

Students' Wishes upon a Star

YAMANAKA Tsutomu (PI, IHI Corporation)

i-Space Essay provides students and teachers the online opportunity to create and send wishes to the International Space Station's Japanese Experimental Module Kibo "Hope" (the star). It is a social contribution project led by IHI Corporation. (SDGs4)

In 2022, about 8,000 students from 35 elementary, junior high, and high schools in 7 countries (Japan, USA, Australia, Germany, UK, Spain, and South Africa) joined this internet-based project. From this group, about 6,000 students from different schools collaborated to create Space-Renku. The Space Renku is a type of Japanese traditional linked verse poetry-Renku. Two persons from various schools in other countries collaborated and created one Space-Renku. The title of the Space-Renku is "Wishes as an Earthling in 2022." Here are some examples.

It comes out, shining brightly, a star of hope

Ryu *1

Don't lose to COVID-19, and don't give up hope

konokaiirukai *2

(Tentative Translation: YAMANAKA Tsutomu)

*1 A junior high school student at The Japanese Language School in Charlotte (USA, North Carolina), *2 A junior high school student at Misho Junior High School (Japan, Ehime)

I finally got into junior high school, looking forward to

Fuji *3

Many encounters and exciting things

Megu *4

(Tentative Translation: YAMANAKA Tsutomu)

*3 A junior high school student at Japanese Language Supplementary School of Houston (USA, Texas), *4 A teacher at Nara Prefectural School for the Deaf (Japan, Nara)

You're not the only one who's struggling, and I'll support you

Lie *5

Hard time; everyone has it.

Rodei *6

(Tentative Translation: YAMANAKA Tsutomu)

*5 A junior high school student at Japanese Language Supplementary School of Houston (USA, Texas), *6 A junior high school student at Nara Prefectural School for the Deaf (Japan, Nara)

All students' wishes were recorded on a memory card and successfully delivered to the International Space Station on NG-19. Now the students' wishes as an Earthling shine in the sky almost worldwide. Congratulations! May your dreams come true.

YAMANAKA Tsutomu, a principal investigator ("PI") of this project at IHI Corporation, points out that this internet-based project offers students and teachers a new world for learning to

cultivate humanity as an Earthling. “In 2001, I invented the key concepts to connect schools using the ISS, the internet, and Japanese traditional dialogue methods. Now the dream is coming true. In these 22 years, 70,000 students and teachers have enjoyed the co-creation, co-exploration, and co-expansion of this new world for learning. The students’ wishes let us know that dreams are still alive. We have started season 23 to encourage the youth of today. Our voyage is continuing beyond the world.”

Photo_1



Left: The screenshot of the Space-Renku website written by Mr. Yamanaka. (PI, IHI Corporation). Teachers and students could read and download learning materials, students' works, and reports at school and home. This enabled teachers and students to continue co-creating Space-Renku when the school was closed due to COVID-19.

Right: In 2022, three first-graders at The Japanese School of Johannesburg (South Africa) joined the project and enjoyed the co-creation of Space-Renku. It's the record for the youngest students as of now. A student created a verse for the Space-Renku, which might be translated as "In Durban, Seashell collecting is fun." Welcome to the new world!

Source: <https://www.mitsumura-tosho.co.jp/webmaga/kotoba-to-manabi/kokugo-sora>

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Photo_2



Top Left: A photo from the online lecture delivered by Mr. Yamanaka (PI, IHI Corporation) in 2023. These two students at Onagawa Junior High School (Japan, Miyagi) created 25 verses for Space-Renku in class. It's the record for the most created as of now.

Top Right: Onagawa Town was heavily damaged by the Tohoku earthquake in 2011. Onagawa Junior High School joined the project just after the earthquake. Since then, the PI has continued to visit the school twice a year and support the students in creating the Space-Renku. The PI submitted an essay to a Japanese language textbook publisher for junior high schools to introduce the students' Space-Renku. The students' wishes touched readers' hearts. You can read the Space-Renku essay (PDF) on the Space-Renku website. Please refer to Photo_1.

Bottom: Photos from the lecture at Kitakata Junior High School (Japan, Saga) in 2018 to encourage Onagawa Junior High School Students by co-creation of the Space-Renku.

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Photo_3



“Hoshi-Tomo”※ at The Japanese Language School in Charlotte (USA, North Carolina)
※ Please refer to Photo_7.

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Photo_4



“Hoshi-Tomo”※ at Misho Junior High School (Japan, Ehime)

※ Please refer to Photo_7.

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Photo_5



“Hoshi-Tomo”※ at Japanese Language Supplementary School of Houston (USA, Texas)

※ Please refer to Photo_7.

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Photo_6



“Hoshi-Tomo”※ at Nara Prefectural School for the Deaf (Japan, Nara)

※ Please refer to Photo_7.

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Photo_7



Two types of “Hoshi-Tomo” badges were designed by students at the online lectures delivered by Mr. Yamanaka. (PI, IHI Corporation). “Hoshi” implies star(s), planet(s), or the Earth in Japanese. “Tomo” means friend(s) in Japanese. IHI Corporation gave the badges to all participants of this project as gifts.

Top: The Design Team (five students) at Mizuho-Town Mizuho Junior High School (Japan, Tokyo)

Bottom: The Designer (one student) at Mizuho-Town Mizuho Dai-Ni Junior High School (Japan, Tokyo)

The significant components of Kibo, HTV/H2, HTVX/H3, and Cygnus have been developed and manufactured at IHI’s Mizuho Aero-Engine Works in Mizuho Town.

Source:

<https://www.town.mizuho.tokyo.jp/kyoikuiinkai/education/011/002/p008543.html>

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Photo_8



Left Top to Bottom: “Hoshi-Tomo” at Adelaide Japanese Community School (Australia), Japanese Supplementary School of Heidelberg (Germany), The Japanese School of Johannesburg (South Africa), Fukuoka Futaba Elementary School (Japan), and Kitamoto Municipal Higashi Junior High School (Japan)

Center Top to Bottom: “Hoshi-Tomo” at Japanische Schule Köln (Germany), Mizuho-Town Mizuho Dai-Ni Junior High School (Japan), Hirado City Nakano Junior High School (Japan), Mizuho-Town Mizuho Third Elementary School (Japan) and “Sora-Yume-Kotoba” Alliance (Japan)

Right Top to Bottom: “Hoshi-Tomo” at Escuela Complementaria Japonesa de Madrid (Spain), and Shinobugaoka Junior High School, Taito (Japan)

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