

# Planting The Seeds Of Symbiosis In The Hearts Of Young Children

## A Children's Forest – The Green Wave For The Recovery Of The Tohoku Region

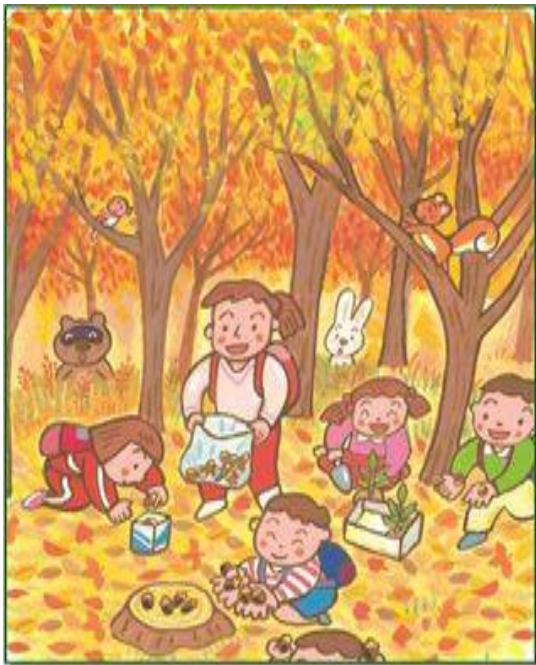
Acorns as a way to link the hearts of preschoolers.



Network For The Promotion Of A Children's Forest  
is a Japanese non-profit organization

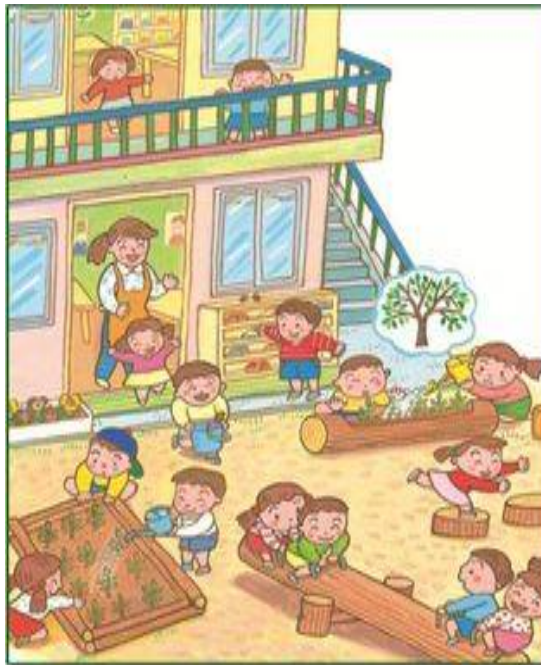
# What is the "A Children's Forest campaign"?

## First year



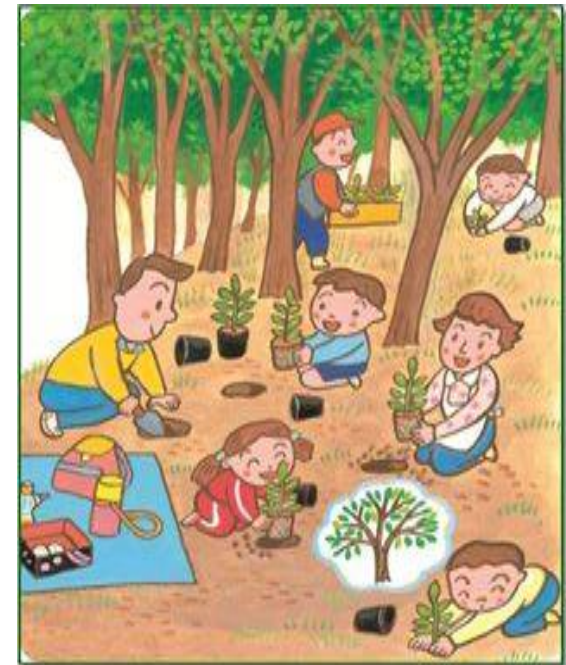
Children collect  
acorns and plant  
them

## During the Second year



They care for  
the seedlings

## Third year



They plant the young  
trees in the woods  
and other places

## The Three fundamentals of this campaign

- 1.It is destined to preschool age children, not elementary schools.
- 2.All the activities are held at kindergartens and nursery schools .
- 3.Everything is held over a three-year period.



## Photographs of our activities



## Why “A children’s forest campaign” and “A children’s forest-The green wave for the Tohoku region”?

Nowadays we live in an information technology age and many IT tools such as social networks are readily available even to small children.

As a result , it is becoming more and more difficult for small children to tell the difference between the virtual world and the real world.

We have felt it necessary to help the children acquire and cultivate a sense for life through activities in a natural environment. Now we also see our efforts to help children as a means of helping the areas of Tohoku that were damaged in the great 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

That is how the Green wave for Tohoku was born.



# A Children's Forest—The Green Wave For The Recovery Of The Tohoku Region.



● Fall of 2012, the children in Tohoku picked acorns in the quake-hit areas and sent them to preschools throughout Japan.



● 2013, the children all over Japan plant the acorns and grow the seedlings.



● Spring of 2014, Preschools throughout Japan will send the young oak trees back to the quake-hit areas of Tohoku to be planted.

# The "Green wave for Tohoku Reconstruction" has these three purposes!

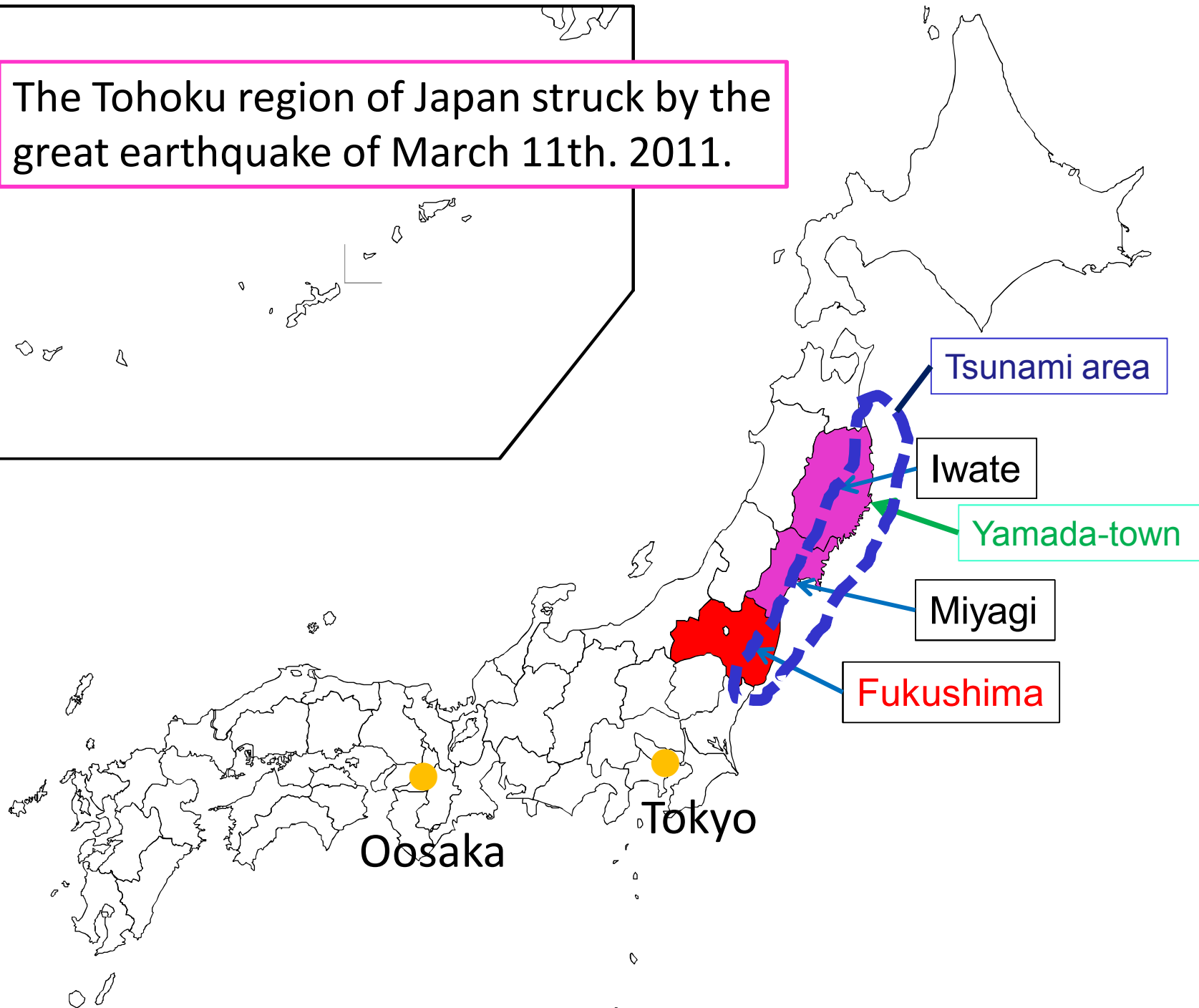
<「東北復興GW」活動趣旨>

Foster  
symbiosis

Restore  
biodiversity

Connect children all  
over the world with  
an environmental  
activity

The Tohoku region of Japan struck by the great earthquake of March 11th. 2011.





## Activities in Tohoku "Green Wave"

Three nursery schools in Yamada town Iwate prefecture





## The report on 11th March from a preschool

Those three nursery schools were hit by the earthquake and Tsunami on March 11th .

The central area of Yamada-town was struck by the big Tsunami. There were also fires caused by the big earthquake on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

There were heaps of debris all over the town. The tsunami reached our nursery school. I had never thought it would be possible because our nursery school is located on a hill far from the sea.

Children were taking a nap when the earthquake hit on that day. I made them take their clothes and be ready to take shelter.

A Tsunami alert was issued after a while. I doubted the wave would reach us but as a precaution, I decided to make the children take shelter.





# Photographs of Yamada-daiichi nursery school,

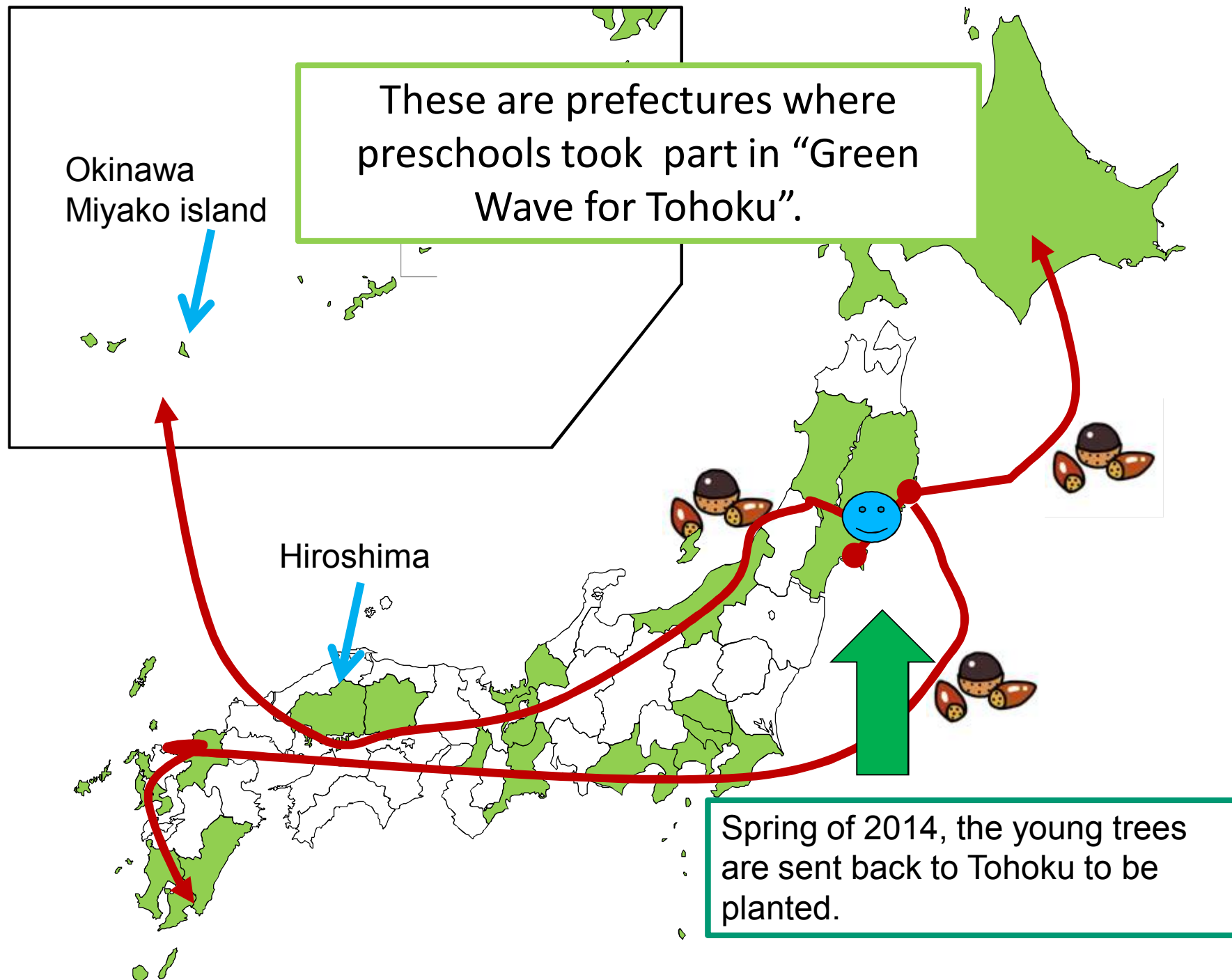


After the earthquake but  
before the Tsunami.



The tsunami came.  
It was a narrow escape!





# The "Reconstruction of Tohoku" Example case 1

●, The head teacher in Minori-aijen, a preschool in Hiroshima. Wrote in December 2012.

Children love acorns .They sing about acorns and play with them. Very often, in the fall, we see children making trains and other toys with acorns.

This year they received 10 very precious acorns from children in Tohoku. They listened to the stories about those acorns and thought about the children who were victims of the tsunami.

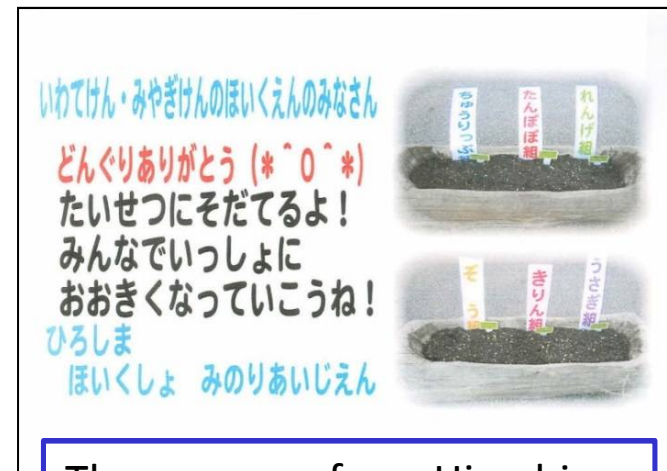
They planted those acorns with great care.

I'm sure that our children as well as our teachers learned many important things from that experience.

I am also confident that great friendship can make acorns and children grow.



We seed acorns in a planter



The message from Hiroshima children to Tohoku children.



## The "Reconstruction of Tohoku" Example case 2

The report from the head teacher of Hanazono-kindergaten in Okinawa(Miyako island) in February 2013.

I have great news to announce!!.

This is amazing: The acorns have sprouted.

I was afraid that the hot Okinawa weather would be bad for the acorns, but they sprouted.!

Our children are delighted to see the new plants and greet them every day with words like "Hello" and "Welcome"



The acorns have sprouted.

# Concluding note

Seeds of symbiosis in the minds of young children

High educational value

Education of sustainable development.



LOHAS club of Japan