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Women's Eye and the Tohoku Grassroots Academy Bring 10 Young Female Leaders from Tohoku's Disaster Regions to Seattle for Leadership Training (Feb. 2017)

Specified non-profit Women's Eye (Executive Director: Megumi Ishimoto) will carry out its first overseas training as part of the Grassroots Academy Tohoku. From February 5th to 11th, 2017, 10 young female leaders from Tohoku's disaster regions will receive capacity-development training at the Seattle-based leadership school iLEAP. During their stay, participants will meet with local residents and have an opportunity to present on their activities in Tohoku and the state of recovery. This training will increase the influence of young female leaders active in Tohoku through equipping them with new skills and building self-confidence and awareness.

This training has been made possible through the generosity of L'OCCITANE Japon and the Fondation L'OCCITANE. Every year, Fondation L'OCCITANE releases charity products for International Women's Day (March 8), donating the profits to initiatives supporting women. This year, the total proceeds from the Women's Day Shea Balm (Rose) have been donated to this project, which provides support for young female leaders active in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures.

iLEAP

iLEAP is a non-profit based in Seattle that provides leadership development programs for leaders from countries including Japan and many Third World nations. Through growing both practical skills and critical thinking, they help build peaceful, global communities.

L'OCCITANE

Provence, France, where the bright sun and blooming flowers are constant reminders of the region's bountiful nature. Born here in 1976, L'OCCITANE passes on the lifestyle of Provence through fragrances and skincare products using only the finest natural ingredients. Since their start selling pioneering skin care products based on plants and essential oils, they have expanded to over 90 countries and are a favorite of celebrities and trend-setters worldwide.

Grassroots Academy Tohoku

The Grassroots Academy Tohoku is a space for gathering next generation female leaders from Tohoku's 3 prefectures (Miyagi, Iwate, Fukushima) and encouraging their



development through mutual learning and sharing experiences. The program began in March 2015 with the International Grassroots Women's Academy in Tohoku, held in Minamisanriku Town with the support of the Huairou Commission. 40 female leaders from Tohoku's 3 prefectures and 15 female leaders from 10 countries in Asia, South America, and elsewhere participated in this international training.

In 2016, we begin a new 3-year program, and have held Academies in Iwate Prefecture in February and Fukushima in August. In February 2015's pre-event training we were delighted to host Akiko Domoto, who has long promoted women's initiatives. In February of 2016, we were joined in Iwate by the famous American seismologist Lucy Jones, and in August by Osaki Asako, director of Plan International Japan and an expert on gender. These guests provided support and encouragement for the young female participants.

To date 58 people have participated in these programs, and after the Seattle training we are planning an event in Miyagi Prefecture for May 2017.

http://womenseye.net/g_tohoku

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