

SHIOME

A Mysterious Tsunami Museum Made from the debris

text by
Waichiryō KATAYAMA

edit and photo by
Ayaco NAKAMURA

English explanation booklet is written
by Kyoko KATAYAMA
and Stuart MCCLURE



Come and play with us!

- Where is SHIOME?** It is near Urahama Beach in Okirai, Sanriku, Ofunato in Iwate prefecture. This area is one of the places most devastated by the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami.
- What is SHIOME?** It is a hand-made Tsunami Memorial Museum including playful activity areas. It is made from the real debris left by the 2011 Tsunami.
- Who made SHIOME?** A local man called Waichi who has a warm heart and a big smile with a lot of interesting ideas to make children and grownups happy!

SHIOME has changed and evolved since this book was published, and it is still growing!

Waichi's SHIOME project received the Post Disaster Risk Reduction Innovation Award 2016.

【English book data】

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Kyoko is Waichi's younger sister.

Immigrated to Adelaide in Australia in 1994, worked as a tour guide and an Aged Care worker. After the 2011.3.11 tsunami disaster, from 2013 to 2015 temporarily lived in a Sugishita Kasetsu Jutaku* in Okirai to help her family, especially to look after mother who has dementia. She has been actively involved in the running of the Australia Japan Association of South Australian since 1995.

*Kasetsu Jutaku=Temporary Houses for people who lost houses by tsunami

Stuart is Kyoko's partner.

Originally from country in Victoria, now lives in Adelaide. He works as an Electron Microscopist at the University of South Australia. He has been to Okirai many times and loves its nature and people. His hobby is Hang Gliding and was a long standing president of the South Australian Hang Gliding Association. Stuart has been Kyoko's co- writer for many years.

【Japanese book data】

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text by Waichiryō KATAYAMA

edit and photo by Ayaco NAKAMURA

Design by Yuri WADA

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SHI O ME

**A Mysterious Tsunami Museum
made from the debris**

Shiome literary means the place in the sea where the cold sea current and the warm sea current meet, and this place is a fertile fishing ground.

So, Waichi named this museum as SHIOME in the hope that it will become a place where people meet people and join and grow together on the land like the fertile waters of the Shiome.

- p.2-3 The Tsunami Disaster Museum shack SHIOME and its surrounding area, Okirai 2014, June? Waichi sitting and his wife Tsukie outside of SHIOME.
- p.4 Outside of the SHIOME – The steel object was used to attach to the Okirai primary school and it was originally the evacuation staircase bridge.
- p.5 Inside of SHIOME – enlargements photos of aerial photos taken of Okirai area before the tsunami, Waichi's father left his knowledge about several big tsunami which hit Sanriku 80 years ago.
- p.6 Outside of SHIOME, most of the materials were found after the tsunami as debris; Float rings, steps, wooden beams, boards.
- p.7 Inside of SHIOME, SHIOME has two sections. The top photo is inside of the Secret room. Bottom ones – the right is Waichi's hand made panels of goblins.
- p.8 Waichi's big smile.

p.9

Prologue

by Ayaco Nakamura

This book is about “SHI O ME”, which a curiously amusing and mysterious looking shack is built in Okirai village a part of Ofunato city in Iwate prefecture, Japan. “SHI O ME” was built by Mr Waichiryo Katayama (everyone calls him Waichi san).

It is his hand made Tsunami Museum built with debris that remained after the North East Japan Tsunami. It is situated near the Okirai Bay.

Why did Waichi build “SHI O ME”?

I hope as you read this book you will gain an understanding of why this endeavour was started and why it continues to grow. Waichi wrote all the articles in this book. However, the photos on this book were taken by other people who have been to Okirai as volunteers from all over Japan as well as other countries.

I hope more people will read this book and feel the power of “SHI O ME” has and the light it brings to the future.

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The most remote place in Japan

The kanji character 越喜来 is read O-ki-rai(O/key/lye)

Not many people can read this correctly by just seeing the Chinese characters.

In Japan, there are many place names which are not easy to read and 越喜来 this is one of them.

Kesen-Shire used to have the town of Sanriku and the town of Sumita. Now the town of Sumita is the only one belonging to Kesen-shire. The town of Sanriku used to be called Sanriku-mura (village of Sanriku),

On the map on page 13, the yellow area shows the current boundaries of Okirai and it is a part of Sanriku town, Ofunato city, Iwate prefecture.

Until about 150 years ago, in the Edo Period, Okirai used to belong to the old Miyagi Prefecture called Date Han, that means Okirai was the most Northern region of that prefecture.

Currently Okirai is the most Southern area of the Iwate prefecture.

So irrespective of whatever prefecture Okirai was part of it has always been on the distant edge and a long way from the big cities, and this remoteness has strengthened the character of its people.

Okirai locals used to put themselves down calling Okirai as an Island on the land or Tibet in Iwate.

When the National Route 45 opened and when Sanriku Railways from Sakari to Kamaishi was completed, people were very happy and had festivals to celebrate.

Actually our transportation system could be still one of the worst, because it takes more than

2 hours to travel to Okirai from any of the main Shinkansen stations such as; Ichinoseki, Mizusawa or Morioka.

The nearest air port is Hanamaki air port but from there it still takes about 2 hours to get to Okirai.

Okirai is rich in nature. We have the beautiful ocean in the front, and Mt. Natsumushi in the back with clear air and beautiful views. In Okirai you can sense the seasons as nature changes. The climate is warmer than other parts of Iwate prefecture and it doesn't snow much considering that it is in the northern Japan. That's the reason we call here, “Shonan of Iwate” (the beachside paradise of Iwate) and we are proud of it.

Note: Shonan is a beachside town in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo and the area is a famous resort and surfer's Mecca, famous for its mild climate.

p.13 A map of the location of Okirai

p.14 An aerial photo of Okirai before the tsunami – 1997

p.16-18

2011.3.11

The Day

When I saw Okirai, the town was already gone

On the day, I was working at my worksite fixing the Sakari river bank (which is in the next town about 15 kilometres south from Okirai. My worksite was about 3 kilometres inland from the Ofunato Bay) The earthquake was extremely strong and kept rocking quite long time. I rushed up the bank of the river to see if my dump truck was safe because I had parked it near the steps which go down the bank.

I was worried that my dump truck was going to fall off from the bank as it was parked just 10cm above the steps going down to the river. So I was standing near the truck waiting while the land was still continued rocking violently.

I wanted to go back to Okirai, however near our work site, there was a confectionary shop and the most of the roof tiles have fallen off and they were blocking the road.

The traffic immediately became congested. The pedestrian path was also under the roof and it had become very dangerous to walk there. So before I could leave I had to remove all those fallen and broken roof tiles first.

I knew my father and mother were safe

If I had been able to come back to Okirai earlier, I definitely would have gone to my office which was located next to the Okirai primary school's gym. The tsunami destroyed this big concrete building, as it was only 100m from the beach.

If I had returned there, I am not sure if I would have survived.....

After being busy for removing and clearing the roof tiles that had fallen on the ground, some police officers came to control the traffic jam, so I finally left the Sakari river and drove back to Okirai.

When I came to where old road house is, there were many people who had evacuated from the tsunami. I also stood there and looked down the town, I was lost for words.

I still remember, some girls overcome with the enormity of the devastation were breaking down

and crying.

I parked my car on the national road, walked down the small road in the hill side to go to my local community hall called Kouminkan. Kouminkan was designated to be used as an evacuation centre.

When the earthquake happened my elderly parents were in the office. However I knew my elderly parents escaped immediately because my father was aware of historical big earthquakes and tsunamis that had happened before.

So I trusted in my father that he would have had escaped to the higher place with my mum, and actually this was the case and I found them safe. At the Minamiku community hall, there were many people who have evacuated including all the students and teachers from Okirai primary school.

Tsunami came several times.....

The Tsunami didn't stop once but flooded in several times. Each time, the wave flowed over and around the houses, pushing and pulling on everything all the time making a horrible noise. People who were watching it couldn't do anything but utter exclamations of sorrow, fear and powerlessness by crying and screaming.

Then someone shouted "Look! Look!", We saw two people on the top of the roof of Okirai primary school. "There are people there!"

Everyone was calling and shouting them, "It's dangerous!" "Just stay there!"

"Go up higher!" "Oh no!" I was wondering if they could hear us or not...

Then I saw some of the incoming tsunami waves crash into the undertow of the tsunami forming a white pillar like surge. The roof of Okirai's primary school gym made a big noise and floated lifting up on the tsunami water.

Except for the rooftop on which they stood all else had become a sea. I couldn't imagine how desperate they felt in the situation. Once as the tsunami drew back, for a few minutes, I didn't see them but it looked like they jumped over to the other roof top.

Everyone was calling and shouting "Hurry up and come here!"

It looked like one person had hurt himself and was limping but both were still running towards us on the hill.

Isolation with No Water, No Gas, No Electricity

It was very cold during that night, in our Minamiku district community centre. Everyone, including Okirai primary school students slept shoulder to shoulder on that night.

We could see some lights on the opposite side of Okirai Bay, but because of the intense tsunami damage, there was no road and no space to walk, as debris were piled up high. We couldn't go anywhere to contact others and felt completely isolated.

That was a devastating catastrophe.

Now I can say it was not only our place, but at the time we didn't know how other places looked. Minamiku district used to be the town centre of Okirai as at that point there was Okirai primary school and Sanriku station, but we had lost our telecommunication systems, had insufficient fuel remaining, and of course we didn't have any gas, electricity or water.

A Strong Bond

Benefit of living in a small country town

Although it was spring on the calendar, it was very cold and snowing in the night. Minamiku district should be the centre of the town but it became isolated for a while. However, it must be a good point of being a country town, people had become closer and banded together even more strongly.

After the day of the tsunami, to get the life line road open, we started working to clear

the debris with only physically man power. We removed some wood and things out of the debris using a small truck, and made a bonfire at the community centre. We had a tent set up outside of the community centre, and we used the bonfire for heat and light.

On the third day, we decided to eat twice a day because we didn't know how long the situation would continue. Meanwhile to improve our supplies, we took some petrol and light diesel oil from cars which were destroyed by the tsunami. We even collected drinks from vending machines.

People worked using their special skills. Someone cut trees with his chainsaw. Some cut the firewood. Of course we kept clearing the debris. And during the evening we sat around the bonfire. Imperceptibly we started calling the community centre as "Minamiku tent village".

One of my worker's experiences

On the Tsunami day, one of my workers had already left the river carrying a truck of natural rocks to Okirai work site. After he dropped off the rocks and on the way back to Sakari River he felt the earthquake. As a local person, he knew immediately the tsunami would come.

So he went directly to the fishing port to check on his fishing boat, however, the Tsunami was already hitting there and instead he had to run away.

He ran to a hill side road to go back to his house. However, on the way, he saw the staff from local nursing home helping old people to escape from the debris.

He is a big and strong guy.

He told me that he pulled someone along by their arm while he was carrying an old person on his back.

Sadly though, more than 50 people died at the nursing home.

He told me that if only everyone had more strength.

I couldn't find any words of comfort for him.

p.18-19 Urahama in Okirai where there used to be houses in May 2011. The white concrete building is the old Okirai Primary School Gym, and school. The white building on the right was the Sanriku Post office.

The photo left top, The Ofunato City Government Sanriku Office and Sanriku Community Hal,

The bottom, A tent village in Minamiku community centre.

p.20-29

2011.5

Future of Okirai Exhibition

Discussion at the Tent Village

The young guys at our tent village, worked everywhere to clear the debris in the day time.

There was no one who complained or said negative things.

At night time we sat around the bonfire and talked about what we to do the next day and also our future.

Everyone said that we had to accept what had happened as a reality. We all gave our thoughts, ideas and discussed about how to restart making our town and its redevelopment.

Then I said "We need to hear what young people and kids think about future of our hometown too."

Someone said “But it may not be a good idea to bring kids here when it is like this...”
So I said “Then how about asking kids to draw a picture of Okirai’s future. We would find some good ideas from them.”

Loosing no time, I contacted Okirai primary and the junior high school teachers. However the school hadn’t restarted yet and their answer was “Unfortunately there is no time for that now.” Of course, it is very understandable when I thought again with a calm mind. What a reckless and selfish behaviour that was and I regretted my actions. I had given up on going ahead.

Okirai primary school building had been destroyed by the tsunami, but only several days after that, the school restarted using the Okirai child care centre.
When I had almost have forgotten about the pictures, I had a telephone call from the vice principal of Okirai primary school.

The vice principal said to me, “What are you going to do with pictures?”
I said, “What? Pictures?” Surprisingly the teachers had worked out a plan to enable the students to draw pictures of their future images of Okirai. Wow I was very impressed with the teachers efforts, even while as I had given up about it.

I thought the pictures drawn by the children should be seen by more people. So I started looking for a place to exhibit them. However, the primary school, Sanriku Community Hall and other public buildings and spaces had been washed and destroyed by the tsunami. There was no hope but I really wanted to make it, because.....

Things children taught me.... Loving Okirai

At that time there were about 70 students in Okirai Primary School and 43 students drew pictures.

That means about 30 students couldn’t draw. It was the hardest time for adults as well as children so I felt very bad and regret that I have asked such thing. However, at the same time I appreciated the children and teachers’ for their effort that is why I in return really wanted to make it possible to exhibit those pictures.

However, I was shocked when I saw those pictures because they were different from my expectations.

I was thinking selfishly that children would draw more fantasy dream like a flying trains and cars in a future world. However, the pictures children had drawn were images of Okirai before the tsunami hit and they featured; school buildings, favourite bakery and mountains and forest. Then I realised how the children loved Okirai before the tsunami. If they didn’t love Okirai before the tsunami, they wouldn’t draw like this. I was ashamed of myself. We have to make Okirai like before. For the children, dream town means like Okirai before the tsunami. Having looked around the town, my eyes settled on a damaged JA petrol station near the town hall besides the road. However, there were still lots of debris and the concrete wall was broken badly. The three iron polls were the only there to support the big roof but I thought it would be enough to avoid the rain.

I called Ofunato city office but they said “There are so many safety problems. We can’t say anything but you can ask what JA says. Of course, I knew what they would say, but I just wanted to do the right thing.

So, I called the JA next. This JA stand was one of the branches of the Ofunato JA but I skipped the branch manager and called the top, the president of Ofunato JA. However, he said the same thing that there were so many risks for the safety.

Volunteers and a ran down JA stand

So, I said, “I will take all the responsibility, and I will do the demolish work when the time comes. Please give me the permission.” I knew it was a one-sided approach and I was being a little pushy but none the less I offered my plea.

Of course I knew it was dangerous, but in this situation there weren’t any safe places left here. We won’t be able to do anything if we worry too much and can’t go forward. The first thing in my mind was about the children who have painted those pictures of their thoughts and dreams. That was my first priority.

As the JA stand had a roof I could use and I didn’t want to get wet the pictures by the rain, it seemed like the correct match. In the meantime, luckily some ICU (The International Christian University) students were there for volunteer work.

They actually came especially for the Minami-ku area, but it didn’t matter. I asked them for help and firstly had them find anything good in the debris from which to make a panel for the pictures.

I found three wooden palls called Nagaki which are normally used for drying bunches of cropped rice plant. We bundled them together with other wire and plywood panels we had found.

Eventually a 1.8ms high, 7ms long huge exhibition board was completed. Just in case we wrapped up the children’s pictures with plastic bags one by one to protect from the rain. Children came to give us their hands too. Those children knew my enthusiasm. Arigato! I wanted as many people as possible to see the pictures.

After all the children and ICU students help, finally we had made the exhibition ready to start. The JA gas station (broken down by the tsunami) was facing the main road. We collected some chairs and tables to be able to have tea there. The good rumour had spread and many people and groups from many places came over to view it. Children came over after school and viewed the exhibition area. Actually the space became a much better community space than I had expected.

However, one month after we started having the exhibition, I had a telephone call from the city office. They said “Soon demolishing of the stand will start so please take the pictures away from there.” Even though knowing the pictures had only been displayed one month, I couldn’t say anything because I knew the place had to move one day. It was very sad but I decided to remove things away.

- p.21 Waichi and Tokyo Art University students assembling panels under the desolated JA (Japan Agriculture Association) stand in May 2011.
- p.22 Kids’ Paintings of the Future of Okirai Exhibition under the desolated JA stand, May 2011.
- p.23 A slight shift in the layout, an assembly hall placed in the center. A natural passage was created.
- p.25 Tokyo University of the Arts were helping to make the exhibition, the catch phrase says “Let’s make a better town than before”.
- p.26 Preparation of the Kids’ Paintings Exhibition under the desolated JA Stand roof, paintings of a Future of Okirai.

Waichi's explanation of the exhibition*Background of the exhibition*

When the grownups were discussing about the town's future redevelopment and remaking, I pointed that we should involve children's dreams and fantastical ideas.

Okirai primary school helped me for with my request and one day the children's pictures arrived.

To tell the truth, I realised how unrealistic a request it was, and I regretted for my ignorance and the fact that those children were in hard times.

After all the children and teachers effort, the reality was the Tsunami had destroyed all the public buildings such as Okirai primary school, the Town Hall and Town community Centre.

I was desperate to make it happen to show the children's hard work. In the meantime, some members of volunteer groups agreed with my idea and supported me.

I really appreciate all those people who have been supporting me to make a place to exhibit the children's pictures here. Thank you very much. Let's make this town better than before.

Waichi

p.28-29 An exhibition of the Kid's paintings of Okirai Future surrounded by the debris.

2011.6.21**Removing pictures from the JA stand****The day we cried from unexpected rain**

When the JA stand was going to get dismantled, there was a flood of requests from mainly academic people to borrow those pictures to exhibit at their places.

The pictures were not mine so I said to those people they should ask Okirai primary school. In the mean time, I talked to the school so that the pictures would be returned to the children who painted them.

It was only a short time the pictures were exhibited at the JA stand, however, I felt like I had finally reciprocated the children and teachers' thoughts and effort.

When I had to remove the pictures from there, I asked for some volunteers and children for help. Some students from Tokyo University of the Arts (TUA) were in town looking for volunteer work and they came to Okirai to help. 13 primary school kids also came to help. Later on, the children's pictures were sent to Kansai Airport and they had an exhibition there.

It was sad to leave the old JA stand....

I knew eventually the place (JA Gas stand) had to go and I couldn't do anything about it. However, I felt bitterly disappointed because the JA stand was becoming a place where local people could get together as a community space.

In the meantime I had already a next plan. 7 or 8 of the veneer boards which were used for putting the children's pictures on at the old JA stand could be put to a good use. They were 7 meters long all together. One board was 1.8 meters high. I wanted to use the board as one big mural. So I asked the Tokyo University of the Arts students and children to draw pictures on the board. They agreed with me.

The TUA students helped to draw a draft on the board with pencils first, then followed by being painted in colour. In the late afternoon, one big mural was completed. At that point, I wanted to make a new community place using that mural.

Next step for a new small community space

Actually I had already asked a permission to use some space which belonged to two of my friends. The space is about 100 meters from the old JA stand. The new place was also a tsunami hit area, so the permission was up until when they wanted to use the space for other purposes.

Unexpected rain....

When the mural was finished and it was about time to carry it to the new space, unexpectedly the rain started falling. The paint was not yet dried ... Such Bad luck....

We had to move things from the JA stand this day because from the next day we would not be able to use the place any longer. So we decided to remove things as quickly as possible and we covered the board of the mural with plastic sheets.

The paint was not dried completely yet, and some colours of the mural ran and one of the university students had a cry. I said to the girl, "Now you have an excuse to come here again. Come in the next summer holiday to fix the paint." She said, "Yes, definitely I will come here again."

The paint was dried next day

The next day we checked the paint of the mural picture and it was dried. So we stood them up to make our display.

14 children gave their effort and made a masterpiece. It doesn't matter if it looks good or bad, but the mural picture carried the children's ideas and dreams. That was the step towards making "Everyone's Happy Park".

As the children's pictures that had been painted on a paper had to be returned to the children, I was thinking to continue to use the remaining boards which were used for hanging pictures at the old JA stand.

p.31 Kids and adults were painting on the board.

p.32-33 The paintings on the board.

p.34 Moving the mural to another place with Waichi's crane machine. Tokyo Art University Students who helped Waichi.

p.35 The panel mural was replaced to new place across from the JA stand.

Open of the Nakayoshi Hiroba = Friendly Playground

Looking forward, to bring back smiling faces

After the mural boards were relocated, some of the students from the Tokyo University of the Arts came to Okirai again and fixed the paint and put a coating on it. The mural was a great piece of work which was made by 14 children, some university students and with my aspiration, feelings and wishes.

However, during painting time, there were some kids especially boys who were not focussed on painting but just playing with the paint and running around the debris.

So, I assembled those kids and asked,

“I have an idea.” Then kids said, “What is it? What is it?”

“I have been thinking to make a playground for everyone to be able to play and rest here. Do you want to help me?” “Yeh! It sounds interesting. I’ll do it.” “Me too!” “Me too!”

My idea was approved by everyone in seconds.

After that, we became very busy looking for materials for a roof of the sitting area, a slide, a sand pit, a tunnel and flowerbeds. There was no new play equipment used from a shop but everything was made from the debris.

I was not trying to make a play ground, but primarily I wanted to have a little space for the community.

And there was another purpose which was to work with children.

There was my idea first, but I always asked the children what they wanted and discussed it with them. Eventually the play equipment was built by the kids and I, by putting our hands together and working together. That was my real purpose.

Having children’s support we were able to build the playground with the tsunami debris. I wanted to make place for the community and regain the smiles on people’s faces. I was hoping that would help everyone’s positive feelings.

There was a swing made from old house pillars found in the debris. We also made a small mountain mound with a slide where marbles could be rolled down. Kids rolled down themselves too. I wrote a pun on it, “SUBERI-TAI? Means Do you want to slide?” as Slide in Japanese is SUBERI-DAI. Also we made a tunnel under the mound. We also had a sand pit and so on.

The playground full of playful ideas and lots of fun was completed. and the “LOHAS house” project which research homes that maximizes renewable energy.

p.37 The “everyone’s playground” was opened in July 2011.

p.38-39 Kids helped making everyone’s play ground

p.40-41 Playground opening day July 2011 it was very hot day.

We made a gate ball ground

Older people too want to play

Now we have made a playground for the children and local people where they can come to have a rest and chat. One more thing we needed is a place for older people to get together. That means a gate ball ground. It would be an ideal community space if older people could play gate ball besides where the children play.

Now is the time to act, I talked to the owner of the land to be able to use and started clearing it. More volunteers came to help and on the day to open the ground everyone played gate ball together. Gate ball equipment was donated by someone in Osaka through the internet.

The place looked like an ideal community space where older people and children play together. We have made the ultimate Everyone’s Play Ground and a gate ball ground.

p.42-43 Playground opening day July 2011 it was very hot day.

The second time relocation

A happy miscalculation

Minna no Hiroba (Everyone’s playground) and Gate Ball Ground built with Tsunami debris got public attention and many people from everywhere came to have a look at the playground. Luckily as I expected it worked as a community playground.

However there was a miscalculation as well. A miscalculation but none the less it was a good thing for our town and we should be thankful.

The land where we made the playground and gate ball ground used to be Okirai’s main shopping area before the tsunami. That means it was the best land in Okirai. Consequently land developing construction would start there sooner than I had expected, and of course it was a good thing.

The Urahama temporary shopping court and big construction companies’ offices would be built there. Originally the promise to use the land for the playground was limited until the new plan would occur. So we couldn’t do anything and I had to say “Yes okay we will remove it soon.” No matter what reasons, I wanted to protect and keep that painting of the mural. This is the third time lucky. Once more the mural had to move somewhere else.

p.44 Taking down the mural to move to the new place

p.45 Volunteers walking down to the new place – the white building is the gym of Okirai primary school (which now dismantled) You see the Okirai Bay in the front

New idea of making a Tsunami Museum

The important thing is Playful spirit

After the relocated of the mural to the new location, I was thinking what to make next. It is because at the new location which was part of the Tsunami hit area it would be impossible to make a playground for the children.

At the new place there was nothing around, and the sea is directly in front. Since the tsunami wall has removed by the tsunami of the place offered no protection. I knew any parents would not let their children come to play in such a place.

That is the reason why I couldn't make a playground the same as before. To make a community space there, I had to think differently. I didn't think to make a building at first, but I had to.

The reason why I decided to build a house was because of some photos of the 3.11 Tsunami. Those photos were taken by my friend who went to see the sea after the earthquake on the 11th of March.

When he saw unexpectedly the huge tsunami was happening, he decided to run away. While he was running back to his place, he was struggling but took photos of the tsunami moving inland. He didn't know that the tsunami had already hit his house before he got back home. That is why he didn't want to show the photos in public as he considered his family and neighbours. But I had a chance to see the photos later.

Then an idea came to my mind. I thought that those photos should be seen by other people and we should keep them as important education material not to forget what had happened. As he took the photos while he was running away, the photos show the real time as it moved. They make a very significant of that point.

That's the reason why I decided to make a museum. First thing I did was to erect the mural, and then I decided to build a shack like building. However, I didn't want just a museum. Just a building would not satisfy my playful mind. I felt that it should be a fun place. I wanted to have a place where everyone can play.

However, this location is a part of Tsunami inundation zone. In that case, why don't I make a secret house, yes, I could make <KAKUREGA> which means a secret place!

I named it <SHI O ME>

I decided to build the museum secret house with materials from the tsunami debris. We went back to the old Nakayoshi Hiroba (Friendly Playground) and collected all the debris materials from there. Then we went to the half destroyed Okirai Primary School building to collect debris to also use as materials.

Pillars, beams, boards, corrugated boards, doors and windows were all found in the debris. It seemed like a collection of junk but to use the debris to make SHIOME was my weird obsession. SHIOME was made from all the debris and it has full of my thoughts.

The process of building was very simple. I just excavated some holes and then put the thick debris pillars as stands for the support other materials. Normally to build a house, pillar to pillar has to be 1.8 meters or 0.9 meters, but this place was not like that.

I didn't use thread or a measure to make them straight. When putting the beams together I just put them and nailed them by feeling, so any professional carpenter who saw this would be amazed.

In the meantime, while I was working by myself, a black low rider car just like a yakuza boss's ride was parking nearby. The person inside looked a bit scary and anyone would instinctively not want to say hello to him.

However, I saw this person, several times, and finally the person came up to me. He asked me what I was doing, so I explained. Then he said, "At the moment, I am in Ofunato to clear the debris. I have spare time on the weekend, can I help you?" Wow, what a nice guy he is! He started helping me on that day.

He told me that he is originally from Okinawa and he loves Shochu (Japanese spirits). We agreed that we should get together to have a drink but one month later this person had to transfer to Fukushima and now I have lost the contact. He looked like about 55 years old and his name is Tomari. I really want to see him one day.

P.47 A view of the beginning of SHIOME taken from old Okirai primary School

P.48 Inside of the Okirai Primary School Gym which was filled with debris – kids looking for some materials to make SHIOME.

P.49 The structure of SHIOME

P.50-51 People helped making SHIOME

P.52 Waichi with Daichi and Clara inside of the SHIOME

P.53 Families and children were playing while adults were still working

Opening of "SHIOME"

Trick house and the Tsunami memorials

"SHIOME" consists of two parts of a secret house area and a space to exhibit some Tsunami memorials.

The Tsunami memorial museum is an important part, but the secret house area is also important. I enjoyed making a maze like corridors and small rooms. I didn't expect that volunteer university students would be having fun much more than the small children.

There are many different sorts of tricks and ideas for a playful mind in there. From the safety point of view it would definitely adventurous. So I try to communicate with kids but at the same time let kids to experience it.

Talking about being playful of mind, I try to add things or make change to SHIOME to make it a surprise for someone on their second visit to SHIOME.

For example I have changed a door to open on the opposite side and have put something new

there. To do so, means no one could conquer the trick house but also they could visit again to enjoy my new tricks.

I have to mention about my father's momentum in the exhibition space. Unfortunately my father past away after the tsunami. He was born in Taisho Emperial Year and he experienced two big tsunami events in Showa Emperial year. So he visited the local primary schools with his hand made maps tsunami history and told the children about terror of tsunami.

As I am his son, as I was making tsunami museum, it was natural to make a space for my father's dedicated work. When you visit SHIOME please have a look some materials and maps of my father's handmade tsunami history of Sanriku.

Within the Okirai area, Okita district where SHIOME is built was the worst tsunami hit area and everything was destroyed. Minami-ku district consist 4 small groups of housings and a half of the community in Minami-ku had been affected. All of the houses in Okita area were destroyed.

Okita area is near the Urahama river and at this point the land is at its lowest as well as being the closest point to the sea.

So why did I choose this place to build SHIOME? I had an aspiration. Okita is the lowest sea level area even in the tsunami hit areas, so it is not suitable for a community space. I know that. The Tsunami directly hit this area, and I understand why some people do not want to come here. However, we cannot be like that forever. One day we have to get over it. We have to think how to use this area, otherwise we cannot move forward.

There are still many people who cannot look at photos or videos of the tsunami. It is probably cruel but it is time for us to stand up and go ahead, without forgetting the lessons of what has happened.

The earlier everyone has to think about how to use this tsunami hit areas, the better. I am hoping that SHIOME can be used to make other people think about our future.

Until the current town office building was built, the Okita area was the Ginza street of Okirai. Now, the government has decided to demolish Okirai primary school building, reconstruction work of Urahama river has started and there are many dumping trucks and heavy machines everywhere, but SHIOME has responsibility to keep watching how the redevelopment of this town will progress.

p.55 Almost completed SHIOME.

p.56 Waichi's father's hand made history of the previous Sanriku Tsunami which hit 80 years ago.

p.57 Top right- a clock used be in Okirai Primary School which stopped when the tsunamiphit.

p.58-59 The SHIOME has two sections – one is a secret house.

p.60 The view of Okirai Bay – SHIOME in the middle – from this point we didn't see the bay because in front of our eyesight there were the tsunami walls and pine trees. So locals didn't realise how close the houses and school was to the beach.

p.62 Team Okirai members visiting SHIOME from Tokyo area.

p.63 Waichi and Tsukie having breakfast inside of SHIOME.

p.64

2012.10.14

Moving the Miracle Staircase Bridge

Overwhelmed by my sister's motivation

Okirai primary school building was destroyed by the tsunami. Before the tsunami, the school building was situated about 10 meters lower than the prefectural road. Originally the schools emergency route was that students had to go out from the main entrance on the ground floor which was facing into the school ground and this ground was on the same side as the sea. So after students went outside, they had to go around the building to go to the prefectural road.

There was a city council person named Mr Takeshi Hirata. He suggested the council to make an emergency evacuation staircase bridge over the prefectural road directly from the second floor of the school building. The bridge was completed in December 2010, it was only 3 month before the 3.11 tsunami hit.

Mr Hirata had passed away 9 days before the tsunami hit but thanks to this emergency bridge all the Okirai primary school children and teachers evacuated smoothly and survived. This is why we call this step bridge "the Miracle Bridge".

Knowing the facts behind the history, when my little sister who normally lives in Australia was back in town with her partner that time, she was pleading with me to protect and keep the bridge.

In the meantime, the educational department had decided to demolish the school building and it had already started. Watching the building being demolished little by little every day, one early morning, devastated my sister walked in my office and explained how important it was to keep it. I was overwhelmed by her.

I rang the company who was doing the demolishing job to tell them not to break the bridge. I also called a crane vehicle company to come to the school as soon as possible. The crane removed the bridge and moved it to a space temporarily on the other side of the school. Later, I carried it with my backhoe machine to SHIOME and put it beside.

Now almost everyone who visits SHIOME tries to climb up the bridge. When they hear the story about this bridge that saved the students and teachers, everyone feels deeply moved. While most of the tsunami mementos have been dismantled, this Miracle Bridge has to be kept as one of the tsunami memorials.

p.65 Stuart was resting on the bench under the emergency staircase bridge at the back of SHIOME.

Top: the emergency staircase bridge when it was still attached to the school building but without rails. Bottom: Waichi moving the bridge with his backhoe.

Okirai Primary School Main Gate and A piano

Let's keep them for a moment

At SHIOME we are keeping two stone gateways which were being used by Okirai primary school before the tsunami and even before another tsunami about 80 years ago.

For a while, I couldn't find one of those two stone gateways. I was curious because it is so heavy and big and one had already been found easily. Then later, I found the reason why I couldn't find it. It was because some workers who were clearing the debris thought that the stone gate was useless. So they buried it under the soil!

The stone gate is historical memorabilia and a most important thing. I would like to keep it by any means. I think these two stone gates should be used for new Okirai Primary school.

There are some other things such as a piano – actually part of a piano – from Okirai Primary school and the blackboard which OBs, OGs and teachers wrote messages on it before the school building was demolished.

We should keep such things for a now.

p.66 a blackboard which was used in the former Okirai Primary School.
Bottom left: inside of a piano used in the former Okirai Primary School.

p.67 The two big square stones that used to be the centre front gate of Okirai Primary School.

A stamp and a badge

Better have it

I really appreciate the fact that we have been given all sorts of support in different ways such as; donations of money and things from everywhere. However, I think someone visiting here is the best support for Okirai.

There is a notebook in SHIOME and it is used as a visitor's book. Inside of the notebook there are many messages of support and their thoughts. I feel extremely grateful for that. 11:33pm I have put a stamp for use at the memorial of to acknowledge the importance of visiting SHIOME near the notebook. This is because someone asked me for it, suggesting that it would be good if there is one. The picture of me is originally drawn by an Art University student. I copied it on a small board for block print but it looked too big on the board.

Consequently, I also made a badge used the same picture on it. The reason why I made it because there was an opportunity for me to use a badge making machine belonging to the Sanriku Railway company. So I thought that would be nice if there is one. That's all.

p.68 Top: A visitors book Middle and bottom: Waichi face badge.

p.69 Waichi making a wood-block print base of his face.

p.70 Waichi on SHIOME and talking to Tsukie.

Making a swing

My secret technique behind joy

There was a rubber tube which was just right size to make a slide, so I put it on top of the miracle bridge to have a slide to the ground.

When I put the miracle staircase bridge at the current position of the SHIOME, I also had another idea. This was to allow the kids could go out from the attic to the outside, without going up on top of the roof. The roof is made by using corrugated roof iron and it was not safe.

So, I thought if there is more fun available than going up onto the roof, then the kids would not go on the roof. That was one of the reasons why I put the miracle bridge there, and what is more, by adding the slide it would make it much more fun.

I think it is better to get the kids attention and use that to help the kids to choose that which is more fun, rather than going up the roof. This could be my philosophy as I make the whole SHIOME and so far I think this is working.

p.72-73 Added a slide which was made from a tube

I made a boat swing

Because there was a boat and some wood logs

At a space behind SHIOME, I built a swing. It is because there were available two long wooden poles from the debris that seemed just right for that.

When I was going to make a swing, I thought an ordinary swing would not be much fun. I was thinking how to make a more fun swing, when I saw a small fishing boat on someone else's land. Then a good idea came up to me.

However, it has never been used, so I asked him "Let me use it." and with his permission in hand I then used it.

In the process of building the swing I cut off the boat in a half. Why? I didn't have a special reason, but it was probably just to make it easier to carry.

p.74-75 Boat Swing which is fun to ride.

p.76 SHIOME on a snowy day January 5, 2014.

p.77 Waichi outside of SHIOME.

A memorial stone

For remembering an university girl

There is a memorial stone near SHIOME for Kanae SEO. She is one of the people who lost their life by the tsunami. Her body has not been found yet. Kanae was an university student at that time.

On the day of tragedy someone saw Kanae near the JA stand where we had exhibited the children's pictures. One day I met Kanae's father when he was looking for some mementos of Kanae near the JA stand. That was how I met Kanae's father for the first.

Since then Kanae's family and I have become good friends. Before the 3rd memorial day of the 3.11 Tsunami, Kanae's family wanted to make something for Kanae to remember her as well as to have something for her friends so they can come to Okiai to say hello to Kanae. I helped to build a memorial stone for them.

On the day of Kanae's birthday, her family and friends visit the place and remembered Kanae. They take some pictures with the memorial stone.

p.78-79 A memorial stone for Kanae who is one of the victims of the tsunami

Note: Now these memorial stones have been removed to a newly built Minesaki lookout in Okiai.

Placed some stones for prayer of reconstruction

Kigan de Kigan = Pray at the Strange shaped stones

At the moment, there isn't any Tsunami Memorial monument for people to pray at in Okiai. So I decided to make one at the corner of SHIOME.

I had some stones from Karakuwa peninsular which I had brought for my friend who wanted to place them in his garden. It is a pun to use Kigan for Kigan because Kigan means strange shaped stone or rock, Kigan means to pray as well)

Sometimes I believe in superstitions of good luck. I made two gates with some cement blocks and put the strange shaped rock on it. I even named this gate "Semai Taro no Mon". The Kanji I used is just for the sound of it, but Semai means narrow and if you could go through between this narrow gates, that means you are lucky.

p.80-81 Waichi is making a stone gate at SHIOME.

Raising Koinobori*

*Koinobori = Carp Streamers (Japanese traditional carp shaped streamers for wishing children to grow healthy and happily)

Someone's present

As Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) was approaching, I put some old Koinobori streamers at the SHIOME. After that many people who saw this also brought some, after a while the number of Koinobori became a lot.

One day I found a big box of Koinobori inside and there was a letter. It says "Please use them." but there wasn't a name on it. I thought that someone definitely has been considering the purpose of the SHIOME.

p.82-85 Putting up some Japanese Traditional Carp Streamers on the Shiome for Children's Day. Some used streamers were donated by someone who didn't give their name.

One Log Bridge

Never happens unless you act

If I was to describe myself in a good way, I would say I am an optimist. I really don't get upset. Or in other words you could say, I am not really delicate. I am not sensitive enough.

Near SHIOME, there is Urahama river and there used to be a bridge. The bridge was still there but only a half of it remained and it was broken down in the middle. So, only people could cross it but not cars.

People in Ofunato city government office had put a barricade to stop everyone as it was dangerous. However, the bridge was the easiest way to go to the other side and people were still walking on the bridge.

So, the city government office replaced the fence with another stronger fence than the barricade and this stopped people from crossing completely. I thought that if there was money for repairs, why didn't they fix the bridge quickly but my voice wasn't accepted.

So I decided to make a log bridge by myself and asked my wood cutter friend to cut a cedar tree log. He asked me how long I need and I just said "Roughly 10 meters long." So he prepared one for me.

On the day to place the log on the river, some volunteers came to help me too.

While we put up the log using my crane machine, we had to be very careful to avoid not touching the electricity lines.

Then it was the time when the log was about to be laid across the river, everyone said "What?" What happened was that the log was too short to cross over the river. Then I measured with my line tape and it was 13 meters wide. OMG! But it was so funny and everyone laughed at my visual measurement.

Of course everyone told me off and laughed. Some days later, I measured with my measurement tape properly and new log bridge was placed.

Several weeks later, someone from the city government office who had a professional look called me, and he said that Log Bridge was not safe. Oh well, I had expected that they would say that.

However, he said “The log bridge had to be taken off but a temporal iron bridge will replaced it.”

Oh well, after all the trouble, in the end, the result was good.

p.87 Waichi's wife Tsukie is on the log bridge on the river Urahama just near SHIOME.

p.88

2014.5.12

Installed a panel of Goblins for photos

Okirai's name depict as a friendly place for goblins

Okirai has many stories of goblins. The Kanji character of Okirai 越喜来 used to be written as 鬼喜来 which means -delighted-Come, or 超鬼来 means Cross over-Goblins-Come.

There are some more Japanese names which include 鬼 =Goblin, such as 鬼沢 Onizawa and 鬼間が崎 Kimaga-saki .

According to the Sanriku town history book, Devils' dead bodies were found there. Legs were found in Sunezaki 脚崎 (すねざき), heads were found in Koubezaki 首崎 (こうべざき) and bones were found in Shikotsu-zaki 死骨崎 (しこつざき) .

In that reason, reluctantly I am calling Okirai as a Hometown of Goblins. In the children's story book called Momotarou, Goblins are not good guys but Goblins in Okirai were not bad ones. I believe that they were warm hearted nice guys.

Even though they called them Oni=Devils but I believe they were humans. I am not sure if they had horns on their heads, but there must have people who looked like devils when our ancestors arrived here. That is my theory.

And there was probably a war or any kind of diseases spread out and those devils like people for some reason, died out. There are many stories like this everywhere in the world.

After all this, I believe that the devils in Okirai were good guys.

p.88-89 Playing with the Oni panels *Oni is a Japanese a Traditional Imaginary Devil.

p.90-96

2014.6.7 - 6.8

Okirai Art Festival

The first class artists came to Okirai

I had an idea to have an art festival with some artists who have been to Okirai to support after the tsunami disaster. It was originally called “SHIOME ART FESTIVAL”

However, gradually more and more artists wanted to join and the size of the festival became bigger than I had expected. So I decided to change the name of the event to Okirai Art Festival. To think about it, Okirai Art Festival is a kind of big name. I was quite amazed myself.

There is a potters group called Toh-ism who produce some famous pottery in a style called Mashiko-Yaki. They had a charity project called “Utsuwa no chikara” meaning the Power of Pottery. They had this project once in Okirai in the same year of the tsunami, and they gave away lots of pottery to the local people for charity. They wanted to come here again but this

time they would like to have proper pottery market.

Then I thought about Shelly and her project called “Laugh and Love concert”. She wanted to come to Okirai to do this charity stage show last year but it was cancelled due to the bad weather condition.

So I decided to put these two main events together plus include other visual arts and performances, the name of Okirai Art Festival was born.

As the name of festival had Okirai, I asked Okirai town planning committee for their opinion. They said that it was okay to use and finally the Okirai Art Festival was on the way.

Original the plan was to have the event only on the 8th of June, but the Toh-ism people wanted it to go for two days since they would have to come to Okirai all the way from Tochigi prefecture. So we did.

The reason why I decided that Sanriku station was the best venue was because the Sanriku Railway had just reopened the whole Sanriku line in April this year. So even though Shelly probably wanted to have her Laugh and Love stage show at her log house, I thought this event would be a good promotion event for the Sanriku Station too.

Once the date of the event was decided, the numbers of participants and performers grew bigger. Through the Toh-ism people, a professional Japanese Tea Ceremony Master and Japanese Flower Arrangement performer decided to come.

Ms Ayako Nakamura who is one of the professional photographers and had been supporting Okirai also introduced me a professional Trombone players.

So I thought myself that it may be a good if Ofunato Higashi High School Japanese Drum Club to could perform for us. Also our local folk group of Nenbutsu Kenbai (Buddhism Sawed Dance) and Shishi-Odori (Deer Dance) would be nice. Then, that would be nice if we had some food and drink stalls. Oh, and it should have some microphones too.

In that case, we need electricity power points. How about parking area and accommodations for the participants....

There were suddenly so many things to do but I wouldn't be able to do these by myself, so I asked those participants to prepare and bring things they need all by themselves.

On the day, a variety of artists came for the event to perform. I found out that later that those artists were the first class artists and normally they would get paid a lot of money to be booked.

Some were very skilled painters, some were pottery artists, musicians, stage performers, photographers, Yosakoi dancing team, a Japanese Tea Ceremony master, a Japanese flower arrangement performer, and the Ofunato High School Japanese Drum Team.

And our special guest was TV personality Shelly and her friends' performers. So all the participants were also the first class performers in the world, and they came to Okirai. Isn't it wonderful?

We should appreciate it and this would be one of Okirai's treasure and with a sense of pride and fulfillment.

I had experienced in organising all sorts of event and festivals, however had I never enjoyed it this much and never felt this much pride.

I believe that this festival happened because of all the people who were supporting to make SHIOME .

I have nothing to complain of, as so many people came from other places said, "We love Okirai.", but why don't we Okirai locals also love Okirai more. I am hoping that more locals

realise how wonderful a place Okirai is and connected to those who come to Okirai from outside.

- p.90 The Kiwamegumi danced Soran Bushi at Sanriku Station.
- p.91 In the rain, many people came to the festival at Sanriku Station,
A flowerist Sosen Imai,
A Japanese Tea Ceremony Master Koyu Sato with local kids / Ms Tabasa sang her original songs/
A TV talent Shelly's friends sold cookies.
- p.92 A poster of the Okirai Art Festival, It was raining on the day but many people came to see the festival, Giving away picture books.
- p.93 A painting an artist painted of Okirai after the tsunami, Young artists potters group called Tohism had their market, Okirai Primary school children's paintings were on exhibit.
- p.94 At the Okirai Art Festival, Ofunato East High School Japanese Drum Club's perform on the platform at Sanriku Station.
- p.95 A TV talent Shelly who has been supporting Okirai, she came to the Okirai Art Festival with her artists friends'.
Four professional trombone players, played many different genre of music and they taught us how fun and beautiful a sound trombone has.
- p.96-97 Yudai Maruyama is a professional rap musician and sang his song about Ofunato. Waichi cried as he was moved by Yudai's song.
At the end of the festival, under pouring rain, participants and friends danced to Yudai's song.
- p.98-99 Participant artists of Okirai Art Festival visited SHIOME and Waichi was explaining about the SHIOME.

p.100-102 SHIOME was made by people

I have been asked "What are you going to do with SHIOME?" It is very hard to answer this question. It is because I didn't have any vision of this when I started to build it. So far I have experienced moving it twice, and each time I thought it was the last place. However I am regretting that I decided to replace it in the current place.

The land where SHIOME is standing belongs to someone else's land, so I am regretting that I should have made it own my land nearby.
It is always my problem that my idea goes ahead too far. I just wanted to make a community park like "Minna no Hiroba=Everyone's play ground".
However, there was no land able to be used at that time. If I borrowed a higher place that means a better place and being asked sooner to move. On the other hand, lower land has more space but it is not a safe place for anyone to come. That was the main reasoning and process behind making and fulfilling the idea of this secret house.
Regarding the Tsunami museum, it was just natural to make it. At that time, local people were

very sensitive about photos or videos of Tsunami and not many local people came to see them. However, I had a little hope that these photos would be useful when people finally settle down and would not mind seeing those photos.

Also I didn't want to throw things away even though they called them Gareki = debris. There were many things which were still usable and valuable, so I felt Mottainai. I am sure that I have been doing things without thinking deeply.
Without thinking deeply I have come so far. Now there are some people who think SHIOME as one of the architects, or the proper art. I feel grateful but little confused for it to be said like that, so I can't say anything about it.
Anyway, it could be difficult to keep SHIOME here at the current place as the land belongs to someone else.

There is my own land near and South side of SHIOME so it may be able to move it there. Or the land where currently my office is located, I could move SHIOME there...
Ideally the city government could buy the land and the surround area of land from the current land owners and the land could become public that would be the best way. To be so, we need an upsurge of local opinion from both Okirai as well as other public.

After the 3.11 Tsunami, there are so many people have been here in Okirai to support us. I always say to everyone that there are still lot of Okirai locals who haven't realised how wonderful a place Okirai is or how much of a luxury life style we could have here. I would like them to realise that. I hope SHIOME could help them to do so.
Exchanges and encounters among people make a spiral and flow that is the SHIOME. People get together and meet each other, and then it makes a big SHIOME.

In June this year, we had Okirai Art Festival and the fact that we did it successfully and I was overwhelmed.
I couldn't describe how wonderful a feeling it was with any words. During the heavy rain, everyone put their shoulders together and danced innocently. That moment I thought "This is Shiome"

The actual Shiome in the sea doesn't have any colours or shapes. It always changing and flowing. And it is everywhere but not only in Okirai.
I saw one Shiome in the Okirai Art Festival. Each feeling and thoughts of all the participants met there and made waves of enjoyment. I think that is Shiome.

Shiome in the sea is made by sea currents and SHIOME on the land is a best art work made by people.

No, it is not Art Work but probably the Ultimate Stage. Or may be the Ultimate Back ground.

I love Shiome. That is the best.

p.101 A group photo of all the participants of Okirai Art Festival.

p.103-107 **People who have been to SHIOME.**

p.107 **People who have visited Okirai many times to support us.**

Top left

When the exhibition of children's pictures was held, some students from the International Christian University and Tokyo University of the Arts came to help.

Since then they have visited Okirai several times and are still our good friends.

Top right

Four staff from the Habitat for Humanity Japan (NPO) who supported the people of Okirai. They had a project called Self-Build Home and brought many volunteers from all over Japan as well as other countries.

Middle left

Since 2012 a group of pottery artists from Mashiko called TOHISM have been supporting Okirai. They had a charity ceramic market and initiated the Ceramic Market for Okirai Art Festival in 2014.

Middle right

Photographer Ayako Nakamura, a very unique creature. I met her for the first time when I was making a gate ball court in 2011. At a first glance, I had an intuition about her not being an ordinary person but she is very talented. Since then she has become one of the Okirai's good supporters and actively involved.

Bottom left

Shelly is one of the very popular TV personalities in Japan. She did some charity concerts to raise money to help people in need. She donated the toilet outside of the SHIOME and a log house called Laugh Love House for children to enjoy reading books and play inside. Shelly is very busy but physically came to Okirai and gave her hand to build the log house alongside the children and volunteers.

Bottom right

Team Okirai was established by volunteers who have been to Okirai after the tsunami in 2011. They helped to organise local people to make Japanese traditional New Year's decorations called SHIMENAWA. To do so young and old locals got together to make Shimenawa. In December 2013 and 2014, the SHIMENAWA KAZARI made in Okirai were sold in Ginza and Harajuku.

p.108

SHIOME will be forever growing.....

p.109

Appendix

Etcetera about SHIOME

p.110-111

The extensive anatomy of SHIOME

left page: Bird's-eye view of outside SHIOME is made by Ayako Nakamura in July 18, 2014

Illustration : explanation of each photos

- 1 When the Old Okirai primary school building was demolished in 2012, the OBs and OGs, teachers and current students had a Sayonara gathering and wrote their messages on this blackboard.
- 2 A pillar from the tsunami debris on which I wrote a slogan "This is the starting

place of where Okirai Minamiku will regenerate". This pillar was also used as one of the materials for to construct the exhibition board of children's paintings at the desolated JA stand. This pillar is very good for hanging Carp Streamers.

- 3 This is the inside parts of a piano which was used in Okirai primary school. Ms Shindo from PR45 an NPO wanted to keep them as a symbol, and I am helping to protect it.
- 4 The Rule to play in SHIOME. It is necessary for everyone to play happily and safely.
- 5 Old tyre swing hanging from the old emergency staircase bridge is simple and fun to play on.
- 6 These two logs were also found just sitting on the ground in the tsunami debris, but they are now reborn as a seesaw and it is strong enough for adults play.
- 7 My face was painted on a float found in the tsunami debris. One of the university of Arts students painted it in 2012 when Friendly Park was opened. I subsequently used the face for badges and stamps.
- 8 In front of SHIOME, there is a table and benches for where people can sit and freely use. When it is a good weather, I recommend people to bring some food and drinks for picnic lunch.

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The extensive anatomy of SHIOME – Inside version

There are many more secret tricks in SHIOME. Come and find out!

Cross-section view of the secret space

- 1 On the above the ceiling, there is a very narrow path going to the emergency staircase bridge. You have to crawl along it to use it. The letter "Am I wild or what?" was written by some kid who visited SHIOME.
- 2 From the hole on the second floor backside room, you can see the view of the ground floor of the museum section.
- 3 There is a secret curtain on the second floor. Don't open it.

Bird's-eye view of the exhibit in the Tsunami memorial space

- 1 Clocks which used to be in the Sanriku Central Community Hall, which was hit and destroyed by the tsunami. Each of the clocks shows different times, because those clocks were in different rooms on the different floors.
- 2 I have made the SHIOME memorial badges and stamps for visitors. One badge is ¥200. (proceeds are use for rebuilding Okirai)
- 3 Sanriku Central Community Centre also had a lot of damage from the tsunami and almost all the exhibited items were washed away. However an Antarctica stone originally donated by a Japanese research ship to Okirai still remained there.
- 4 Photos of the view of Okirai before the Tsunami were taken by my younger sister. I put them together as panoramic photo.
- 5 Maps of Okirai's history of Sanriku Great Tsunami which occurred 80 years ago. My father made this several years before the 3.11 Tsunami. He visited all the schools in town to educate them about the history and dangers of the old Tsunami and the damage it had done.

Contribution article My expectation for SHIOME

by Yasumichi MIFUNE [First-class registered architect]

My first impression of SHIOME

As one of the Okirai town development advisers, I visited Okirai in August 2013 and I met Mr. Waichiryō Katayama for the first time. When he took me to “SHIOME”, I saw an interesting looking shack which was made with scrap wood and debris from the 3.11 Tsunami. But the bright colours and cute pictures on the boards and things made me happy. At the same time, it reminded me of the barracks which were built in Indonesia, after the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami.

What those barracks is telling

Before the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the Sumatra Earthquake and India n Ocean Tsunami was the biggest in this century. The number of casualties was about 73,000 people. The City government of Banda Ache established Redeveloping Master Plan and JICA (Japan International Corporation Agency) received a contract to help, and I was appointed as a special disaster reduction adviser.

I visited Indonesia several times between April to September in 2005.

Living conditions of the affected people were different types of temporary housing such as tents and housing complexes built by the Indonesian government; however I also saw more handmade barracks.

Their temporary housing was built on higher land in safe places with a help from the UN and other countries' aid. However, all the tents and barracks were built on the prohibited land which was within 2 km from the beach.

The numbers of those tents and barracks were not small but countless. They were too many to ban, and no local people would move from there.

We asked those locals who were living in that prohibited areas, why they live there. The answer was simple as they had to live there as it is the best place for them because they are fishermen and have to work in the sea. Everyone knew it was illegal but they had no choice.

They had a strong mind (case) to risk their own lives.

How about SHIOME? It is not a house to live in but it has Mr Katayama's passion. Its existence has led to it becoming a very unique monument rather than a building or play ground.

SHIOME which was made from the thick wooden pillars which was used to belong to an old house tells something with overwhelming power. As well as the attractiveness of the SHIOME, Waichi has the magnetic charm of his personality. He made SHIOME which carries powerful messages for the future of Okirai.

An advise as an architect

Even though I was first impressed with Waichi's passion and think it has to be protected, at the same time, I thought it was not correct too. It is because this SHIOME is not safe enough to get approved as a building. So I thought that as an architect I should do something to help it.

For safety of the visitors to SHIOME, the building may need to be moved somewhere higher as it is on the tsunami hit land. And when it is rebuilt, structural reinforcement of the building is needed.

At this stage, SHIOME is just standing without any foundation or beddings. It is a kind of barrack which stands with little support from a wooden pillar buried in hole in the ground.

To meet the requirements of the Building Regulations, we need to make a concrete foundation

and bases first, and then reinforce the beam and pillar.

If SHIOME is going to be relocated, then all the current materials should be used, that would keep the same atmosphere as well as clearing the issue of construction.

Future of SHIOME

One of the requirements to be a Registered Tangible Cultural Property is for the structure to be older than 50 years. However, under the current standard requirements are ① building or item which is contributing for Japanese historical image, ② building or item which is the basic of its kind ③ which is difficult to rebuild or remake.

I don't know if SHIOME meets these standards, however, all the materials of Shiome can be significant as they were debris of Tsunami that means history of The East Japan Great Disaster. I think there should be a cultural property which tells the disaster history of the East Japan Great Disaster.

I would like to see the SHIOME become a Registered Tangible Cultural Property in 50 years. For that I would very much like to help.

Map of tourism attractions around SHIOME

Around the SHIOME in Okirai, there are other interesting places to visit. When you visit SHIOME, please try to allow more time to visit these places.

Local train

Nearest train station:

Sanriku Railway Minami Rias Line – Sanriku Station

From Tohoku Shinkansen (JR Bullet train) – Ichinoseki Station to JR Sakari Station

From Sanriku Railway Sakari Station to Sanriku Station about 23 minutes.

By car

From Tohoku Highway Ichinoseki IC to Sanriku is about 120 kms

By Bus

From Ikebukuro Station West to Okirai bus stop about 8 and a half hour by Kesen Liner Highway bus.

Accommodation

Minshuku (Japanese style B&B) Tomari-so

1night 2days with 2 meals from ¥7,000

Telephone: 0192-44-3322

Minshuku (Japanese style B&B) Kahoso

1night 2days with 2 meals from ¥7,020

Telephone: 0192-44-2432

① Sanriku Station

Come to Okirai by Santetsu (Sanriku railway train)

Sanriku Station belongs to the Sanriku Railway Minami(South)Rias Line . You can buy some snacks , Santetsu goods and memorabilia in a small shop there. There are some tables and

chairs to allow you to have a rest and relax.

② Do-Konjo Poplar tree

A poplar tree which survived from the 3.11 Tsunami

Okirai locals named this tree “Do-Konjo Poplar”. Do-Konjo means a super strong. This poplar tree used to belong to one family but the family’s home was washed away by the 3.11 tsunami and only this poplar tree survived and is still alive. This poplar tree has become a Symbol of Okirai and can be seen from anywhere in Okirai.

③ Daioh Sugi (Great cedar) and Hachiman Jinja (Hachiman Shrine)

The great cedar tree which has seen all

A tree doctor has analysed and confirmed Okirai’s great cedar tree is 7000 years old. The diameter of the root area is about 13.7ms and it stands about 20ms tall. It has been designated as a pro

④ Odaki & Medaki (Male Fall & Female Fall)

Tranquillity and beauty make you forget time for a while

Walk about 10 minutes down the forest road to the mountain stream and there is 3m high Medaki. From there about 10 minutes more walk there is a 5m heights high Odaki. You can enjoy feeling a peacefulness and a mind healing place.

⑤ Natsumushi-yama Oyukko (Natsumushi-yama Hot springs)

A Hot spring is the best way to heal of your day’s fatigue

A hot spring facility with accommodation, located at the foot of Mt. Natsumushi. From Sanriku station it takes about only 10 minutes by car. There is a Deer Park and a paragliding school next to the facility.

Telephone: 0192-44-2600

Hot springs open 10am to 9pm

Meals open from 11am to 7pm

⑥ Café Bien

Eat a delicious hamburger while watching the sea

A café located on the hill which overlooks Okiraiwan. The strawberry parfait is too good to miss, but it is seasonal menu.

Telephone: 0192-44-2442

Business hour: 11am to 7pm Close on Thursday

⑦ Toretate Ichiba

Freshly caught from the sea on the day

Produce freshly caught sea products every day and sold and deliver nationwide. Order on the Internet, Also they sell handmade Misangas.
<http://www.sanrikutoretate.com/>

⑧ Michi no eki Sanriku

By car, a must stop at the Road station

A road station called Michi no Eki Sanriku is Located on the National Root 45. There is a café restaurant and local product shop. Abalone, scallops and Wakame seaweed which are caught locally are sold here.

Telephone: 0192-44-3241

⑨ Laugh Love House

Vivid coloured paintings on the house give everyone smile

A very popular TV personality Shelly and her artist friends raised money and built

this place for the children to play. Shelly physically came to Okirai to build and paint with local kids.

⑩ Sugishita Kasetsu Jutaku

(Temporary Prefabric Housing complexes in Sugishita area in Okirai)

Life in temporary housing is continuing even now

Behind the Great Cedar Tree on the hill, there used to be a city baseball ground. 82 prefabricated housing complexes were built there in June 11, 2011. Still 75 families are living there.

⑪ The site where Okirai Primary School used to be

The miracle emergency staircase bridge which was attached to the school building

This site is where Okirai primary school was standing before the tsunami.

“The miracle emergency staircase bridge” that has been relocated to SHIOME used to be attached to the back of Okirai primary school.

⑫ SHIOME

Place to educate and communicate the memory of the disaster and tsunami

A Tsunami Disaster Museum SHIOME opens seven days a week and no closing day. At any time SHIOME is waiting for you to come. Don’t forget to stamp for your memory.

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Afterword

by Ayako Nakamura [Photographer and Waichi’s friend]

When I met Waichi san for the first time, it was August 2011. There were still lots of debris spread through the town. Waichi san had just made “the Everyone’s Park” and he had started making a gate ball court.

Waichi san was standing still examining the desolation and debris.

At that moment when I saw him, I felt an intuition that he would do something. It was because I feel that same feeling and unique aura when I came across an interesting artist, Waichi had the same one.

Subsequently I helped Waichi san to make a gate ball court. We picked up debris and many small rocks and levelled the ground. When everything was finished, we played a serious game of gate ball with some local older people. The surrounded area was still filled with lots of debris and looked devastated from the tsunami hit land just like I had seen on TV.

However, the older people looked very natural and they didn’t look like they minded.

I felt helpless when I was playing the game with the local people, because I had never seen the town before the tsunami or what it looked like. When I saw the desolated looking streets and naked land, I realised that there was nothing I could do.

I was overwhelmed with what had happened on the day, and I thought I would never understand how hard a time the local people experienced.

At the same time, reflectively, I thought that I should watch what would happen here in the future. As I am an artist and creating something is my job, what I could do was to make something. Then, fortunately, I met Waichi, the creator.

Waichi san is always saying “I want to make my town like this, or like that”. He is always

talking about the volunteers who were in town to help and the progress of rebuilding the town.

Waichi san wants to make SHIOME for children and make the place where people can come from other places get to together.

Waichi san just want to make everyone happy and enjoy life. He is creating to make SHIOME evolve as many more people get together.

In that sense, what Waichi san is making is different from “an art work”. However, to keep creating and evolving “SHIOME” helps people bond and start new challenges. That means what Waichi is doing is definitely creative action.

In years to come, along with the reconstruction work Okiri is going to change. The important role of SHIOME is to educate people about what had happened here on the day, and the significance of the SHIOME’s existence will increase. Visitors can see and feel the materials used for the SHIOME and realise that they used to be debris. People can see the photos inside of SHIOME which can educate us and make think about the 3.11 Tsunami. People who never seen or never experienced the disaster will be able to feel and think about it.

When the time comes, the humour of SHIOME building itself and its history will attract people.

I’ve been writing this with a little difficult, but if I say simply, I like the SHIOME. I like the fact that it has become bigger without intention but just randomly, all those hand-made play equipment, some humorous jokes and pans written on everywhere, they are so charming and cute. I love them.

When I look at the SHIOME I always think to myself if I could create the same way that Waichi san did. Waichi san creates things to make other people happy and able to enjoy life, even though he has experienced the horrible disaster.

The concept of SHIOME is a place where many people get together. That’s the reason why this book includes many photos which were taken by many different people and not only mine. You can see the process of SHIOME becoming bigger and expanding through many people’s eyes making this book more accurate and correct. So I appreciate those who have contributed photos. Thanks to all.

I hope that in the future, more people visit SHIOME and Okirai to take photos with their camera and make memories with their heart.

So please bring this book and visit Okirai where the SHIOME is.

Waichi always says, “The best support is not money but coming and visiting us.” So when you pick up this book in your hand and if this book makes you want to have a look the SHIOME, then actually please also decide to visit Okirai, there is no more of joy than that.

Finally I would like to show my sincere appreciation to Waichi san and his wife Tsukie san who have always welcomed those of us who comes from outside of town. Thank you very much.

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People who have provided photos for this book

Photos in this book were taken by many people who have visited SHIOME from different places. Here are those people who donated their photos/Where they come from.

Misa INAGE / SHIZUOKA
Rie IMAI / TOCHIGI

Miwa OHNO/ TOKYO
Kyoko KATAYMA / Australia (From OKIRAI)
Tsukie KATAYAMA / OKIRAI
Naomi KATO/ SAITAMA
Hiroe SASAKI/ OHITA
Jie Sayuri /TOKYO
Sanae SHIBATA /TOKYO
Takuma USUI /TOKYO
Michiko TAKASAKI/TOKYO
Yuuichi TERA0 /TOKYO
Yoshihisa NAITO /OKIRAI
Kazuhiro NARUSHIMA
Akihiro NIKAI00/TOCHIGI
HIRANORIN OFFICE/TOKYO
Kazushi FURUUCHI /TOKYO (From OKIRAI)
Ryoutaro MATSUMURA /KANAGAWA
Naoki MIZUSHIMA/TOKYO
Madoka MITSUHASHI /TOKYO
Hiroyuki MIYAKE/KANAGAWA
Atsunori YAMAGUCHIi /KANAGAWA
Tomohiro YAMASHITA/AKITA

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PROFILE

Main article is written by Waichiryo KATAYAMA (Waichi)

Date of Birth: 1951 in Iwate prefecture

Occupation: President of Katayama Construction limited company

Community roles: A leader of Minami-ku area community. A representative of the Urahama & Tomari district town redevelopment committee.

Sports he used to play: Rugby football at Morioka Technical High School. Played in and was in third place at the National Athletic Meet in Nagasaki prefecture. His position was forward with jersey number 3.

Favourite music: Enka (one of Japanese music types)

Prologue and Afterword are written by Ayako NAKAMURA

Born 1979, in Saitama prefecture

Occupation: An artist. Mainly publishes photos and paintings in Japan and overseas.

Publication: Photography book “Silence” 2011, published by LibroArte

Painting book “USALYMAN” published by B Gallery and BEAMS T

“Weekly Ayako” self-published

Favourite food : Ice-cream

Good at: Finding wonderful artists

Contributed Article A dream for “SHIOME” written by Yasumichi MIFUNE

Born in Morioka city in Iwate prefecture

Graduated Tokyo University postgraduate school

Occupation : CEO of Jueness Planning Ltd, first-class registered architect

Community Role: Cultural Ambassador of Utopia Iwate prefecture

Research cooperation

Kan KOJIMA CEO Shouyu Kensetsu limited company

Katsumi TSURUMI CEO Tsurumi Roof tyle Pty Ltd

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Kuniyo Ohta

We express much appreciation for these people as well as the other 59 more people who contributed. Thank you very much for your support.

Note: About the land where SHIOME is standing.

In 2015, after this book was published, some of the tsunami hit areas which are now prohibited areas for residential building were bought by Ofunato city government and turned over to be public land. Luckily because of this, the land where SHIOME stands also became public land. Since SHIOME attracts so many people and is a very educational place to learn about the Tsunami and disasters, the Ofunato city government gave Waichi permission to keep SHIOME on the same land it was already built on as one of the Tsunami memorial objects.