



YOUNG LEADERS TOUR OF JAPAN 2017 PHOTO EXHIBITION

An experiential learning opportunity led by the HKU Department of Japanese Studies saw ten students travel to northeast Japan's Miyagi Prefecture in March 2017 to witness the devastation caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and ongoing efforts to rebuild the area. The five-day Young Leaders Tour of Japan was initiated by the Japanese Studies Programme Director, Dr Janet Borland, with the aim of encouraging students and future leaders to think about global issues such as natural disaster recovery and corporate social responsibility.

The Young Leaders Tour involved visits to several revitalization projects in Miyagi, including MORIUMIUS, a residential eco-activity centre for children located in the town of Ogatsu which was deeply affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Opened in 2015 in a renovated primary school building, MORIUMIUS promotes the importance of sustainability and provides a model for regional revitalization in Japan. Students also spent time at the Akiu Winery established by an architect who gave up his career following the earthquake to open Miyagi's only winery as a means of revitalizing the community and bringing more tourists to the area, as well as at the Michisaki hydroponic farming corporation which grows vegetables on fields previously inundated by the 2011 tsunami.

The Tour was supported by Mitsubishi Corporation. Students visited the company's offices in Sendai and Tokyo to learn about its involvement in reconstruction efforts in Miyagi and its corporate social responsibility initiatives, particularly in the areas of volunteer work and sustainability.

Ten HKU students majoring in Japanese Studies joined the Young Leaders Tour of Japan 2017 and each contributed a photograph to the exhibition:

Ms Cheung Yee Jing – Ms Chin Yi Man – Ms Sarah Chu – Mr Ho Shiu Fung – Ms Lai Chi Ling – Mr Lau Chun Ho – Ms Li, Candace Cheuk Yu – Ms Gloria Liu – Mr Wong Ki Sing – Ms Yuen Fung Ting