

Kizuna (Bond) Project

Volunteer Activity by 1000 American High School Students in Tohoku U.S. Visit by 1200 Japanese High School & College Students from Tohoku



The Japan Foundation conducts “Kizuna (bond) Project”, a youth exchange project between Japan and the U.S. as a part of programs to support Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In June and July 2012, 1000 American high school students in total from around the U.S. will go on a two-week study tour to Japan. During their stay, they are scheduled to visit the devastated Tohoku region, travel to Tokyo and Kansai areas, and visit Japanese host schools. They will experience the realities of ongoing reconstruction through volunteer works such as cleaning and tree planting, and exchanges with local residents. On the other hand, 1000 Japanese high school students from the disaster-affected areas will head for different destinations across the U.S. and participate in homestay and exchange programs to explain the current situation of reconstruction at their own communities. In addition, 200 Japanese college students from Tohoku will stay in the U.S. for six months and join internship programs. They will appeal Japan’s recovery to the U.S. people and foster international perspective. This project aims to deepen the U.S. citizens’ understanding of Japan’s reconstruction and strengthen outbound announcements. It also intends to cultivate future leaders who will take the initiative in advancing Japan’s reconstruction and Japan-U.S. exchanges.

1. Short Visit to Japan by 1000 American High School Students (14 Days)

The students will visit four devastated prefectures (Miyagi, Iwate, Fukushima, Ibaraki) to experience the current status of reconstruction in the areas. They will also engage in volunteer activities and participate in exchange programs, spanning from June 10 (Sun.) to 23 (Sat.), July 1 (Sun.) to 14 (Sat.) and July 8 (Sun.) to 21 (Sat.), 2012.

2. Short Visit to the U.S. by 1000 Japanese High School Students (15 Days)

The students will give some presentations on the current situation of the disaster-affected areas and promote understanding of Japan's recovery from the unprecedented disaster through homestay and exchanges with American high school students across the U.S.

3. Long-term Visit to the U.S. by 200 Japanese College Students (6 Months)

The students will give some presentations on the current situation of the disaster-affected areas through English language study courses and internship programs offered by corporations and organizations. This program aims to foster future leaders with international viewpoint who will take the initiative in advancing Japan's reconstruction and Japan-U.S. exchanges (Scheduled in September).

“Kizuna (Bond) Project”



“The Youth Exchange Project with Asia-Oceania and North America (Kizuna (bond) Project)” is a project which Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) has been promoting to contribute to “reconstruction open to the world” from the Great East Japan Earthquake through youth exchanges. Approximately 10,000 high school and college students from Asia-Oceania and North America will be invited within the period of a year (Short: 9750 people, Long: 250 people), and 1300 young people in the disaster-affected areas will be dispatched to North America (Short: 1100 high school students, Long: 200 undergraduates and graduate students). MOFA has been conducting this project to further understanding of Japan's recovery around the globe and send effective messages to overseas against harmful rumors through youth exchanges. The Japan-United State Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan) which was contributed the funds by MOFA, commissioned the implementation of the U.S. part of the Kizuna Project to the Japan Foundation.