

Bringing *KESEN* Language of Tohoku to the World
Dr. Harutsugu YAMAURA
Finding Shelters and Homes for Abandoned Animals in
Tohoku
Ms. Elizabeth OLIVER

And other panelists gathered from Europe and Japan will send messages for Japan rebuilding its community especially after 3.11 earthquake and tsunami disaster.

on Sunday July3, 2011 at Italian Cultural Institute, Tokyo
Japan-Europe "Kizuna" Project - Embracing Solidarity and Diversity in Community

Mr. Harutsugu YAMAURA (Japan)

Medical Doctor from Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture

He obtained a doctor of medical sciences from the Tohoku University in 1966. He served as an associate professor of radiology at the Research Institute for Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Cancer at Tohoku University and later as director of a hospital in Miyagi Prefecture. He is the director of Yamaura Clinic, Ryugen Healthcare Corporation.

“To me, Kesen has the most beautiful language on earth”

Mr. Yamaura is well known as a developer of the Kesen language (dialect of the devastated Sanriku region in Tohoku), which he started to work on in 1974. He received the Iwate Prefecture Education Award in 1990 for promoting local culture. He translated the four Gospels of the New Testament directly from Greek into Kesen language and published them. They were recognized by Pope John Paul II for enhancing understanding of Christianity in Japan, and Yamaura had the honor of meeting the Pope to present them in 2004.

3,000 stocks of Gospels he has translated have gone under mud and rubbles, but later found almost untouched. Now they are known as Gospels baptized by Tsunami disaster.

Ms. Elizabeth OLIVER (UK/JAPAN)

Founder and Director of the Animal Refugee Kansai (ARK)

In accepting animals made homeless by the Tohoku-Pacific earthquake and tsunami, the organization draws on its experience of building an emergency shelter for 600 homeless pets and finding homes for them in the aftermath of the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995.

“Animals being left without food or water, to die of starvation and dehydration, is a man-made disaster. We may not have been able to save animals from the earthquake or the tsunami but we could have prevented them from dying like this.”

Ms. Oliver came to Japan from the UK as an English teacher and started to rescue homeless animals with friends. She established ARK in 1990. The objective of ARK is to form a network of people who love animals, share life with them and work actively to rescue them from suffering. The organization aims to establish animal welfare in Japan, to alleviate the unfavorable situation of animals, and to facilitate the enforcement of truly effective animal welfare laws. ARK also strives to find homes for unwanted pets. The group has approximately 30 staff members and receives support from volunteers. Since its foundation, it has found new homes for more than 2,700 dogs and 1,000 cats.

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Date & Time Sunday July 3rd, 2011 10:30 - 17:30

Free Followed by buffet reception

Venue Italian Cultural Institute, Tokyo (Kudan)

Language Japanese & English with simultaneous translation

Registration Send us an e-mail to oca@jpf.go.jp with your name and affiliation.
(200 seats)

Organizers Japan Foundation & EUNIC Japan (European Union National Institutes for Culture)

For more details: <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/intel/new/1106/06-02.html>

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