

# YOUNG LEADERS TOUR OF JAPAN 2018 PHOTO EXHIBITION



An experiential learning opportunity led by the HKU Department of Japanese Studies saw ten students travel to northeast Japan's Miyagi Prefecture in March 2018 to witness the devastation caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and ongoing efforts to rebuild the area. The seven-day Young Leaders Tour of Japan was initiated by Dr Janet Borland with the aim of encouraging students and future leaders to think about global issues such as natural disaster recovery, disaster preparedness and corporate social responsibility.

The Young Leaders Tour involved visits to several revitalization projects in Miyagi, including MORIUMIUS, a residential eco-activity centre for children located in the town of Ogatsu which was deeply affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Opened in 2015 in a renovated primary school building, MORIUMIUS promotes the importance of sustainability and provides a model for regional revitalization in Japan. Students also spent time at the Akiu Winery established by an architect who gave up his career following the earthquake to open Miyagi's only winery as a means of revitalizing the community and bringing more tourists to the area, as well as the GRA Strawberry Farm which uses sophisticated technology to cultivate premium fruit and exports to places including Hong Kong. In Tokyo, students visited the Ikebukuro Life Safety Training Center to learn about earthquake and fire safety, as well as first aid.

The Tour was supported by Mitsubishi Corporation. Students visited the company's offices in Sendai and Tokyo to learn about its involvement in reconstruction efforts in Miyagi and its corporate social responsibility initiatives, particularly in the areas of volunteer work and sustainability.

Ten HKU students majoring in Japanese Studies joined the Young Leaders Tour of Japan 2018 and each contributed a photograph to the exhibition:

Ms Lam Sik Chi – Ms Lam Ke Er – Ms Lam Po Yan – Ms Lau Satomi – Mr Cheung King Ho –  
Ms Lui Wing Yin – Mr Lo Tsz Long – Ms Lam Cheuk Yung – Ms Tse Yui Tung – Ms Chung Ka Po