

Online Seminar on Climate Change

Inspired by Our Faiths and Spiritualities to Move Forward with Climate Action

Session 2: Case Studies of Activities on Climate Change Issues

~Promoting Religious Spiritualities

# WCRP FOREST OF INTEGRATED LIFE PROJECT BASED ON RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITIES

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# RELIGIONS FOR PEACE JAPAN



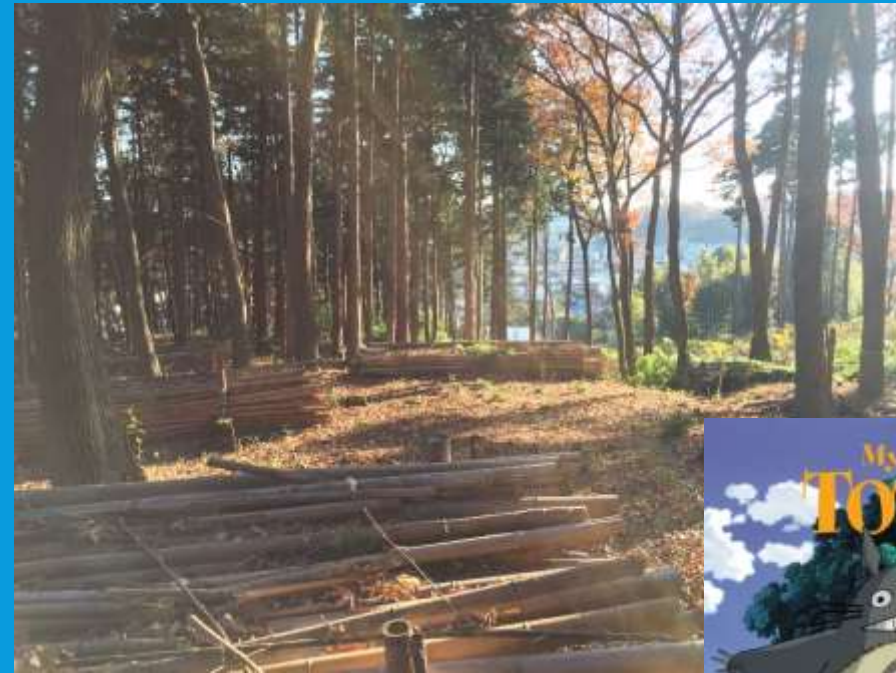
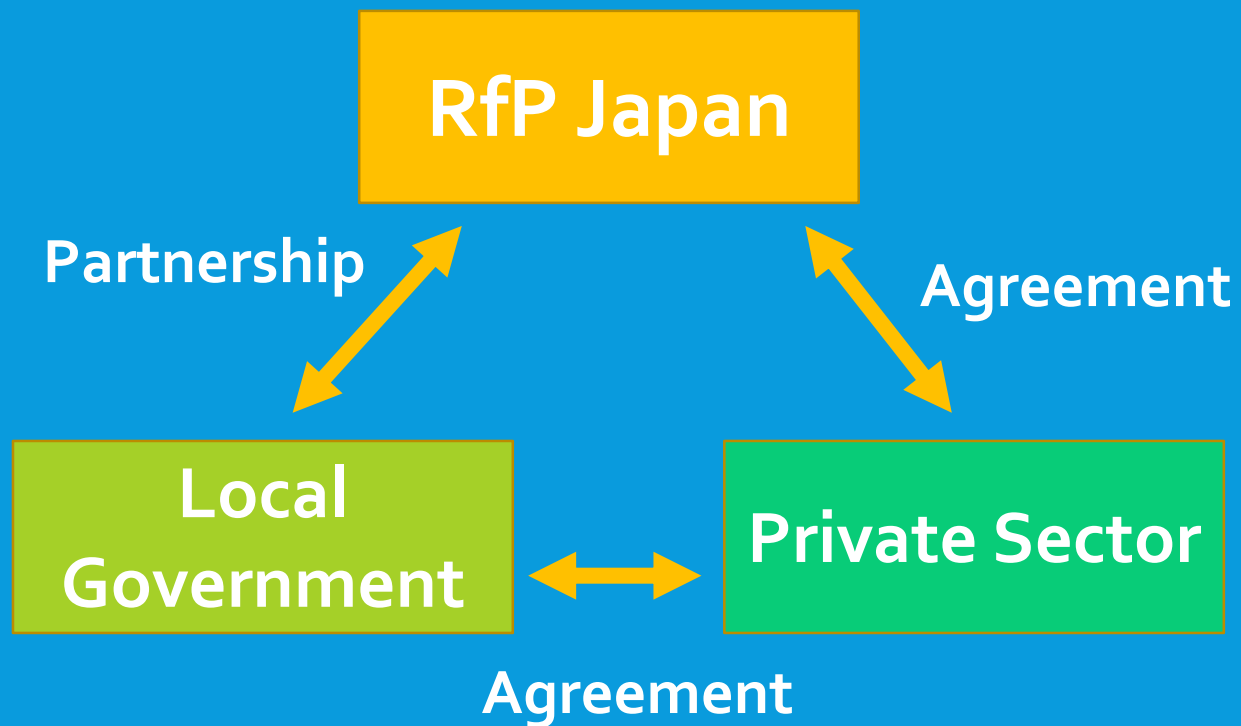
- Partnership of about 50 religious organizations, including Shinto, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim and others
- Working together with the government, local governments, the United Nations, and NGOs
- To address various international issues, including environmental issues, abolition of nuclear weapon, prevention of human trafficking, peace education, and response to disaster

# 8TH ACRP ASSEMBLY IN INCHEON, KOREA





# BACKGROUD OF THE PROJECT



# WCRP FOREST OF INTEGRATED LIFE PROJECT

- Wish: the land will be a place where not only plants but also living beings are nurtured
- cutting and burning sedimentary bamboo and clearing underbrush.
- To make the activities enjoyable, BBQ and hot pots were served for lunch to the volunteers.





# TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

- February 2018, February 2019, and November 2022
- Planting about 150 trees
- Konara oak, mountain cherry, and maple trees
- Planted during the cold season



# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AFFORESTATION (SHOKURIN) AND TREE PLANTING (SHOKUJU)

SHOKURIN

植林

Afforestation

is solely to produce timber  
and to plant new trees in the  
mountains after logging

SHOKUJU

植樹

Tree planting

The purpose is to plant trees  
for commemoration.

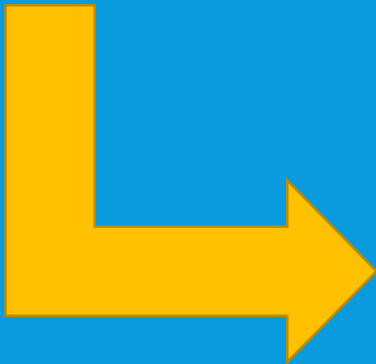
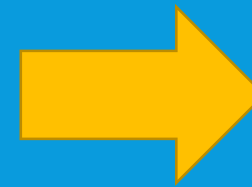


# BAMBOO SHOOT DIGGING





# DIFFICULTIES



# RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY – SHINTO

- A large mountain is regarded as a forest, which is the Okumiya (inner shrine), and a deity is welcomed from the mountain and welcomed to the village, making it the Satomiya (village shrine). This satomiya is the shrine with a permanent hall of worship that we now commonly refer to as a “Shinto shrine”. In contrast to the large mountains and large forests, the symbolism of a small forest in the village led to the formation of the “chinju-no-mori” (forest of the village shrine).



# RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY – SHINTO

- Typically, the existence of forests in the Japanese archipelago is due to the flow of water from the mountains to the sea, the vapor that evaporates from the sea, and the rain that falls on the mountains again. In other words, the activities of plants and humans merge in the water cycle. This is facilitated by forests. Of course, in this case, the forest is not something as small as a garden, but a healthy forest that covers the mountain and has been symbolically preserved in the village. Such a forest is not only a water cycle, but also a cycle of life.

# RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY – BUDDHIST

- The Tendai Hongkaku theory is based on the idea that "all plants, trees, lands, and minerals are fully realized as Buddhas". Grass, trees, countries, and minerals are alive and have Buddha nature. And all of them can attain Buddhahood. Not only plants, but also countries and lands, that is, minerals and natural phenomena, are actually alive.



# IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

1. Promotion of environmental education for urban people
2. Strengthening partnerships
3. Importance of spirituality





# RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY – BUDDHIST

- The idea of "all plants, trees, land, and all beings become Buddhas" is not found in China or India. In Indian Buddhism, sentient beings are limited to humans and animals, and plants are excluded from sentient beings. In Japan, however, plants are included among sentient beings. Plants are also alive. Not only that, but natural phenomena and the land are also alive. This kind of thought is found in the Tiantai philosophy of China. It was influenced by Taoism, which came to Japan, but it did not become mainstream in China. I think the reason it became mainstream in Japan is largely because Japanese culture has a tradition since the Jomon period, which is based on the idea of "all plants, all trees, and all the earth become Buddhas."

# RELIGIOUS SPIRITUALITY – BUDDHIST

- Japan had a Jomon Period that lasted more than 10,000 years. The Jomon culture, a hunter-gatherer culture, flourished mainly in eastern Japan, in an island nation with forests and oceans. The hunter-gatherer culture has a sense of oneness with all living things. They believe that mountains, rivers, trees, plants, and fish are all living things, just like human beings.