



BEYOND 3.11

Introduction to the Exhibit

The faces of the survivors, the now silent beauty of the coastline – these are what looms into our view beyond 3.11, in spite of the unforgiving tsunami which swept away all the past. “Disaster” is what occurred here, yet these people’s lives and their beloved habitat we believe, will endure. With two years behind us heading now into the third year of recovery assistance, the MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative is directing its actions set toward the year 2050.

In this exhibit, we decided to convey the state of mind of the people of Minamisanriku facing their future – their life beyond 3.11. Baba-Nakayama Temporary Housing site is the setting of such a narrative. As we got to know more from working together in the building of their “Garden Pavilione”, it was inevitable that we soon realized how they spent each day fraught with anxieties of a yet ill-defined path to recovery. Our objective would be fulfilled if as a visitor to the exhibit, you may step a bit closer than when you arrived, to sharing their current predicament.

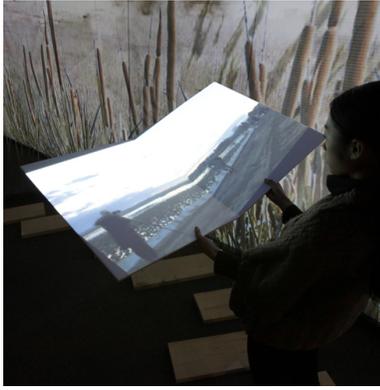
“Going down to the sea” is a local fishermen’s expression. Days and weeks following the catastrophic tsunami, many looked away fearfully, some with deep hatred, resisting to go down to the sea. At a safe higher ground, the Garden Pavilione - rekindling the past, the disaster, and the future – was built facing the sea. Today, the temporary housing residents, survivors all, gather informally here, a place to sit, chat – a Stage for All, seeking to define what lies beyond the far horizon.

The wooden terrace within this exhibit slopes down toward the inundated lowland leading away to a dim-lit distant vista. Rice-fields, homes, and places of work once occupied this view. In the space of their absence today, residents are pressed to decide the fate of their lost livelihood, the height of a seawall against another tsunami, the relocation of their new homes. Multiple, compressed anxieties cloud clear foresight. A new day seems yet out of easy reach...

On the Sloped Terrace, as you move about slowly, hesitantly, there are Debris MEMOs strewn across the floor. Lifting to open Portals as you sit, you will find iPad videos buried beneath depicting volunteers constructing the Garden Pavilione. Sky MEMOs dangle on yellow clips from the ceiling with brief messages. You are present in time and spirit, on the stage with those in Mianamisanriku.

Venturing out beyond the terrace to the lowland lying ahead, stepping onto the boardwalk, alone, the expanse of a restored bay at your side. This 3.5-meter high x 14-meter wide Panorama foretells a scene of the future ecosystem, a resilient natural environment in balance with the renewed life of the region in the year 2050. Pausing at a larger stepping-stone, a video “Remembering That Day” projects down from above you – catch to focus the moving imagery, holding the panel in your hands. The past/FUTUREs of the place and the people of Minamisanriku – Beyond 3.11.





In the lobby outside the Gallery, three large V-Screen tapestries hang. Viewed by approximately two-thousand people who pass daily through this space, inscriptions refer to the Three Insights:

- I. New Ecology at Ground Zero
- II. Scaling New Ground
- III. Year 2050 Pop<10k Community

These topics refer to MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative's current realizations for the longer-range planning strategies required for a sustainable recovery of Minamisanriku.

As you had arrived at Gallery A⁴ today, a 15.9-meter Yellow Banner greeted you at the building's façade. Mere numerical notes are abstract to our perception, almost inappropriate, if one were to really imagine the magnitude of the tsunami on March 11, 2011. This exhibit hopefully may have immersed each visitor with the felt-reality of the immensity of the tragedy and its aftermath.



Our participation in the post-3.11 recovery activities have been enabled by the steady collaboration and generous support of so many - individuals and institutions within Japan and from abroad who joined in this concerted commitment to the recovery and reconstruction of Tohoku.

We dedicate this exhibit to all our friends in Minamisanriku. We owe our inspiration especially to the husband & wife pair of Abe Kurayoshi and Miura Ichiro, of Baba Nakayama. Let us continue to work together.

Gallery A⁴ of Takenaka Corporation recognized MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative's ongoing work in Minamisanriku and invited us to exhibit. We are most grateful for this opportunity.

For us, this exhibit would not have been possible without the generous funding support provided to us by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. We owe our sincerest appreciation.



Shun Kanda
MIT Japan 3.11 Initiative • Director

URL: <http://japan3-11.mit.edu/>

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