June 2023 • Issue 15

THE ASIA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND



ACEF News letter



↑ Scene from the BDP speech competition held on June 13th, 2023.

Foreword

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 *The PDF version of this newsletter is available on our hp.
 URL https://acef.or.jp/mail_mag_2023june/
 - *English version available on the homepage!

Thank you for your continuous support for the ACEF mail news! We are happy to update you about our activities in Japan and Bangladesh. Today, we hope to share with you 10 articles on our recent activities/projects and upcoming events, along with updates on what is currently happening in Bangladesh articles on our recent activities/projects and upcoming events, along with updates on what is currently happening in Bangladesh.

Study Tour Working Group Noriko Inoue

"Since the founding of ACEF, it is amazing that there have been a total of 45 study tours over the course of 32 years. When the actual tour was canceled due to SARS, floods and terrors, alternate events were hosted such as a work and study tour in Japan at the Asia Institute, or study tour with Bangaldeshis in Japan at the National Women's Education Center. Recently, there have been more events such as the study tour seminars focusing on experiencing the Bangladeshi culture, or ones with guest speakers from professionals who work in Bangladesh. The number of activities easily exceeds 50 times.

There is no doubt that going to Bangladesh is a great opportunity, but even those who have participated in events other than the study tours say that their perspectives changed and there was change in the direction of their thoughts and ideas. Bangladesh has been experiencing rapid development recently, but still it is hard to imagine the educational environments of children who live in the rural areas or the urban slums. We visit Bangladesh, not to see the poverty situation, but rather to see and learn the richness of the people's hearts and to redetermine our own lives. I am looking forward to having more people join the study tour." (Noriko Inoue, board member)



ACEF Community Riichiro Oda

ACEF's Vision and Mission

"Here I would like to introduce you to the difference between *mission* and *vision* in organisation management, in the context of international organisations and NGOs. There are multitudes of organisations that work to better the education or social work in the developing countries, and the *mission* is what states the unique commitment of each organisation. At ACEF there are the visions "to fulfil a calling to live in solidarity with others, ACEF seeks to work in partnership with the peoples of Asia", "to provide educational opportunities for growth for younger generations so that they will be equipped to build a world where people of different cultures and ethnicities can respect each other.", and that "ACEF is committed to connecting the peoples of Japan and Bangladesh by creating spaces where each can learn from each other and experience mutual growth.". As we can see, there are many words that represent "togetherness", and it is important to think how the interdependence between the organisation and society can create synergy and find value together.

Based on the missions which are rather ambiguous, the vision expresses the future aspirations on specific issues of the organisation. The vision is like an imagery that we have on the future sceneries of school, families, and areas. ACEF envisions to "create a society where people can share in the joy of living together knowing that the dignity of each person will be respected.".

This is still quite ambiguous when put into spoken words. In order to further apply this vision, we must look at the reality, now, in order to experience dignity or the joy of living in the society we can imagine what the future would be like, and what kind of difference you want to make through ACEF. By painting out the vision, speaking out loud and listening to one another, organisations are energised." (Riichiro Oda, board of trustees)

Information on Crowdfunding

[Crowdfunding to Encourage ACEF Youths' activities] This year ACEF will hold an internship program at BDP as the first attempt as well as the study tour. To encourage youths to engage in further international exchange and cooperation, ACEF Youth will start a crowdfunding campaign to support those programs. Please stay tuned for more information! Thank you for your support.

. . .

<Campaign :7/5 (wed.)~8/3 (thu.)> 1 First goal 300,000 yen (breakdown)

Study Tour 4%・Intern aid 5% 189,000 yen (13,500 yen x 14 ppl.) Return gifts・postage (20% of donated amount) 61,000 yen いっしょプラン (For Good's support fees) 50,000 yen

We want to intern at BDP schools! We want to join the Study Tour!



THE BIG ISSUE



Big Issue Vol. 456 and Panasonic Home Page

ACEF's interview was published on Big Issue Vol. 456 (issued June 1), and Panasonic Group Corporate Citizenship Activities' home page! Mr. Oda, ACEF's previous director and Mr. Kawami, ACEF's previous vice-chairman, spoke about ACEF's endeavors in strengthening the organizational foundation during 2020-21.

Panasonic URL

https://holdings.panasonic/jp/corporate/sustaina bility/citizenship/pnsf/report/acef-or.html

ACEF Youth event

The event "Let's learn about Bangladesh & mini Bangla lesson" hosted on Saturday, June 3 was a success! We learned about the food culture and traditional clothes together through online discussions. Also, ACEF's partner, Ms. Yuko Fukushima taught simple greetings to phrases practical for daily use in Bangla. It was a very enjoyable time. Thank you for your support and for joining us!



Event rep

ICU service learning event

レグラデシュで子どもの教育支援に 30 年

現地 NGO と新たな関係性をつくる

On May 30th, the Handicrafts seminar was held 4

at Seabury Chapel in ICU. So many students joined us, and we learned about the Bangladeshi culture from the handicrafts. The discussions were lively and we all enjoyed bengal tea together too!

In the following week, on June 6th, Dignity Cafe was hosted at the Wisteria Hall in Momi dormitory at ICU. We learned about "dignity" which ACEF values. More specifically, there were group work discussions about "what is dignity?" or "how can we protect one another's dignity?"





BDP speech competition

On June 13th, BDP held a speech

competition, which was on air via YouTube. 5 students from BDP presented their book reports on the work "障子をあけてみよ 外はひろいぞ 豊田佐吉ものがた り (open the door, outside is wide- story of Sakichi Toyoda)", translated into Bangla. The students compared their lives to the one of Sakichi, growing up in a poor village, and relentlessly inventing machinery that helps people around the world. The students' confidence and speeches were very impressive. The YouTube archive is available to everyone, so please take a look if you missed it! URL↓

https://www.youtube.com/live/k9PuxAVg3wM?feature=share



Introducing new staff: Naomi Tamanuki

"I have been in charge of administration at the secretariat since May 2023. Although we face many challenges in this world, I would like to be a support for the children in Bangladesh to flourish through necessary education, and for the people in the younger generations in Japan to become global leaders, both through the activities of ACEF. I look forward to working with our members and volunteers to establish valuable activities and increase awareness of our activities." (Tamanuki)

BDP magazine: May 2023 issued (translated by Moeko Ishii)

BDP began the issue of their magazine to share more about their activities with the world. The next issue is planned to be in June. This month's magazine is available in Japanese as well! We hope to share about the situation at BDP, and am hoping for you to feel more connected with the staff and students at BDP. Please check the HP for the PDF file.

▶ PDF is available on our HP: <u>https://acef.or.jp/mail-magazine/</u>



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Information on payment system change and request to resubscribe to GOEN!

Along with the change in our membership management system, we are changing the membership payment system from "Syncable" to "GOEN". The new payment system "GOEN" is directly linked to the membership system. Thus this change will allow us to reach out to our supporters even more efficiently and without any fallouts.

For the current members who are subscribed to Syncable, we ask you to re-subscribe to GOEN. Please refer to the website for detailed instructions \downarrow

https://acef.or.jp/news/re-entry-and-cancel/

Please also unsubscribe from Syncable from here \downarrow

https://help.syncable.biz/hc/ja/articles/115003542393

We deeply apologize for the inconvenience. Please let the ACEF office know if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding and your support!

Messages from ICU 18h Service Learning students

"This program put me in a position to act voluntarily and make decisions myself. We tried to come up with many ideas together, but it surprisingly took a lot of time to decide on what to actually do. At the actual event, we presented about ACEF and Bangladesh, and were astounded by how sincere the participants were while we presented. It was encouraging to see them working together to think about "cooperation" and I think it was a very fun time. This Service Learning program gave me not just an opportunity to think about supporting developing countries, but made me think about how I can interact with other countries. Also, I learned that I will be able to expand the range of my activities through taking initiative and act voluntarily. I hope to continue working with ACEF, to do crowdfunding and work to help build libraries in BDP schools!" (Yuto Onagi, year 1)

"During the event preparation, I was unsure if I could prepare the documents and slides on time. Also, since the topic was international cooperation, which is a rather complex theme, I was extremely careful of choosing the suitable words and phrases. At the actual event, there were more participants than I expected, and it was difficult to manage the time, but I think it was a success and I am satisfied with how it turned out. Through ACEF's activities, especially through the online interview with BDP and BDP's handicraft teacher, I realized that my definition of "normal" is very different from others. Moreover, I realized that the difference is even bigger between different countries such as Japan and Bangladesh, and felt the difficulties of "international cooperation". I want to remember that many perspectives exist in the world, as I further my studies at the university. I hope to continue thinking and actively interact with various perspectives." (Eri Ito, year I)



"When we decided to host the Dignity Cafe, we started at the beginning of learning about dignity. We were all nervous if we could learn and prepare enough to host this event, but with the help of Mr. Jeffrey and others, I am happy to report that it was a success. We were not able to promote enough before the event so there were less participants than expected, but it turned out to be a very cozy atmosphere to have discussions. Through this SL program, I was able to learn how to prepare and host an event, and learn about dignity myself. I want to continue thinking about dignity, and reflect what I learned in my own activities. (Minagi Tsushi, year 2)

"We hosted Dignity cafe as a part of our service learning program at ACEF. We were worried if we could learn enough about 'dignity' to explain it in an understandable way to the participants of the event. We prepared by reading about it, and sharing about our friends to process and understand it in my own words. On the day of the event, there were less people than expected, perhaps it was the bad weather, so we were a little nervous. However, this allowed us to have a rich discussion. I learned that there are very many preparations necessary for hosting an event. I want to continue the study of 'dignity' as a part of my lifetime learning, and hope to host the second dignity cafe." (Rei Negishi, year 2)





← Dignity Cafe at Wisteria Hall in Momi dormitory

Call for donation: Youth Education at ACEF

One of ACEF's goals this year is to focus on supporting Youth Education/activities. We have supported the connection building between the children in Bangladesh and youths in Japan through our study tours and various activities. Now as we face the rapid globalization of the world, we ask for your support and donations for the youths in Japan and Bangladesh to experience and learn how we can "live together". (this donation is not a part of the summer 2023 crowdfunding project) The current activities of ACEF Youth are...

- crowdfunding
- event organization
- handicrafts and bazaar
- SNS and PR

Click here : <u>https://acef.or.jp/news/supportyouth/</u>



· acef youth

ACEF YOUTH: fifth meeting



What is ACEF Youth? \rightarrow At ACEF, many youths from a wide age range of youths are participating in their field of interest. For example education, development, resolving poverty, etc.. ACEF Youth is a group consisting of such members. (insert photo) At ACEF Youth, everyone's passion and skills are used, whether it is updating social media, working with handicrafts from Bangladesh, etc.. If you are interested in taking part at ACEF, please feel free to contact us in the email below!

email:public@acef.or.jp



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