



*Dialogue*  
Creating the Next 60 Years

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**Project Report**

July 14th-17th, 2014

Continuing & Supporting Dialogues :  
Fieldtrip to Shinchi-machi, Fukushima and the Exhibition at ICU Festival  
—A Report on 60th Anniversary Activities 2014 by ACT—  
(with English Summary)



**60th Anniversary Project**  
**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**



# Dialogue

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The importance of “dialogues” in university education has ever been increasing since 2011 Disasters in Tohoku. We need dialogues between people in affected areas and students in Tokyo; between students and people around them who are obliterating the disasters; between academic disciplines; between students and teachers. The activity reported below is an attempt to realize all these “dialogues” at once.

Two teachers from ACT (Actions of Concerned Teachers, a voluntary network of ICU teachers concerned with 3.11 and its educational significance) and four students of the student circle Learn to Change (originally Ganbarou Tohoku & Nippon, founded in 2011, reorganized and renamed as ICU for 311 in 2012, to be renamed again) conducted a fieldtrip to Shinchi-machi, Fukushima on July 14-17, 2014. The group also had a dialogic exhibition of the research results and the sales of handicrafts made by women in Shinchi-machi at ICU Festival in October 25-26. Since its first visit to the town in 2012, the student circle has exhibited and sold handicrafts at ICU Festival for three consecutive years.



Shinchi-machi is a small town (populated by approx. 8,000) on the Pacific Ocean at the northern end of Fukushima, formerly known for agriculture, fishery and ocean-related tourism. 50 km away from Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant, it has been suffering the aftermath of five disasters since March 11, 2011: earthquakes, tsunami, small amount of radiation, rumors about “radiation contamination” of its natural products, and little coverage by mass media. The group’s visit to the town this year aimed at the comparative studies between the research results of 2012 and the latest data.



Participants: Etsuko Kato (Instructor, Faculty, Anthropology), Mutsuko Murakami (Semi-retired Faculty and Journalist, Service Learning), Subaru Noda (Senior Student, Education), Manami Ucniyama (Senior Student, Literature),

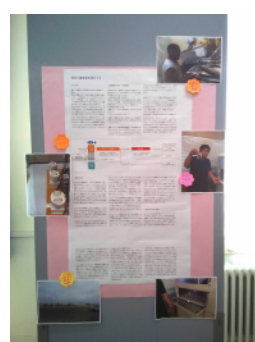
Mana Kobayashi (Senior Student, Linguistics), Yuki Kurisu (Junior Student, Media, Culture & Communication).

## 1. Outline of the Fieldtrip

On the first day the group visited a local primary school to interview Vice President about how the disasters changed children's daily life. That night the group stayed at a temporary housing. On the second day the group interviewed an apple farmer, whose sales had not fully recovered yet due to the customers' fear of radiation. The group also listened to a local storyteller who told a tsunami story based on the experiences of three fishermen. Then the group visited Soma Futaba Port, to observe its radiation monitoring system run by Fishermen's Union. On the third day the group interviewed owners of a local produce market and a fishery market, to find the longer-term damage on fishery than on agriculture. It then visited a rice farmer, who expressed stronger opposition to nuclear power plant than two years ago. The group also toured around the town with the guide of local government worker, who showed newly constructed residential areas and a new monument that mourned the victims of tsunami.

## 2. Outline of the "Dialogic Exhibition" at ICU Festival

At ICU Festival the group exhibited wall-presentation on the complex and continuing sufferings of the townspeople throughout the past two years, in four main sections: "School & Local Government", "Housing", "Fishery" and "Agriculture". It also sold handicrafts made by women in the temporary housing of Shinchi-machi. The students attended the exhibition on shift, to have dialogues with visitors, and to encourage them to post their comments on the presentations. They also offered "café space", where visitors can sit at the table for conversation, for reading disaster-related books and local newspapers, or simply for thinking. The group received a number of comments of encouragement and gratitude from visitors, especially on their persisting efforts to bring the voices of people from an affected area to the people in Tokyo through their own eyes, ears and feet.



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## 3. Appendix: Seeking for A Dialogue with Overseas

Mutsuko Murakami published an article in New Straits Times, a mainstream Malaysian online newspaper, on August 6, 2014, based on her research at Shinchi-machi:

<http://www.nst.com.my/node/21698>

### Students Report

[http://subsite.icu.ac.jp/anniv60/en/events/2014/0714students\\_report.pdf](http://subsite.icu.ac.jp/anniv60/en/events/2014/0714students_report.pdf)