



Rotary International Zones 24-32

Beyond Borders



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Rotary International Zones 24 & 32 Special Announcement

Dear Rotary Friends,

Following please find a more comprehensive summary of the status of Rotary leaders, students and program participants in Japan. All information is as received at Rotary headquarters as of 11:20 AM CDT on 15 March 2011.

ROTARY SENIOR LEADERS

President-nominee Sakuji Tanaka was at a Lisbon initial convention site visit when the earthquake hit, and he has reported that his family members are safe.

Director Masaomi Kondo's home is in the Osaka area, far from the site of the major damage and thus he is as well as can be expected under these circumstances.

Director Masahiro Kuroda lives in the city of Hachinohe, which is located just north of Sendai (the center of major destruction). We received confirmation yesterday from Dir. Kuroda that he and his family are fine, and he is back to work providing medical care to those in greatest need.

Trustee Kaz Ozawa lives in Yokosuka, an area south of Tokyo, and he is well and integrally involved in the recovery efforts of the Japanese government.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

At the time of the incident, there were approximately 150 Youth Exchange students in Japan. Numbers are approximate, as we do not have complete reporting from Japanese districts on current exchanges.

Yoshihiro Sekiba, the Youth Exchange Committee member from Japan, has confirmed that all students in affected areas survived the earthquake and tsunami. Students have been evacuated from the areas with potential nuclear radiation risks, with the exception of three who will be driven to a train station at 7:00 AM local time today, where they will then travel by train to the airport for flights home.

In affected districts where chairs could not be reached, Rotarian Sekiba was able to locate all of the students through other district leaders and host club contacts.

The District 2530 Youth Exchange Chair is missing.

All students have the option of going home, or remaining in Japan, based on the preference of the students and their parents. For students who were living in the affected areas and wish to continue their exchange year, Japanese Rotarians will attempt to find other placements for them.

Twenty students have already elected to return home. We anticipate that this number will increase, as districts report their early returns to RI.

The Youth Exchange Committee, and leaders of regional Youth Exchange groups, have been actively involved in working to get students out of the country and assist with communications.

ROTARY PEACE CENTERS

The Rotary Peace Center at International Christian University in Tokyo is currently on mid-semester break and classes are not scheduled to

resume until 9 April 2011.

There are currently 8 peace fellows out of the country on break. Only one of these peace fellows is planning to return to Japan in time for the resumption of the semester.

There are currently 10 peace fellows residing in dormitories on the ICU campus. They are all accounted for and fine. 3 of these peace fellows have arranged travel to depart Japan within the week, and we continue to communicate with the other 7 regarding their plans.

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

There are currently 4 scholars in Tokyo and 1 scholar in Kyoto. They are currently deciding if they wish to depart Japan and return home or change their country of study.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAMS

There is 1 GSE team currently in Japan, in District 2680 - Hyogo. All of the team's members are accounted for and fine. The team is scheduled to depart Japan on 22 March 2011.

There are 4 GSE teams scheduled to travel to Japan between now and the end of April 2011, with two of the teams to be hosted by districts impacted significantly by the tsunami (District 2520 - Iwate and Miyagi, and District 2820 - Ibaraki). All of them have deferred their travel to Japan.

JAPANESE ROTARIANS

Unfortunately, it may be some time before we receive full information on all Rotarians and their families in affected areas. Further information will be forthcoming when available.

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