



September 8, 2011

Dear IFUW Colleagues,

On the 11th of September 2011, all the people in Japan will come together to remember and mark the six-month anniversary of the disaster, which took the lives of thousands and destroyed the basic infrastructure of the north-eastern part of the country. Not surprisingly, the recovery, although underway, has not yet reached a point where people can find comfort and safety in their daily lives. Many people cannot be guaranteed a secure future at the moment, since their loss continues to be too serious and far-reaching in its impact.

As I reported to you earlier, to meet the needs of the victims and of those suffering, JAUIW launched a two-tier project: short-term relief and long-term aid. To support the short-term relief project, JAUIW allocated a million yen from its general budget for the immediate needs of people impacted by the disaster. The thanks and gratitude received from communities benefiting from this emergency financial aid confirm that the JAUIW support meant something special for them.

The long-term project will be mainly in the form of scholarship aid, and this is what I would like to tell you about today. In June we established a special ad-hoc committee to study in detail the type of scholarship fund we should launch and how we could practically manage it. Having surveyed and assessed cases needing aid, we decided to focus our scholarship programme on students in senior high schools, who had either lost their parents in the disaster or lost those responsible for supporting them financially. Pupils attending schools below the level of junior high are part of our compulsory educational system, but those in senior high school have no stable guarantee of financial support.

Having calculated the expenses needed for schooling and living expenses, we decided to fund ten students for the three years of senior high school. If they wish to continue into higher education, JAUIW will continue to support them for another two-year period. If any of them choose not to continue, JAUIW may use those funds to support one or two additional students. None of the recipients of these scholarships will be required to repay the money.

The publicity for the scholarship and nomination of candidates will be made by the local Educational Commission of Miyagi Prefecture and that of the municipal government, although

the final screening will be carried under the responsibility of the Special Ad-hoc Committee of JAUW. We decided to open the opportunity to both sexes in order not to discriminate, but girl students will be given priority.

The project will run for six years, with a budget of 5 million yen or USD 65,000. JAUW has already collected close to 3 million yen from our JAUW members as well as from IFUW members abroad who have generously joined us to help victims. The remaining expenses will be covered by ongoing donations, as well as from our general budget, several charity concerts and bazaars we are going to organize. Individual members and NFAs who wish to help can still contribute via the IFUW website – <http://www.ifuw.org/japan/>. The contributions from IFUW members thus will have a long-lasting impact, helping to ensure a future education for these young people who have suffered from the recent experiences.

Finally, closing my report about our project, I would like to remind you once again that how much we have appreciated and have been encouraged by your support both spiritually and financially. The strong feeling and assurance that we are solidly united and supported by many people throughout the world have actually made us feel that we are not standing alone. Thank you, indeed, and God bless you all.

Reiko Aoki, for the Japanese Association of University Women