ABOUT INNOVATORS NETWORK

The Innovators Network makes real world impact through thoughtful examination of key issues, new ideas and emerging social trends in the U.S., Japan and around the world. It facilitates unique opportunities for leaders to share knowledge and insights, and to catalyze positive social change. japansociety.org/innovators_network

PROJECT

U.S.-Japan Leaders Exchange, 2013—16

CHALLENGE

Japan Society and ETIC., a Tokyo-based NPO, have been deeply involved in relief and long-term recovery efforts in Tohoku since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Both organizations are engaged in organizational capacity building, and recognized that many leaders in Tohoku would benefit from an opportunity to step back from the intensity of their work to reflect, re-energize, and think clearly about next steps.

RESPONSE

Japan Society and ETIC. co-organized a three-year project for leaders from Tohoku to engage in deep discussions with leaders at the forefront of recovery from natural and man-made disasters in New Orleans, LA, Wilmington, OH, Detroit, MI and New York, NY. Through the sharing of expertise and insights, leaders in Tohoku were able to reflect on their work with experts who brought different perspectives to the table and were empowered with new ideas and innovative solutions to shared challenges.

IMPACT

• Four project leaders launched data projects in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures
• One leader started pitch contests for high school students in Fukushima Prefecture
• One leader initiated a data-driven health project focused on the elderly using collective impact in Miyagi Prefecture
• Inspired by the Hurricane Katrina 5th and 10th anniversary commemorative programs in New Orleans, LA, ETIC. and Japan Society co-organized THINK TOHOKU 2011-2021 in Tokyo (November 2015 and February 2016)

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