

Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Environment Fund 2012

Activity Grant / Progress Report

Date : 10/29/15

Please check the appropriate period:

1st year		2nd year		3rd year			
Oct'12-Mar'13	Apr'13-Sept'13	x	Oct'13-Mar'14	x	Apr'14-Sept'14	Oct'14-Mar'15	Apr'15-Oct'15

Please fill in the term of activity:

From	04 – 01 – 2015	To	09– 30 – 2015
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Contract No.	K12-G-704		
Name of Organization	Japanese Association of Northeast Ohio		
Representative	Dr. Fukuo Hashimoto		
Person in Charge	Chiaki Nakayama	Tel.:440-684-0860	E-Mail : chiaki_n@hotmail.com
Project Name	Japanese Cherry Tree Plantation in City Parks of Northeast Ohio		
Implementation of Activities for the report period			
Implementation Schedule mentioned on the Application	Actual Implementation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 8 Campaign activity at The Annual Mitsui Distinguished Lecture Series • April 12, 19 & 26, Cherry Blossom Strolls • Mid- to late April, Cherry blossom viewing (Hanami) • June 14, The Annual Sakura Picnic • Late summer, a closing event of the Sakura for the Earth program • Core Team meeting is planned in August 2015 (tentative schedule). 	<p>April 12, 19 & 26 The cherry Blossom Strolls</p> <p>Mid-April Started to report the stages of cherry blossoms on JANO's website and Facebook</p> <p>April 26 Cherry blossom viewing (Hanami)</p> <p>May 6 Present JANO's <i>Sakura for the Earth</i> Program at a press conference in Akron</p> <p>May 14 Core Team meeting</p> <p>June 14 The Annual Sakura Picnic</p> <p>July 19 Summer Gathering – a closing event of the Sakura for the Earth Program</p>		
Degree of Accomplishment in this period (when activities to be done until the end of this period is 100%)	98	%	

Accomplishment / Result of Activities

(Please describe the result of activities and attach the documents supporting the result)

- In collaboration with the Cleveland Metroparks, the Cherry Blossom Strolls were held on April 12, 19 & 26. In total of about 30 people participated in the strolls. The participants enjoyed quiz on cherry trees and Japanese culture. JANO presented the *Sakura for the Earth* T-shirts and pens as a prize to those who had correct answers.
<http://blog.janosakura.org/2015/03/jano.html>
- As we planned, 8 cherry trees were planted in Cleveland and 30 in Akron in early April. In addition, 2 cherry trees were planted in memory of the late husband of a JANO member.
- The cherry blossom viewing (Hanami) was held on April 26. More than 60 Japanese and Americans got together under the cherry trees and enjoyed sunny spring afternoon.
http://blog.janosakura.org/2015/04/2015jano_26.html
- Dr. Fukuo Hashimoto, President of JANO, presented JANO's *Sakura for the Earth* program to 10 representatives of the local media on May 6. In the press conference, Mr. Don Plusquellic, the former Mayor of Akron, presented Dr. Hashimoto with a Proclamation for JANO's effort in planting cherry trees in Akron. (Attachment A, B, & C)
<http://blog.janosakura.org/2015/05/blog-post.html>
<http://www.ohio.com/news/local/cherry-trees-continuing-to-grow-in-akron-city-recognizes-japanese-association-of-northeast-ohio-for-donations-to-effort-1.589292>
- On June 14, the 19th Annual Sakura Picnic was held with more than 80 Americans, Japanese and a representative of the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. The participants spent a nice time eating, chatting, and playing games with both old and new friends. <http://blog.janosakura.org/2015/06/2015-jano.html>
- As a closing event of the 3-year *Sakura for the Earth* program supported by the Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Environment Fund 2012, "JANO Summer Gathering" was held on July 19. We invited representatives of Mitsui USA, JANO's corporate members & individual/family members, and anyone who are interested in the Program.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzdySmN-CRyGQU9jS0FDN0FPX2M/view?pli=1>
<http://blog.janosakura.org/2015/07/jano-summer-gathering-sakura-for-earth.html>

(Name of the attached documents):

1. Proclamation presented by the Mayor of Akron (Attachment A)
2. Press release by the City of Akron (Attachment B)
3. Article on Akron Beacon Journal (Attachment C)

Evaluation of activities implemented during the report period
(Please describe self evaluation of activities and/or issues to be solved.)

- The campaign activity at the Annual Mitsui Distinguished Lecture Series, John Carroll University, was cancelled as the topic of the event turned out to be unrelated to Japan. However, all other planned activities were implemented successfully.
- It was truly an honor that the former Mayor of Akron presented us with a Proclamation for our *Sakura for the Earth* program. Although the program funded by Mitsui & Co., Ltd is coming to an end, JANO and the City of Akron renewed our collaboration on this matter in the coming years. The Akron Beacon Journal published an article about the press conference as well as JANO's *Sakura for the Earth* Program (Attachment B).
- In addition, Ms. Judy MacKeigan, Historian/Archivist of the Cleveland Metroparks, wrote about JANO's 19-year cherry tree plantation at the Cleveland Metroparks Brookside Reservation on their website. She also talked about our Hanami tradition and why cherry trees are so important among Japanese. The full article:
<http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/Roots-Revealed-Blog/195.aspx#.VcqRzXhN1FK>
- Overall, thanks to the generous support by the Mitsui Environment Fund, JANO's commitment to contribute to environmental conservation by cherry tree plantation and to promote friendship between Japanese and Americans has been solidified and consequently recognized by more people in northeast Ohio.

Activities to be implemented next 6 months

N/A

If you have any additional comments, please fill them in here.

Thank you very much for your support!