

## MIYAGI SUMMIT



"Suzume Odori" workshop

From July 28th to August 2nd, the 19th America Japan Grassroots Summit in Miyagi was held in Miyagi, Japan. Despite the spread of swine flu and the greatest global recession for 100 years limiting international travel, about 100 participants traveled from America to Japan. Some comments from the participants include, "the volunteer committee members were so considerate and we enjoyed a very high quality programme" and "the summit was greater than we had ever imagined. We would like to thank all those who were involved in the organization of the summit.

### \* Facts and Figures:

#### Participants (guests to Miyagi)

- 100 people from USA (and some other countries)
- about 20 people (CIE board members, corporate sponsors) / - about 50 people (Japanese Summit Alumni)

#### Participants (including Miyagi people)

- about 450 people to the Opening Ceremony / - about 330 people to the Closing Ceremony
- about 1850 people who involved in the entire program including host family and volunteers in the local areas

### Summit Schedule

July 27th (Mon.)	Depart USA
July 28th (Tue.)	Arrive Narita (Tokyo) Airport    Bus ride to Matsushima
July 29th (Wed.)	Local Tours in Matsushima    Opening Ceremony & Welcome Party
July 30th (Thu.)	Optional Early Morning Fish Market Tour    Local Session at 15 areas (Homestay Program)
July 31st (Fri.)	Local Session (Homestay Program)
Aug. 1st (Sat.)	Local Session (Homestay Program)
Aug. 2nd (Sun.)	Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party in Sendai
Aug. 3rd (Mon.)	Depart Sendai for Narita to come back to USA    or Post Summit Optional Program

## Local Tours in Matsushima (July 29th)

Despite arriving in Matsushima rather late the previous night, the American participants were able to enjoy local tours in Matsushima on the morning and afternoon of July 29<sup>th</sup>, showing no signs of jet lag!



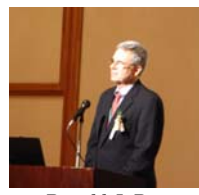
Boarding for a cruise around picturesque Matsushima

## Opening Event in Matsushima (July 29th)

The Opening Event was held from 4 pm on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Following the welcome speeches, a Commemorative Lecture entitled "Nakahama Family and Whitfield Family – Untold Story of 168 years-friendship" was given and participants learned the history of the relationship between the two families. Participants were also privileged to enjoy speech by Dr. Matthew Perry, a descendant of Commodore Perry, and a video message from Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara.



*Yoshihiro Murai,  
Governor of Miyagi  
prefecture*



*Ronald J. Post,  
Deputy Chief of Mission,  
Embassy of  
the United States in Japan*



*Taizo Watanabe,  
Chairman of CIE*



*Video message by  
Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara*



*Exchange of globe  
between the two families*



*Matthew Perry,  
Descendant of  
Commodore Perry*



*Hatsuhisa Takashima,  
President & CEO,  
Japan International  
Broadcasting Inc.*



*Commemorative Lecture*

During the Welcome Reception, the participants enjoyed *Yatsushika Odori* ('Eight Deer Dance', a traditional dance of Miyagi), American and Japanese songs by Lilies Chor and delicious food. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by all.



*Lilies Chor*



*Shogo Kamei,  
Chair of the Miyagi  
Summit Volunteer  
Committee*



*Sake barrel opening*



*Key persons*



*Yatsushika Odori*

## Closing Event in Sendai (August 2nd)

After the local session in each area, the participants gathered in Sendai Royal Park Hotel with their host families to attend the Closing Event. At 3 pm, the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the event, the Closing Ceremony, started.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the event, the Closing Reception, began with a speech by Mr. Kyuichiro Sato, Vice Chair of the Miyagi Summit Volunteer Committee, followed by a song by Akira. A toast was then raised to Ms. Nahomi Aso, one of the key persons of the local session areas and Ms. Taeko Floyd also introduced Summit participants.

At the end of the party, FBC STORM, a hip hop dance team, gave a lively performance and Ms. Megumi Lorna Inouye, executive director of the next summit in 2010 in San Francisco & Bay Area, wrapped up the event with the farewell message of "See you in San Francisco next year!"



*Katsuhiko Umehara,  
Mayor of Sendai City,*



*Richard Wood,  
President of CIE-US*



*Summary of local sessions by  
Prof. Miyahara of Miyagi University*



*Surprise birthday celebration*



*AKIRA*



*FBC STORM, a hip hop dance team*



*Megumi Lorna Inouye,  
Executive director of  
the next summit*

# Local Sessions - Homestay Program ( Jul. 30th - Aug. 2nd )

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Local Session Program started, lasting for 4 days and 3 nights in 15 areas. (The number of American participants can be found below in brackets)



1. Kesenuma City (6)



2. Tome City (4)



3. Kurihara City (5)



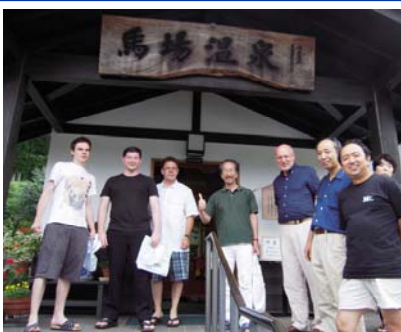
4. Minamisanriku Town (5)



5. Naruko Area (Osaki City) (5)



6. Furukawa Area (Osaki City) (4)



7. Matsuyama Area (Osaki City) (4)



8. Ishinomaki City (11)



9. Matsushima and Shiogama (5)



10. Sendai City (7)



11. Iwanuma City (4)



12. Zao Town (8)



13. Kakuda City (6)



14. Shiroishi City (5)



15. Natori City (4)

# Early Morning Optional Program ( July 30th / August 3rd )

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, despite the early 5am start, 65 people participated in the "Early Morning Fish Market Tour" in Shiogama. After being welcomed by the Shiogama Mayor, Mr. Akira Sato, participants were able to watch a professional chef preparing freshly caught tuna for them to enjoy as *sashimi* (raw fish) until they were full!



August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the last day of the Summit, started with the famous early morning gymnastic exercises that are broadcast on radio throughout Japan and is said to be one of the keys of the longevity of Japanese people.



## Post Summit Optional Program ( August 3rd - )

After the summit, while some participants flew back to America directly from Narita, many of them departed for the Post Summit Optional Programs to explore the different cultures of other regions of Japan and make more friends.



Tokyo Free Time



Kyoto & Tokyo



Noto & Tokyo



Tohoku Big Summer Festivals



Visiting relatives in Mie

### Comments from Participants



**Kelly Morikawa** Miyagi was beautiful and charming in many ways. Although we had not actually chosen Kurihara as one of our original choices, we were very glad we got to experience Kurihara! We made good friends with many people, exchanged lots of addresses and email addresses. Our host family was a good match for us, with many of the same interests: dance, horticulture/ agriculture, to name a few. I will definitely plan to come back to Japan. Especially now that we have many friends there! And we hope that some of the friends we made will come to visit us in the U.S. sometime too. Thank you for opening our eyes to this wonderful international exchange!



**John White** The Summit was very well organized. The Zao town we stayed in was extremely well staffed and seemed everyone in town was part of our experience. Each day and night was filled with planned events with our host families and participants. Many close relationships were formed and will continue in the future. I would like to express my gratitude to my host family and Zao town. I accidentally left my electric toothbrush at our first hotel and it was waiting for me in Sendai hotel. Very nice!! This is a small example of the way I have been treated on this trip, with every smallest kindness given freely. Thanks very much.



The Miyagi Summit Volunteer Committee



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