

# TIAS STUDY TOURS : Positive Legacy in TOHOKU Disaster-affected Areas via Olympic-Paralympic Education and Field Observation

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### Introduction

- ❑ The TIAS Study Tour to the TOHOKU region was initiated in June 2016, with the 1<sup>st</sup> batch students.
- ❑ TIAS students have visited the TOHOKU areas which were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.
- ❑ The program was created upon the request of University of Tsukuba alumni, currently a local high-school teacher in Rikuzentakata city, and who asked TIAS to implement Olympic/Paralympic education for his school students.
- ❑ The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (or the Tokyo 2020 Games) are also ('less') known as the "Recovery Olympic and Paralympic Games" from the perspective of the 3.11 earthquake.
- ❑ Thus, it was decided to conduct a study tour not only keeping in mind the Tokyo 2020 legacy but also as a great opportunity for the TIAS students to learn about the current status of the "Recovery Olympics/Paralympics" in the local context.
- ❑ The purpose of the tour was "thinking about contribution to reconstruction through the Olympics/Paralympics and Sports".
- ❑ TIAS students have implemented Olympic/Paralympic education (also learnt as part of their course work in the TIAS Master's degree program; <http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/>) in the local high school.
- ❑ They also participated in the local tour with an English guide and met residents of the Rikuzentakata city ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rikuzentakata,\\_Iwate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rikuzentakata,_Iwate)) in Iwate Prefecture and Iitate village ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iitate,\\_Fukushima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iitate,_Fukushima)) in Fukushima Prefecture.
- ❑ The tour has been set as one of the TIAS annual plans and conducted once a year since 2016.
- ❑ By 2020, a total of 54 TIAS students have participated in the study tour. (<http://tias.tsukuba.ac.jp/external-activities/study-tours/>)

### Pictorial Representation of the Activities/Learnings

**TIAS Study Tour**

Learn about Reality of Reconstruction and Japanese Culture and Local Contexts

Reconstruction x Tokyo 2020 Games

Deepen Understanding

Application

Reconsider about Social Contribution through Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games

Utilization

Future Career and Global Innovation as Sport Leaders

Activities: Communication with Local Residents, Tour, Discussion Forum, Iitate village, Rikuzentakata city, Homestay, OVEP Implementation, Workshop & Emergency Cooking, Olympic & Paralympic Education, Simulated Experiences in Emergency Case.

Photos at Iitate-mura, Fukushima-ken, Sep. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Photos at Naraha Junior High School, Fukushima-ken, Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup>

2016.7.31 Sankei Shinbun

2016.7.1 Tokai Shinpou

2017.11.27 Sankei Shinbun

2018.7.8 Fukushima Shinpou

Takahashi M and Rakwal R (2019). Envisioning the Tokyo 2020 Games as the "Recovery Olympics" through the TIAS Study Tour to Iitate Village and Rikuzentakata City. SOPSJ, 4:273-279. // 「オリンピックと聖火」特別講義レポートが届きました！2020年10月15日 ; <https://education.tokyo2020.org/jp/news/20201015-01.html?fbclid=IwAR19p0lyokvzrqhTrvEAQ00E-eS851KQRj7gaOD7QizvTb3tcGMPChg>

"As a part of TIAS legacy, it is very important for us to be the storyteller of truth and to be a leader who has the strong perspective for addressing to the problems in the world as same as the case in Fukushima prefecture. Furthermore, I reconfirmed the necessity of education to provide the chance to children and youth to learn the real situation in Iitate village and other disaster areas. Because the children and youth in the new generation is our hope to renovate society and to promote human well-being" (STUDENT X)

### Participating Members (TIAS Students) Impression

**2019:** "I could not really observe the role of sports in the affected area as much as I imagined I would. In Iitate Village, they will host athletes from Laos in the Olympics. Some new stadiums and gymnasiums are being/have been built in Iitate and Rikuzentakata. Also, Fukushima will be part of the torch relay. But, when asking the citizens of those places, they themselves cannot really see the relevance of sport and the Olympic Games to the recovery of the disaster-affected area. Unfortunately, I also could not really see any big impact, in a real and tangible way, of the Olympic Games for the reconstruction" (Student C); During OVEP class in the high school in Rikuzentakata, students gave very positive response when asked if they enjoy playing sports which was to my surprise. This shows that sports activities can be a good platform to deliver the message and value to the young generations" (Student E); "The people etiquettes and attitude are positive and inspiring younger generations and myself to 'Never Give Up'" (Student F) / **2020: Student B:** "The school tour was an eye-opener for me who have learnt about Fukushima nuclear disaster, Tsunami and other natural disasters happening in Japan while in my country and didn't understand what it could be like for people who experienced it. It was worthwhile to come to Japan and experience a typhoon and multiple earthquakes for the first time in my life. However, visiting an area where the aftermath of disasters is still felt to date, was a fulfilling experience for me. I could only hope that Tokyo 2020 organizers and IOC do fulfil their promise made during the bid for hosting Tokyo 2020 and make Tokyo 2020 true recovery games".

**'It is important for students, sports professionals/leaders in the world to learn and think at the disaster area sites & expect them to report their experiences/impressions in their home country'**