

## **The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami: Supporting Schools**

### **Our Contribution**

As our contribution to support the people of Japan in the aftermath of the devastating Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March, we are inviting students and their teachers from 5 Senior High Schools in the affected area to spend a week in July in Cambridge as guests of the 2011 UK-Japan Young Scientist Workshop which we are organising in association with the University of Cambridge and the Babraham Institute.

We are in direct contact with three Senior High Schools in Sendai, one in Fukushima and are making contact through the Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education with one in Ibaraki. Our aim is to raise sufficient funds to pay for the air fares (£1500 per person purchased in Japan) and all costs in Cambridge including accommodation at Murray Edwards College and the Kaetsu Centre (£500 per person) to enable three students and a teacher from each school to attend. As Yoshiko Shimoyamada, Teacher Advisor from the Ibaraki Board of Education has written,

I am so encouraged with your idea about involving some students from the damaged area in your 2011 UK-Japan Young Scientist Workshop. In Tohoku area including Hitachi and Fukushima, too, many family are moving to more safe area and their children have to move to new schools without any tools for learning, such as textbooks. BOA are now concerned how each school accept such students who have evacuated and how students who evacuated keep learning without losing hope for future. If the Trust fix something which help them apply to such workshop in overseas, I am sure it will give them hope. Again, thank you for your concern and we really appreciate all the encouragement sent us from all over the world.

### **Our Request**

Our request is for support for students and teachers to participate in the 2011 UK-Japan Young Scientist Workshop in Cambridge. We have been very encouraged that on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Royal Society of Chemistry very generously committed £5000 in order to support two Japanese students (£2000 per person) and two UK students from disadvantaged backgrounds (£500 per person) to attend the Workshop. We also have grant proposals in with various charitable bodies, but we are still far short of our target of £40,000. If a lesser sum is eventually raised, we will be only able to invite fewer Tohoku schools. Students and teachers attending from other areas of Japan will pay their own way.

### **Why the 2011 UK-Japan Young Scientist Workshop?**

The 2011 UK-Japan Young Scientist Workshop will bring together post-16 school students and teachers from schools in Japan and the UK to live together for a week and work in small UK-Japanese teams with professional scientists and engineers in Cambridge. In this they “toe dip” cutting edge scientific research and application in ways which challenge them to think for themselves, and at the end of the week to give presentations of their achievements before an invited audience.

These Workshops which we have run in Britain and in Japan over a number of years under the patronage of Lord Jenkin of Roding, have immense impact on the students involved, and have recognised in our gaining the Japan Society Award for 2007. They not only transform student attitudes to science through their own achievements, but they also open up to them their own futures as global citizens. Living and working together they come to understand and value each other and form lasting international friendships.

A report of the 2010 Workshop, the first we had conducted in Cambridge, gives a fuller picture of what is entailed. The Workshop was also covered in the national press in Japan (Asahi Shimbun, 5 Sept 10).

Plans are well in hand for the 2011 Workshop for the week of 24-30 July hosted at Murray Edwards College and the Kaetsu Centre with projects teams working in laboratories across Cambridge. As last year, Hitachi, Toshiba and Mitsubishi will be involved, and projects are also being organised in the Cavendish, in Chemistry, with the Institute of Astronomy, as well as in biosciences at Babraham, and possibly also on primate behaviour.

Our aim is to enable Tohoku students and their schools to see their future with hope in the face of the horrific experiences which must live with them daily.

**If you would like to consider donating, have contacts who might consider donating, or just wish to learn more, please do feel free to contact me at Clifton Scientific Trust**

Clifton Scientific Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales no 1086933, 49 Northumberland Road, Bristol BS6 7BA, [eric.albone@clifton-scientific.org](mailto:eric.albone@clifton-scientific.org).

Thank you so much



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