



akira foundation japan



2011
SOCIAL BRIDGE BETWEEN JAPAN AND GLOBAL VILLAGE

The Philippine social enterprise
'Social Enterprise English Language School (SEELS)'
held a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 30th, 2011



SIS Fellows 2010

What is the Akira Foundation Japan?

The Akira Foundation Japan (AFJ) is a charity, named after and in honor of our late father, Akira Yokoi. Established in December 11, 2009, the charity is non-religious and non-political and fosters a meaningful ecosystem for, as professed in our new tagline, "Social Bridge between Japan and Global Village" .

What are our aims? – 3 pillars

AFJ aims to fill an alarming gap which we have observed between the social entrepreneurship and innovation in other nations and in Japan. Our projects and solutions center on: *social/economic issues, experiential learning, and foreign students* (3 pillars). These focuses are *mutually inclusive* and play integral parts in sustaining creative, collective and cooperative (3Cs) development in our global village.



"Social Bridge between Japan and Global Village"

Strategic map for AFJ

Where are we heading? - Positioning and Programs

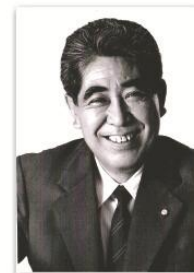
AFJ currently undertakes two charitable scholarship programs: *Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS)* and *The Akira-Keio SFC Social Innovation Scholarship (AXIS)*. Both programs play a vital role in illuminating and supporting value-driven action researchers who come for study in Japan from developing countries.

In what follows, AFJ formed two social enterprises: *Social Enterprise English Language School (SEELS)* and *Akira Social Ventures (ASV)*. SEELS, which is owned and operated by underserved Filipino migrants as certified teachers, targets residential areas with middle- and low-income brackets. ASV, which is headquartered in Dubai, UAE, mainly provides microfinance investment vehicles, and is expected to support the post-disaster development in Japan.

"*Inclusive Society*" represents our core messages and we are relentlessly pursuing meaningful opportunities to embody the messages and live up to them, in a sustainable and interactive way.

Our Late Father, Akira Yokoi

Akira Yokoi had nurtured and empowered our family during his remarkable life. He acted on the "Level 5 Leadership" and one of his hallmark feats, "the Kijan Project" in Indonesia (in 1970' s at Toyota Motor Corporation), presented his most personal challenge.



But it also demonstrated what one person could do to advance interweaving societal values with economic development in an emerging part of our world.

- Prior to his death, he was awarded the Ranju-hosho (the Medal with a Blue Ribbon) from the Emperor of Japan in honor of his lifetime achievements.

Activities (Educational Development)

- The first international conference on Vulnerable Filipino Migrants: Focus on Japan
 - Held on March 19 and 20 at the Osaka University
 - Presented by Ms Peachy D. Araza and Atty. Amihan Alcazar from Philippines
- Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS), Japan
 - Partners with the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES)
 - 8 foreign students (PhD/Master) awarded
- The Akira-Keio SFC Social Innovation Scholarship (AXIS), Japan
 - Partners with Keio University SFC
 - Awarded the AXIS Junior Fellow 2011

Activities (Social Business)

- First Global Grameen Meeting, Germany
 - Hosted by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Creative Lab
 - Participated through the association with Abdul Latif Jameel Group
- The Kick-off Ceremony for SEELS, Japan
 - Held on 30 July, 2011, for its first classroom at Hirai, Tokyo
 - Attended by the honorable ambassador Manuel Lopez and other distinguished guests

People

- Fellows
 - Awardees at Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS)
 - Awardees at Keio SFC Social Innovation Scholarship (AXIS)
- SIS Alumni
 - Former awardees who reinforce the relationship
- Supporters
 - Seniors, mentors and other professionals and social workers who share AFJ' s mission and value and work together towards realizing them
- Partners
 - Akira Social Ventures (ASV)
 - Keio University Shounan Fujisawa Campus (SFC)
 - Social Enterprise English Language School (SEELS)
 - The Center for Japanese-Filipino Families (CJFF)
 - The Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES)

Akira Social Ventures (ASV)

■ Profile

- We are saddened to hear that we lost uncountable lives of our compatriots, regardless of nationality, at and in the aftermath of the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on 11 March, 2011. In the wake of this disaster, we have been collecting as much information as possible and identifying what we can do for those who are still suffering from the unprecedented disaster.
- The concept of ASV was formed at a first offsite meeting held in June, 2011 at Beirut, Lebanon, and was nailed down further through relentless research with onsite visits to meet people who work on helping victims and local people rebuild their social and economic lives. ASV is led and executed by Lebanese teams comprised of experts in microfinance and private equity, and is headquartered in Dubai, UAE as a limited liability investment company. Over a first phase of development, ASV will help people in the northern coast of Japan revive and rebuild their economy and society by working collaboratively with Japanese NGOs/NPOs, local governments and companies, and individuals to develop and invest in highly scalable businesses that address social, economic and environmental challenges (triple bottom line).

■ Snapshot

- Provides stakeholders with a sustainable business model that meets the challenges of triple bottom line
- Helps develop the microfinance industry in Asia and the Middle East and North Africa ("MENA") regions
- Manages an online investment platform which creates a new funding channel for small and medium-sized MFIs
- Provides products and services to microfinance institutions (MFIs)
- Manages Microfinance Investment Vehicles (MIVs) that invest in microfinance and developmental projects



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This information in this leaflet is based on our official website 2009 - 2011 and is subject to change. For our updated information, please email at info@akira-foundation.org or visit <http://akira-foundation.org>.