

**Application made by Friends of El Sistema Japan to Global Giving
for Soma Children's Orchestra and Chorus Project in Soma, Fukushima**

1. Project: Soma Children's Orchestra and Chorus
2. Project period: 20 months (May 2013 – December 2014)
3. Requested amount: 13,975,500 Japanese Yen (including 10% recovery cost for Just Giving - Japan)
4. Background:

With its ambitious theme as music for social transformation, El Sistema was founded in Venezuela in 1975 based on the belief that every child can receive free music education in a group. The goal is to help children have hope and pride by nurturing the positive attitude towards their aims along with learning cooperation and discipline by themselves. This program has been successful in not only producing leading musicians, such as Gustavo Dudamel, Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, but also has protected children from crime and violence by providing them a positive environment for fostering personal and academic achievement. Indeed El Sistema has gained various positive external evaluations from organizations such as UNESCO and Inter-American Development Bank. As of April 2013, El Sistema has spread to more than 32 countries and regions in the world.

Friends of El Sistema Japan (FESJ) has launched the Soma Children's Orchestra & Chorus (SCCO) Project as the first El Sistema -inspired program in Japan. The SCCO project takes place in the city of Soma, one of the disaster areas of the East Japan Great Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011, and serves the area's children who have suffered traumatic stress caused by that great tragedy and the subsequent nuclear accident. City of Soma's education board operates the SCCO project with both technical and financial supports from FESJ, and it is a key part of the Soma City reconstruction plan. On that mission, FESJ is implementing the life skill education through music by instructing and engaging children in a classical orchestral and chorus music programs inspired by Venezuelan El Sistema's core values, such as teamwork, peer learning and joy.

The reason why the city of Soma has been chosen as its first project site in Japan is because the city has a firm commitment to psycho-social support and education to the children and the local government officials recognize that El Sistema-inspired program would have a great potential to heal not only the participating children but also all the Soma citizens to help their long reconstruction efforts ahead. Most importantly, there are a lot of passionate people from public and private domains who admire the spirit of El Sistema and believe in the power of music to transform the lives of children in Soma.

FESJ has supported Nakamura No.1 Primary School's String Band by bringing in a local violin teacher, and by purchasing and repairing musical instruments. At the end of July 2012, we provided a training program for the local music educators in Soma taught by instructors from El Sistema USA (Please see the details in English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEjsAWDuCKs>). Since September 2012, we have expanded our activities to other primary schools in the city in various forms such as chorus, brass band, violin class, drum and fife band, and general music class at school. The culmination was the joint concert, jointly organized by 155 El Sistema supported students of three primary schools on February 24th 2013, where around 500 local citizens including their family members seemed to get energized from children's performance (See the NHK WORLD coverage : <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/movie/feature201303151316.html>).

In future, we plan to organize a variety of music education activities for junior high school students as well. Hopefully, by the end of 2013, we aim at establishing the children's orchestra and chorus in which every child in the city can participate regardless of their economic and family status.

The Fukushima recovery period coincides with the formative years of these children. We will accompany the children in Soma to build a sustainable system rooted in local culture, cherishing local identities based on the love for one's hometown.

5. Project outline (only for the component to be funded through Global Giving)

With the financial support by Global Giving, we would like to implement the following activities towards the above-mentioned objective to establish and run SCCO.

- a) Necessary repairment of musical instruments (e.g. Re-papering fiddle bows and changing the strings) (on-going)
- b) Regular daily string group lessons provided by a local Strings Instructor together with school music teachers at two schools (Nakamura No.1. and Yawata Elementary Schools) (on-going)
- c) Regular bi-weekly weekend strings class, which will eventually be developed into the Children's orchestra, organized and supervised by Strings Advisor (new)
- d) Regular bi-weekly monitoring missions made by Project Monitoring Advisor (on-going)
- e) Ensuring to have a quality communication reporting in English for our oversea's donors including Global Giving (new)

6. Estimated budget (unit currency: yen)

Expenditure		Unit cost				Person	Day/Month		
1	Program	Musical instrument repairment	1,000,000					=	1,000,000
		Strings Advisor	50,000		x	1 x	40	=	2,000,000
		Strings Instructor (local)	182,000		x	1 x	20	=	3,640,000
		Program Monitoring Advisor	35,000		x	1 x	40	=	1,400,000
2	Transport	Shinkansen, bus (Tokyo - Soma)	23,000		x	3 x	40	=	2,760,000
3	Communication and reporting		30,000		x	1 x	25	=	750,000
4	Administration(10% of 1,2 and 3)							=	1,155,000
5	JG recovery cost(10% of the total)							=	1,270,500
	Total								13,975,500

7. About FESJ

In order to start this music education initiative aiming at restoring disadvantaged Japanese children's dignity and making a significant and sustaining impact on their lives, FESJ was established with various forms of support from inside and outside Japan on 23 March 2012 with its headquarters in Ginza, Cyuo-ku, Tokyo. FESJ has its original two associates as well as three board members while there are two internal auditors (lawyer and accountant). Please note that our balance sheet for 2012 is now available on our website (<http://www.elsistemajapan.org/elsistemajapan.html>), though but it is only in Japanese.

On 7th May, FESJ reached an official agreement with the City of Soma to put "The Fostering Zest for Living through Music Project" into practice and on 24th July, the Memorandum of Understanding with Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar, which has jurisdiction over El Sistema's activities in Venezuela, was officially signed at the Venezuelan Embassy to Japan in Tokyo.

6. Contact details:

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