



Japan for Sustainability announces call for student applicants for weeklong Learning Journey in Tohoku in August 2012 (a “Learn to Create in Tohoku” project)

Japan for Sustainability (Chief Executive Junko Eda) is putting out the call for students who wish to participate in a learning journey to Tohoku in August 20-26, 2012.

The Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, caused catastrophic damage in northeastern Japan, particularly in the three prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. One year later, rehabilitation and reconstruction work continues in the affected areas, but it is now clear that true recovery will take much longer than originally anticipated. During the recovery process, for years to come, it will be important for children to continue having hopes and dreams, for youth to acquire and apply leadership skills for the reconstruction, and for people to share what they learn with the world while improving the recovery processes in the Tohoku region.

Japan for Sustainability is a non-profit organization created in 2002 to disseminate information on developments and activities originating in Japan that lead toward sustainability. It has launched three "Learn to Create in Tohoku" projects with funds raised by Nipponkoa Insurance Co. (President/CEO Masaya Futamiya), which will take a deeper look at the current situation in Tohoku, to support children in fostering their hopes for the future, and to develop youth leadership for the recovery efforts.

One of these projects is a "Learning Journey in Tohoku," in which JFS invites six students from overseas and six local students to form a learning group to go through personal as well as collective transformational processes. The purposes of the learning journey are to support the personal development of students, to harvest learning gained through students' eyes and communicate to the world, and to offer new perspectives on how Tohoku can recover faster and more effectively. In our first learning journey, we will choose sites mostly in Miyagi prefecture, which is closest to the epicenter of the earthquake and has many coastal cities and villages that were the most devastated by the tsunamis.

The project aims to offer students both from Tohoku and other parts of the world a learning journey about the situation in the disaster-affected areas since the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, up to the present, while meeting in person and interviewing those who lived through the disaster and are working on the reconstruction.

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A facilitator experienced in the areas of systems thinking and learning organization will accompany the students, conducting dialogue along the way to draw out diverse points of view from participants and make their learning process a meaningful experience. At the end of the journey, participants will report on what they have learned during their time in the disaster areas, along with their hopes and dreams for creating a sustainable society.

Participating students will benefit from hands-on experiences through encounters with actual people and contexts they would not normally experience, diverse points of view within and outside of the learning group, and personal and group learning processes that allow them to explore their inner selves.

Additionally, the development of capacity for potential youth leaders will go a long way in designing more resilient social systems that will be needed for the recovery of Tohoku. JFS also hopes that learning harvested from the student experiences will provide important case studies for the world to be more resilient and sustainable. In turn, learning that occurs outside of Japan will give feedback and new perspectives to the Tohoku region and Japan.

Interested persons are encouraged to apply after reading the following information by submitting the application form and the other required documents to Japan for Sustainability (info@japanfs.org) no later than May 20, 2012 (in Japan). Results of the selection will be announced by the end of May. Successful applicants are expected to obtain a visa to Japan (if required) and travel on their own to the nearest international airport in their home country.

For inquiries:

Japan for Sustainability

<http://www.japanfs.org/en/>

1-12-5-138 Mita, Tama-ku, Kawasaki, Japan

E-mail: [info\[at\]japanfs.org](mailto:info@japanfs.org)

(when sending, please replace [at] with @ in the address)

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Japan for Sustainability Learning Journey in Tohoku (August 20 – 26, 2012) Application Instructions for Overseas Students

I. Itinerary

The program runs from Monday, August 20 to Sunday, August 26, 2012.

August 20 (Mon): Arrive in Tokyo, begin program (Tokyo)

August 21 (Tue): Tour quake-hit areas and reconstruction efforts (Miyagi)

August 22 (Wed): Continue tour (Miyagi)

August 23 (Thu): Continue tour (Miyagi)

August 24 (Fri): Review and prepare for debriefing session (Miyagi)

August 25 (Sat): Preparation/debriefing session (Tokyo)

August 26 (Sun): Program ends (Tokyo), depart from Tokyo.

II. Destinations of the Learning Journey

During the Learning Journey, we will visit coastal areas in the Tohoku region that suffered the greatest damage from the tsunami that followed the earthquake, focusing on sites in Miyagi Prefecture. We will meet with local people who experienced the disaster, and talk about their reconstruction efforts and the challenges they face. (Note that we will not be traveling in or close to any restricted areas, to avoid any risk of radiation.)

III. Requirements

Applicants must fulfill all of the following requirements:

A. Age

Applicants must currently be undergraduate/graduate students enrolled at a college, university or school of an equivalent level, and be 18 to 24 years of age.

B. Contribution to Society

Applicants should intend to positively participate in the program. Afterwards, they will be expected to engage in activities that contribute to the creation of a sustainable society using their experiences from the program.

C. Physical and Mental Condition

Applicants should be in good physical and mental health as well as have a cooperative attitude. They should also be able to work in a group in a disciplined manner while following the project program.

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D. Experience in Social Activities

Applicants will ideally have at least two years of experience in activities relating to the creation of a sustainable society. (Please provide descriptions on the application form.)

E. Communication and Writing Skills

Applicants are expected to be experienced in gathering information, able to deepen their understanding with other participants, and are required to write about their learning experience and hopes for the future. If you have published anything on the web, please include the title(s) and URL(s) on your application form.

F. Interest in and Understanding of Japan

Applicants should have an interest in and basic understanding of Japan.

G. English Proficiency

Applicants must be able to have a normal everyday conversation in English, engage in discussions, and write reports in English. For non-native English speakers, please provide your TOFEL score or an equivalent qualification to demonstrate your English language proficiency.

H. Participation in the Program

Participants must be able to participate in the entire scheduled program.

I. Japanese Visa

Please check with the relevant authorities to see if a short-term visa is required you're your stay in Japan (JFS will not arrange this). If a visa is required, please start the visa application process as soon as you receive the results of the application to participate in the program.

J. Scope of Responsibility in Case of Sickness, Accident, or Injury

Participants are responsible for arranging their own insurance to cover any sickness, accident, or injury, etc., while in Japan and traveling to and from Japan. During the program itself (from the start of group activity to the end) group insurance will be provided by Japan for Sustainability

K. Expenses and Services Provided by Japan for Sustainability

- Meals for any group activity during the program period
- Accommodation during the program period
- Transportation for group activities during the program
- Round-trip airline ticket (discount economy class) to and from the international airport nearest participant's home residence.

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Note: Participants are responsible for any personal expenses outside the project group activity (e.g., food/drink not part of group activity, telephone charges, cleaning, excess baggage charge, travel expense to the nearest international airport).

L. Behavior and Safe Conduct

During the program, participants are expected to carefully follow the instructions of group leaders. Participants are also expected to follow instructions, be safety-conscious, and be aware of the potential for more earthquake aftershocks in the affected region.

IV. Application Deadline

May 20, 2012 (in Japan)

V. Number of Student Participants

Six (6) persons from overseas and six (6) local students

VI. Application Instructions for Overseas Students

A. Documents to Be Submitted

1. Application form (1 copy)

Please download the word file [here](#) :

http://www.japanfs.org/tohoku/en/journey/files/JFSTOHOKU_ApplicationForm.doc

2. Essay

- a. Title: What I want to learn, think about, and communicate during the Learning Journey program
- b. Length: 500–600 words in English
- c. Format: Essay title and applicant's name must be clearly written. Document must be in .doc or .rtf file format.

3. Letter of recommendation from an academic/professional supervisor at your college/university or high school (no longer than 500 words, 1 copy).

Recommendations should include:

- Brief description in the context of their interaction with the applicant.
- Applicant's performance compared to other individuals in their class.
- Description of the most important piece of constructive feedback given the applicant, including the circumstances, and the applicant's response.
- Statements about the applicant's performance, potential, or personal qualities that would be helpful to the program.

B. The application form, essay, and letter of recommendation should be submitted to Japan for Sustainability (info@japanfs.org) via e-mail (with application form and the other

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required documents attached.)

C. Deadline: Sunday, May 20, 2012 (in Japan)

VII. Screening and Results

Japan for Sustainability will screen the applications. Applicants will be notified of the results via e-mail by May 31, 2012.

Note that any personal information provided to JFS by applicants will not be shared with any third party without prior consent from the person concerned.

For inquiries:

Japan for Sustainability

<http://www.japanfs.org/en/>

1-12-5-138 Mita, Tama-ku, Kawasaki, Japan

E-mail: info@japanfs.org

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Learning Journey in Tohoku

Application Form

Personal Information of Applicants

Please fill in the blanks and send the file (in .doc or .rtf format) along with your essay and letter of recommendation to Japan for Sustainability via e-mail (info@japanfs.org).

Name _____

Date of birth _____ Male/Female

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Country _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

What school do you attend?

Major or field of study

Experience in social activity described in III-D in "Application Instructions for Overseas Students"

Communication and writing skills

Past publication titles _____

Past publication links http:// _____

English proficiency (if a non-native speaker of English)

TOFEL Score () Other ()

I certify that the information given in this application is complete and accurate.

Signature _____

Date _____