



## Rethinking Peace and Environment Through Bottle Caps Collection

Three years ago, Meiji Pharmaceutical University Co-op started collecting bottle caps. The initial purposes were: 1) to raise awareness about environmental issues among co-op members by separating caps from plastic bottles; and 2) to get people interested in peace activities by counting caps collected and informing sale proceeds raised for polio vaccine.

At the beginning, however, the program didn't go well for a number of reasons. The collection of bottle caps was not conducted regularly and the co-op members were not informed of the number of caps collected.

In order to solve this problems, the Student Committee decided to recruit

students as volunteers. A project team was formed.

As the result, for August 2010 – April 2011 period, the program succeeded in collecting 46,720 caps weighed as much as 116.8 kg. The caps were sent to a non-profit organization, Cap No Chokinbako Suishin Network, then washed and sorted in a facility for the physically handicapped.

Afterward, the caps were sold to a recycling company for 10 yen per 400 caps. The proceeds worth 58 vaccines went to charities for polio.

You might wonder how to encourage co-op members to separate caps. The answer lies in *communication*. A flyer displaying the journey of caps from the hand of consumers



Bottle Cap Collection Box

to polio charities is displayed at the collection box. Co-op members also learn that for every 360 caps collected, a child will be given polio vaccine.\*

**Maki Kihara**, a third-year student of Meiji Pharmaceutical University

### Mori No Gakko

Juon Network was established after NFUCA built temporary student dormitories from wood thinned from forests at the time of Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995. Its activities are aimed at connecting urban areas to

farming, mountain and fishing villages.

Mori No Gakko (means "Fun Forest School") was started from a volunteer work of helping local people and students in Tokushima and Hyogo to thin and trim the forests. Now, Mori No Gakko

are conducted in 13 prefectures.

If you are interested in Juon Network activities, please visit <http://juon.univcoop.or.jp/>



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### Did you know?

Bottle caps are made from polypropylene, while most plastic bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). The melting point difference can be a big issue when they are processed through the whole recycling system. If they don't mix together, the resulting plastic will be useless for manufacturing.

## NFUCA Relief Fund

### Bank Account No.

Resona Bank  
No. 3267738  
(regular savings acc.)  
Account Holder  
Daigaku Seikyō Shinsai  
Gienkin (*in katakana*)

or

### Japan Post Bank

No. 00150-1-485211  
Account Holder  
Zenkoku Daigaku Seikyō  
Higashi Nihon Daishinsai  
Shinsai Gienkin (*in katakana*)

### If you would like to make a donation from outside Japan...

Since international remittance to our bank account requires a considerable amount of fee, you may opt to channel your support through international organizations such as Red Cross. However, if you still want to make your donation to NFUCA Relief Fund, please contact us directly.

*"It's comforting to know that other people care about me."*

## NFUCA Relief Fund for Students Afflicted by Disaster

For years, NFUCA has been offering condolence money for students who lost their parents. After the earthquake and tsunami struck on March 11<sup>th</sup>, a lot of students and university buildings suffered direct damages from the disaster. Students were not only suffering from the lost of one or both parents, but also from the lost of houses.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, NFUCA started to raise funds for condolence

money to be donated to co-op members whose house is completely destroyed. The fund-raising takes place in university co-op stores. Individuals and business partners are participating as well by directly transferring their donation to our bank account.

As of June, the total donation collected was 38,816,146 yen. A part of the donation went directly towards 86 students

who lost one or both parents and 731 students who lost their houses.

We strongly hope that our contribution will help students afflicted by the disaster to continue their study.

You can be a part of our program to support students by participating in NFUCA Relief Fund.\*

**Univ. Co-op Editorial Team**

## Messages From Students

### **Student A, whose house is completely destroyed**

Thanks to assistance from university and university co-op, I am able to continue my study.

I will not forget the chance given and the feeling of gratitude for being able to continue my study. I would like to be useful for the community in the future to return the favor.

### **Student B, who lost his father**

When I almost get faint hearted, it's comforting to know that other people care about me. I know that I cannot change what has happened, so now I want to sort things out in the mind and live a new challenging life.

I'm waiting for the day when we can smile again.

### **Student C, who lost her mother**

I am puzzled at how severe the condition in disaster areas is. I would like to remind you that reconstruction efforts in disaster areas will take years, not just days or months.

For students seriously afflicted by disaster, please do not give up your study for the future.\*

## NFUCA Volunteer Work Weekend

After the Golden Week Volunteer program ended, Volunteer Work Weekend was started in May. Every Friday night, around 35 volunteers depart from Tokyo, arrive at the disaster area on Saturday morning and commit their volunteer

time until Sunday night.

Three months have passed since the fateful earthquake and tsunami struck. The removal of sludge from roadside ditches—which are clogged with mud and debris—remains as an important job.\*



Volunteers are working with local people to clean the ditches

## Creating A Co-op Store that Reflects Co-op Identity: Story from Kinjo Gakuin University Co-op

Kinjo Gakuin University was established in 1949 as a women's private college in Nagoya. 95% of its students are commuting from home. On the other hand, Kinjo Gakuin University Co-op was established in October 2002 and was in full operation since April 2003. The number of members are 5,200 people with 2 full-time staff and 35 part-time staff.

We recognized the need to create a co-op store that reflects co-op identity in

with recommendation from senior students on when to use and the history of the merchandise are displayed.

At the stationery corner, cards explaining the context when a certain stationery product will be useful are displayed. This helps the new students in selecting the appropriate stationery for them.

At the new term corner, drawing materials, braille boards and other specific

products are displayed along with comments from senior students on how and when they were actually being used in class.

Creating a co-op store that reflects co-op identity



Snack corner

Kinjo Gakuin University since other non-coop stores also exist within the campus.

To welcome new students, co-op staff and student committee members worked together to set up four areas (corners) inside the co-op store.

At the snack corner, cards suggesting when to consume and by whom are displayed. This is a step forward than merely stating, "Hey, this snack is yummy!"

At the university merchandise corner, cards

requires cooperation between co-op staff and student committee. The cooperation was made possible by the relationship of mutual trust, that was built through everyday interactions.

The corners were set up with the hope that students who come to the store will find a lot of things to ponder and discuss, thus enjoy the store they actually own.\*

**Eri Yano**, a third-year student of Kinjo Gakuin University



University merchandise corner, where some erasers are displayed



Stationery corner



New term corner

**Eri Yano, Student Committee member**

*"We want the students to feel that this store is really a store they own."*



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## Study Trip to Farms in Biratori, Hokkaido

On May 21-22, I participated in a study tour to Biratori, Hokkaido. Biratori is an agricultural town located in Saru District.

The study tour consisted of rice planting, exchange party with farmers and tomato harvesting. Around 30 university co-op staff, students and foreign students joined the study tour.

Farmers in Biratori produce Nanatsuboshi rice, which is served in university co-op cafeterias throughout Japan. Every year, around 6,000 tons of rice are consumed in university co-op cafeterias.

Before the start of rice planting, we had a discussion with the farmers about Nanatsuboshi and agriculture in Biratori. We also had our lunch from boxed lunches (*bento*) containing tasty rice and side dishes which were grown and produced locally.



“Hands-on” rice planting at Biratori, Hokkaido

After lunch, we changed clothes and moved to the rice planting site by bus. There we all took our shoes off and began to plant seedlings. The rice planting work finished one hour later.

Such hands-on experience helped connecting us—the consumers—to producers. A foreign student confessed that eating rice is a luxury in his country, so he felt happy being able to eat rice everyday in Japan. A farmer said that he wanted to produce more tasty rice so

people can eat them. He also said that his point of view broadened after joined the exchange party.

As for me, I felt a deep feeling of gratitude to the farmers and Tokyo Business Association for letting me participate in this event. From now on, everytime I have a meal, I will think about those who grew food we eat.\*

**Yukari Saito**, a fourth-year student of Otaru University of Commerce

## Life Stage, the Monthly Magazine of Kyoto University Co-op



Life Stage (*Raifu Suteeji* in katakana) is a monthly magazine of Kyoto University Co-op.

Kyoto University Co-op publishes 8,000 copies of each issue and distributes these free in canteens and co-op stores located in Kyoto University campuses.

It contains messages from the Board of Directors, information for students and news from the university. What’s cool is that the coverage, editing, planning, sentence polishing and layout process are done by students. We meet once a week at the editorial meeting to produce

carefully thought-out articles while keeping in mind that students should enjoy our publications.

We will continue to transmit co-op related information from the eyes of students.\*

**Toru Kobayashi**, Chief Editor of Life Stage