, went there to get welcomed by about 40 people including the children and their families, so that we could "spend wonderful two days" as we found written by the children on the blackboard when we entered the Japanese-style room in Koriyama Regional Job Training Center.

In this camp, our usual roles were reversed for two reasons: 1) we would like the juvenile participants of our camps to be the leaders of the next generation ("next leaders"), and wanted them to experience being on the operating side of a camp, and 2) we would like the parents of the children to participate in our activities. The children led us through the orientation session with self-introduction, ice-breaking and team-building activities, as our staff members would usually do in our camps. Then parents helped the children and us making udon noodle with tofu and vegetable chowder, a Japanese cuisine that differs in every region. The parents brought many kinds of local foods, too.

As a result, the banquet felt like a big family gathering, of which we have been very glad and very grateful.

At the same time, it was an occasion for us to witness part of difficult lives in Fukushima today, as we were told that vegetables and rice used in the cooking were sent from a kind farmer in Ishikawa prefecture to make sure that they were free of extra radioactivity from the ongoing nuclear accident.

On the second day, we conducted "Koriyama Digital Orienteering", an urban adventure using wireless devices, to explore Koriyama City, guided by the children. For many of them, Koriyama is their home town, but it turned out that they made many new discoveries about their old town through visitors' eyes. This was a practice for the children for their next challenge.

At a closing session of the camp, a junior-high school girl expressed her feeling about the radiation monitoring posts installed by the government we saw at parks. By looking at the displayed values on the posts, she often feels safe to play in the parks when the values are relatively low (which are relatively high compared with the rest of Japan). It is part of the unordinary lives that have been made ordinary to the children.
Next Leaders' Academy Camp - Making Cool Fukushima

On November 23 and 24, 2013, 10 children from Fukushima participated in our ideathon camp in Tokyo for designing smartphone applications to make their home towns in Fukushima better places to live in. Those children were high school, junior high school and elementary school students who have participated in our past camps, except one elementary school student who was new to Academy Camp.

On the first day, after bullet/express train ride from Fukushima to Tokyo, they started their discussion at the office of Mozilla Japan, a world-renowned open source software organization, and then visited Keio University's SFC (Shonan Fujisawa Campus) Open Research Forum to see research exhibition and to participate in the discussion session dedicated for them. They stayed in National Olympics Memorial Youth Center for the night. On the next day, they organized their ideas at co-working space CERO in Akihabara, with professional programmers and designers.

Through this camp, the children have come up with about 10 different proposals on smartphone applications that help making their home towns better places to live in: a virtual discussion space to bring together people's ideas on cool Fukushima, a map that accumulates quizzes on people's discoveries about their towns, local currency based on bringing up virtual characters, etc. We have been coordinating volunteer forces so that these applications will be realized, and the children will be involved in the implementation process.

One core idea that lies under those proposed software is that to make Fukushima cool, the children as the leaders of the next generations themselves need to be cool first. The concept was born on a discussion table at Keio SFC Open Research Forum, and was put forth by a junior high school girl at the end of the session. She said "Academy Camp is there so that we can make ourselves cooler. We should better continue to participate in the camps."
Academy Camp 2014 Winter - for mental and physical strength - was held from January 5 to 7 at National Bandai Youth Interchange House in Inawashiro, Fukushima prefecture, where the radiation level is much lower (below the level in Tokyo). 49 children, from first graders to a tenth grader (first year of high school), participated in the camp to have fun strengthening their mental and physical abilities and making new friends. This was our second camp on medicine, partially funded by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and donations from Asahi One-Beer Club and donors at GlobalGiving.

The program started with learning an effective way for hand washing, by visualizing the effects of hand washing with black light, before taking the first lunch. Then we played snowball fight according to an international rule (Koide-type), learnt RICE first-aid treatment (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation) for soft tissue injuries, learnt about calories and nutritious balance, performed basic core training and learnt how to strengthen various muscles and to stretch them. All but the snowball fight were taught by university-student staff members of the camp specialized in medical care, dietetics and sports. The snowball fight was supervised by Shonandai Fuyu-shogun club team members.

On the final day, we gave the children and the university students an opportunity to get trained to change the world; each participant could choose one topic they experienced in this camp to learn more about it, and explore ways to communicate what they learnt with friends and family members when they return. This ended with some beautiful results. One example is an alternative to RICE first-aid treatment mnemonic. Because it is in English, no one in the camp could actually remember what it meant. But a group of children came up with 4 A's (Ansei, Aishingu, Appaku, Ageru) in Japanese with the exact same meaning as RICE, which is probably new, and could potentially be used throughout Japanese schools and households, changing a small but an important part of the world around us.

We do not know what they did with the mnemonic yet (hopefully they will promote it), but we receive e-mail messages from the parents telling that the children have already begun applying the new knowledge they obtained during the camp to their daily lives, performing gymnastics balances, stretching their muscles in new ways and so on.
We held the third instance of a camp series named "Academy Camp on Medicine 2013", in which junior-high and high school students from Fukushima, together with university students from Tokyo metropolitan area, experience different aspects of medical studies. The one-night camp was held from February 22 to 23, 2014 in Ibaraki, partially funded by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) as part of promotion of science and technology communication. We stayed at Seizan Training Center.

During the two-day period, we had a variety of activities focusing on how to save our lives after big earthquakes. In the first session, we studied the mechanism of earthquakes, and discussed the risks in the first 72 hours of the disasters. In the second session, medical and paramedical students helped participants taking the vital signs of one another, and the participants made promises to protect their own bodies after next disasters. In the final session of the first day, the participants composed the choreography of the keywords they learned that day, so that the knowledge would firmly sit in their minds.

On the second day, the participants made graphs of their shifts of psychological states since the Great East Japan Earthquake to learn how to deal with potential psychological problems after next disasters. They understood that people's feelings differ, and so they should respect the feelings of others. Then some of the participants with a variety of backgrounds took roles as lecturers to talk and discuss about their special interests in small groups. In the end, all participants made three promises each on saving lives, and declared those promises to be witnessed by others.

This camp was an opportunity for all participants, including children from Fukushima, medical and paramedical students and people who have supported disaster-recovery, to look back the Great East Japan Earthquake and to be prepared in their daily lives for the next disasters. In addition, communicating with people of different ages and backgrounds seems to have helped the children to set the new goals in their daily lives and for the future.

To me, this was also an opportunity to look back my personal history since March 11, 2011, and to ponder over my specialty as a medical student and my own future. I feel now that my mission is to become like a bridge between ordinary citizens and medicine. I would like to connect what I have gained from this camp to the next occasions.
(On May 24-25, 2014, We held a camp at Lake Inawashiro, Fukushima, where the radiation level is normal, to paddle E-boats instructed by specialists and to learn Basic Life Support from medical and nursing students.)

It was my first time to participate in Academy Camp, and I feel that I myself learned a lot from it.

The program let us learn how to use an AED and do chest compression through role playing with set situations, and I am certain that everyone will be able to put what we have learned into practice whenever necessary. Also, since we were a group of people of different ages doing the same things together, I feel that I was in touch with different ways of thinking and different views, providing me with new discoveries and findings. I really feel that I learned a lot through these two days.

I have also empathized deeply with people not so far from me having been active in providing younger generations with learning experiences. I would like to work with them from now on, although I am afraid that my contributions may be small.

Well, I think I have said enough about learning. More than anything, I have enjoyed a lot for the whole two days! Especially the E-boats were fun. I was like addicted to paddling. It was quite a refreshment for myself, with vigorous children and powerful adults around me.

I am really grateful for the wonderful experiences! I hope that more people will know about this camp, and share the enjoyment with a large number of people together.
Academy Camp participated in Yokohama Dragon Boat Race using the weekend of June 7th and 8th. Those who participated in the race on the 8th were seven elementary to high school students from Fukushima riding dragon boats for the first time and thirteen adults who have been practicing dragon boats in Tokyo. There were also a mother who came from Fukushima to cheer for the team, some past university student leaders who came by, and Hashimoto-san from Tokyo Dragon Boat team who has always helped us. It was enjoyable with the crowd of people.

On the 7th, the day before the race, children from Fukushima came just to meet the heavy rain continued from the previous day in Tokyo. Their planned first training on the boat on a river was cancelled, and instead we talked about what dragon boats are and practiced paddling in a community center nearby. Paddling a dragon boat is mirror-wise opposite on the right and left sides of the boat. So we separated the team into two, and the right and left parts looked each other's forms and advised how they should match with the tempo. We discovered that singing "Rock My Soul", one of our camp songs, makes it easier for us to move with the tempo. We even tried with different accents on the rhythm. In the end of the day, we learned how to wear life-jackets, took a lecture on safety by our nursing staff, and were ready for the race next day.

On the 8th, the day of the race, we moved to Yokohama in the early morning, and practiced paddling on the boat in the bay for the first time. It was just some tens of minutes, but children could learn how it really feels to paddle in the water, and got motivated in the practice on land afterwards.

Then the race. In Yokohama Dragon Boat Race, each team tries twice, and they compete with the better time with others in order to move to the final round. Academy Camp recorded 1'56"17 and 1'55"05 in the about 250m course, even though it was our first participation in the race and our first challenge as a team. (We could not move to the final round, though.)

The children, after the race, said that they "want to win the next time." It looks as if the race this time set fire to their heart. We adults need to be eager to win as well, through practicing in Tokyo and Lake Inawashiro hereafter.
On the weekend of June 28-29, 2014, Academy Camp held our first dragon boat camp at Lake Inawashiro, with 24 elementary school, junior high and high school students in Fukushima.

On the first day, the weather was bad with strong wind and rain. We cancelled our training at Lake Inawashiro that day, and instead, we did many indoor activities such as practicing paddling, dodgebee (dodgeball with soft flying disc), core training, stretching and skipping ropes. Also, we did a little scientific thinking on how boats can be made to move fast using a simple knowledge of fluid mechanics while we wait on a bus.

On the second day, we caught a short period of a fine interval between rains in the morning, and put our two dragon boats on Lake Inawashiro to practice actual paddling. We experienced that the boats can move fast if everyone paddles at the same pace together. We stopped practicing as the rain started again, and we moved to Experiences and Interchange House of Inawashiro Town in the afternoon. There, we had a lecture by a member of Eyes, JAPAN, a venture company based in Aizu Wakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture, and a student from University of Aizu, on shooting pictures using drones. Catching a fine interval again, we had some moving pictures of ourselves taken from above, while we formed human letters "AC" for Academy Camp.

At the closing session, each group of us chose a word that represents the two-day experience and shouted it out: "cooperation!", "vigor!" and "(number) one!". Surely we paddled as one, and it was a team-building experience.

On weekends until the end of October, we continued to exercise paddling dragon boats at Lake Inawashiro, with our camp-member children and their parents. The exercises came with frequent barbecue opportunities with families that we also enjoyed very much. The weekly exercise was part of what we now call "Fukushima Dragon Boat Academy", the first registered dragon boat team in Fukushima founded by Academy Camp, whose main members are children in Fukushima. We see paddling boats as opportunities for both physical and mental exercises, and we are building a scientific methodology together for improving our skills for this relatively new sport.
Academy Camp 2014 Summer Term 1

In August, we held three camps for children living in Fukushima. The second one was held from August 10 to 14, 2014, in Tokyo, largely funded by GlobalGiving donors and Fukushima Kodomo Ryoku Project. Elementary and junior-high school students from Fukushima, plus students from Vietnam participated in the camp.

The following is a report by a high school student in Fukushima who had participated in our past camps. She participated in this camp as a public relations staff.

"Academy Camp 2014 Summer Term 1 for me was stimulating five days, not only with children from Fukushima but also with junior-high school students from Vietnam doing activities together. Vietnam and Japan are different in many ways. We use different languages, and more over, we are culturally different. That may have made both of us nervous at first, and we did not talk with each other much. But on the second day, as we played "sport tag" together, we made plans together, and we got closer in each group. We enjoyed a lot dancing in a Vietnamese way at the workshop hosted by the Vietnamese children. This direct encounter with the Vietnamese culture made such an impact on the Fukushima children's minds that many of them said "I want to go to Vietnam!!"

Other activities included learning about weather forecasting from Ms. Yoriko Kato and actually preparing a "seasonal topic" by ourselves, learning about interviewing and wonders of words from Mr. Jun Hori, and going out where we have wanted to visit in Tokyo to actually interview people on their ideas of cool adults as part of "digital orienteering". All were educational to me, but the one impressed me most was an a cappella workshop by "amoroso", a students' circle at Musashi University. We placed our arms around one another's shoulders and made our own choreography to sing "It's a small world" together. It was a moment in which all our minds became one, regardless of languages or cultures."
In August, we held three camps for children living in Fukushima. The last one was held from August 17 to 21, 2014, in Tokyo, largely funded by GlobalGiving donors and Fukushima Kodomo Ryoku Project. Elementary and junior-high school students from Fukushima participated in the camp. We also had some high school students from Fukushima as supporting staff members.

The following is a report by a high school student in Fukushima who had participated in our past camps. She participated in this camp as a public relations staff.

"The term 2 was educational five days. A large number of children participated in the camp for the first time, and it reminded me of my own experience of being nervous, worried and excited at the same time upon participating in Academy Camp for the first time. We studied joyfully with Game De Education (Note: a project by Future University Hakodate) where studying and gaming were mixed, sweated by dancing with W+I&S (Note: a students' circle at Keio University), made many bubbles with special liquid by Mr. Yazaki, and discussed with young government officials from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) about our closest society: schools. In "Us and the Earth" by Prof. Shinichi Takemura, we touched "Tangible Earth" to experience the environment of the Earth and big and small aspects of the world, which made me realize how small I am.

Many of us must agree that we enjoyed the workshop by 6-dim+, an improvisation group, the most. Through games in the workshop, we learned how and why we trust others. The live performance by 6-dim+ made even the one who was quiet and did not smile much open her mouth wide laughing. I thought how wonderful it was to laugh.

Both the terms 1 and 2 provided us with successive discoveries and surprises. Thank you very much indeed for letting me experience the wonderful things, brilliant smiles of children from my Fukushima, and kindness and warmness of university student leaders."
Voice of Participants

DEVELOPED POSITIVE ATTITUDES

"Now I want to give everything a try," says a junior-high school girl from Koriyama City, after participating in our camps in Taiwan, Tokyo and Inawashiro. She is not the only one who feels that they have developed positive attitudes through a variety of activities in our camps. Another girl from Koriyama, an elementary school student, says "I don't hesitate to challenge anything anymore." Indeed, in the camp to "create cool Fukushima" held in Tokyo, although she was the youngest participant, she did not hesitate to express her wonderful ideas against university students or adults.

BECAME BETTER COMMUNICATORS

"I'm getting better at finding the good in others," says another junior-high school girl from Koriyama, who has learned to view her friends and family from different angles. Communication and collaboration with others are just fun part of our activities, through which we all develop communication and team-building skills. A junior-high school girl from Iwaki City may have thought that she had a difficulty working with others, but now says "I'm getting better at communicating with people." A boy from Koriyama, a junior-high school student, tells us that he has come to appreciate all the things he had taken for granted in the past. He says "I've grown up to thank everything," because every encounter in the camps has been unique and precious.

GETTING READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

We have been doing all these because we would like to bring the power to change the world to children who must inherit this world where difficulties have been left. A high school girl from Koriyama tells that she has changed her viewpoints for thinking. She now wants to learn how to determine and publish correct information not only in Japan but in the whole world. She says "My new goal is to teach the world about today's Fukushima."

We need your help so that she can reach her goal. We need your help so that all children like her can reach their goals.
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<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>General incorporated association (of non-profit type)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of foundation</td>
<td>December 7, 2012 (registered date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative director</td>
<td>Kenji Saito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Secretariat</td>
<td>Daisuke Ogata</td>
</tr>
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<td>Board of directors</td>
<td>Daisuke Ogata, Masaki Minami, Shinichiro Kurosawa, Akira Nagao and Kenji Saito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comptroller</td>
<td>Takeo Ninomiya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core partners</td>
<td>- YMCA Kawasaki</td>
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<td>- Internet and Society Lab,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio University</td>
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<td>- Project YUI Consortium</td>
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Financial Statement

Academy Camp FY 2014
Statement of Net Assets

November 1, 2013 - October 31, 2014

(Unit : JPY)

I. General net assets
1. Ordinary increase/decrease
   1) Ordinary income
      Donations 9,692,572
      Participation fees 1,362,000
      Grants 3,661,516
      Miscellaneous revenues 79,982
      Total ordinary income 14,796,070
   2) Ordinary expenditure
      i) Operational expenses
         Monetary gift to lecturers 950,520
         Personnel 225,000
         Transportation 3,356,462
         Lodging 1,338,470
         Food 1,971,849
         Printing 90,912
         Equipments and expendables 672,803
         Postage 857,942
         Rent 539,646
         Facilities 582,303
         Membership fees 155,000
         Insurance 123,570
         Miscellaneous expenses 16,615
         Total operational expenses 10,881,092
   2) Ordinary expenditure
      ii) Administrative expenses
         House rent 652,020
         Utility 29,344
         Transportation 65,193
         Printing 28,750
         Equipments and expendables 184,731
         Postage 14,230
         Rent 101,722
         Taxes 50,998
         Facilities 8,250
         Membership fees 101,000
         Insurance 15,000
         Payment fees 53,113
         Miscellaneous expenses 26,493
         Total administrative expenses 1,330,844
         Total ordinary expenditure 12,211,936
         Increase/decrease 2,584,134
   2) Non-recurring income
      Total non-recurring income -
   2) Non-recurring expenditure
      Total non-recurring expenditure -
      Increase/decrease -
     
  II. Specified net assets
     Grants, etc. 3,942,000
     To general net assets 3,661,516
     Specified net assets increase/decrease 280,484
     General net assets at beginning of term 1,058,662
     General net assets at end of term 1,525,472

III. Assets at end of term
     2,435,138
Thank You
very much indeed!

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