

## High School students in Okayama visits Otsuchi, Iwate

### *Clean-up volunteer project*

In August 2012, two high school students from Okayama Koyo High School Interact Club members visited Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture to volunteer, and to exchange ideas with AMDA Otsuchi High School Club members. This project made possible thanks to the generous support from Okayama Seinan Rotary Club.

The escorting teacher of Okayama Koyo High School to this project commented later, "Both students received a huge impact from the disaster area. What they saw, and what they heard must have left a profound impression on them. After the visit to Otsuchi, their attitude changed in a good way."



### *Voices of the High School Students from Okayama*

First-year student (Female)

I visited Otsuchi, Iwate from August 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. My strongest memory is of cleaning up the classrooms of Otsuchi Junior High School. It was surprising how everything remained as is for over a year after the 311 disaster. We swept the floor, and put desks and chairs back into place. I was happy to witness how our work made difference. We also had barbecue with the local junior high school students. They are studying in a temporary school building. That itself must be really hard on them, but they were very cheerful and laughed a lot. It made me smile.

Joining this project, I will never forget what happened in Tohoku. I hope I can continue supporting what I can do.

First-year student (Female)

When I first arrived in Iwate Prefecture, my impression was maybe this area was not hit so badly by the 311 disaster. Once I stepped into the town of Otsuchi and seeing the loads of debris piled up high, and people still living in the prefabricated housings shocked me. I also participated in clean-up project at Otsuchi Junior High School during my visit,

and I was cleaning the teachers room. On the white board, the handwritten “March 11<sup>th</sup>” was still there, and that made me sad to remember the unfortunate natural disaster. I cleaned hard so that the school building that students in Otsuchi loved so much become as it used to be before the disaster. Four days was not enough for me, but we faced the reality of the disaster, that, earthquakes and tsunamis take away people’s lives. I strongly hope this will never happen again, but for now, I will keep praying that their life recovers quickly.

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

AMDA is awarding the scholarship to the high school students living in Tohoku region. Each student receives 15,000 yen / month (180,000 yen/year) with no repayment obligation until she/he graduates high school. Below is the current detail of the 30 recipients for the scholarship program 2012. In 2013, we will add 9 more students to this program. Please look for more updates on the next project report. AMDA will continue supporting high school students in Tohoku by awarding the scholarship.

<b>Future Occupation (new scholarship students)</b>		
Occupation	Kesen’numa High School	Shizugawa High School
medical doctor	1	
pharmacist	2	2
nurse	8	5
midwife	1	
health worker	1	
clinical laboratory technician	1	
radiation technologist	1	
physical therapist		2
care worker		2
other		4

<b>Future Occupation (Entire scholarship students) as of January 15, 2013</b>					
medical doctor	9	health worker	1	care worker	3
pharmacist	6	clinical laboratory technician	2	nursing teacher	1
nurse	30	radiation technologist	2	other	23
mid wife	1	physical therapist	14		