

FRIENDS OF NATURE: A GROUNDWORK ACTIVITY FOR HIGASHI-HIROSHIMA

 [Tegegne Wondowossen ANTENEH](#)



Nature provides us everything we need and want- be it the food and drink we consume every time, medicine when we get sick, regulating the weather and climate condition, and when we want to relax and learn about all around us. All things come from nature. Mother nature is so generous and loving when we give and show her even just a little kindness.

On November 16, 2013, nature loving volunteers of Professor Nakagoshi made their way to be a part of a greater cause for environmental quality management in mountainous city of Higashi Hiroshima. This city has an important place in Japanese history and culture. Higashi Hiroshima is blessed with immense natural beauty and tranquil city atmosphere. It is also known for its traditional alcohol (sake) brewery. As a result of having advanced brewery techniques, high quality underground water together with astonishing weather suitable for sake brewery, Higashi Hiroshima has been one of the prime leading cultural centers for years. The advantage of having such pleasant weather and high quality water comes from its well protected forest.

The international students were led by their mentor, Professor Nakagoshi of Hiroshima University. Doing volunteer work for nature was fun as the students tried to become a part of community. They also contributed to the sustainable flow of clean water from the streams down to the city's famous sake factories. They knew that their intervention would contribute for the continued flow of both the water and the culture of sake brewing. They could not convey in words what they felt. They loved doing the activity! This event was an opportunity to help clean the air and the forest. That day was the beginning of shaping the students' attitude for the environment. Volunteering was a blessed thing by itself. However, when it was done for mother nature, all the more it becomes extraordinary.



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