

Project “HUMANBAND on Route 3.11”

With the tragic events following March 11th 2011, this is a project founded by a doctor and clinical philosopher Dr. Masaki Kamei. Over 500,000 volunteers will join hands together and photographed on the paths of over 500km where the tsunami devastated Northeastern Japan, from southern Aomori prefecture to northern Chiba prefecture. Journalist Mitsuko Shimomura will be in charge of Fukushima prefecture. Fukushima is a place where Mitsuko Shimomura's ancestors come from, and is a place at the core of her heart.

2012・3・11 At sunrise.

Gather to Fukushima!

Let our prayers be heard!

HUMANBAND on Route 3.11.

March 11th, 2012 is one year since the Great Eastern Earthquake. Something has to be done. This tragedy must not be forgotten and repeated. In total, over 500,000 people will join hands together across the distance of over 500 km where the devastating tsunami struck Japan. Let us face the rising sun and join hands and hands together, offer our prayers in silence. And let us sing the song of “Furusato” – the well-known song about the love for our homeland. We will promise anew to step forward. The joining hands will be photographed by over 50,000 volunteer photographers and connected into one photograph. Each person will be planting a flower seed in hopes to leave a path of optimism. This sensational event will be an even stronger trigger for each person to play a part in the revival and reconstruction of Japan, by creating human connections and

human bonds. Each individual as a “point” may not be able to exhibit much strength but by connecting the “points” into a “line,” the “lines” can turn into a “surface” and amass great strengths. With this joint strength, together we will be able to make the impossible possible. And let us deliver a strong message to Japan and to the world: A promise of lessons to be learned. A message and prayer for life, human connections and human bonds.

In Fukushima, where the tragic nuclear disaster in addition to the earthquake and tsunami happened, we aim to make this event an annual one and to perhaps make it known as the modern famous route of Fukushima, and perhaps even a source of tourism in the coming future.

Details of the project:

- ① At sunrise on March 11th, volunteers will join hand and hand together in Fukushima where multiple tragedies struck one year ago affecting many. Well will join hands for 33 seconds (3 x 11). During this 33 seconds, looking at the sunrise, each will offer silent prayers; prayers for the deceased to rest in peace, prayers of being thankful to be alive, and to thank for the support from Japan and around the world we received. A prayer that will be in each one of our hearts. The participants will be wearing a special sach and two types of pins, to symbolize the prayers and thoughts that each individual holds.
- ② After the prayers, for 30 minutes, the volunteer photographers will be taking pictures of each individuals joining hands.
- ③ A joint chorus of the song “Furusato” (homeland) will be sung.
- ④ Each will plant a flower seed leaving a path of optimism.
- ⑤ These pictures will be connected into one piece – the world’s longest commemorative photograph.

(Written Jan 23rd, 2012)