

Outline of our activities in 2011

In 2011, there were six TAP programs. These included *Art in Danchi*, and *Han-nō Han-gei* both of which had been launched the previous year and will be on-going as core projects over several years. *The Kids' Program*, *International Exchange Program* and *Environmental Programs* continued, and a new project was established; the *Art Assistance Program* which supports artists and artistic organizations in and around Toride. Our two core programs aim to create and develop new values and life-styles to make living in the suburbs more attractive.

Our project aims and content, however, were reviewed, in response to the March 11 earthquake and nuclear emergency in Fukushima. Throughout the year, individual participants were concerned how best to move forward. The outcome from the last year's activities will be brought to those of 2012.

Han-nō Han-gei

This project, directed by artist Iwama Satoshi aimed at finding a way to live in our future through thinking and acting communally on the radiation-contaminated ground. Using rented farmland named "*Gohyaku-tsubo* (literally 1,650m² area)" as the site for the project, the ground was first measured for radioactive contamination.

Then we conducted decontamination work on a portion of the ground by ourselves. On another site *Kamoroom*, seminars were held to study fields other than art, with workshops on food which is directly connected to life. At the end of the fiscal year, a forum was held bringing together participants of different generations and points of view in the public art gallery *Kirari* near Toride station. This project will be on-going as a platform for social innovation, inviting participants from different occupations, of all ages and backgrounds.

Art in Danchi

TAPPINO was opened in 2009 and another space *ICOIINO + TAPPINO* in December 2011 to promote interaction with art in daily life. The *TAPPINO* site was closed in 2011 and its role passed to the next space. The building itself was made into the artwork *Camera TAPPINO!* by artist Satō Tokihiro to commemorate its closing. Satō is also the Deputy Production Manager of TAP. The new space *ICOIINO + TAPPINO* is jointly run by the complex's residents' association and local volunteers, aiming to be a space for different generations to get together. It also functions as an *oyasumidokoro*, a day centre for the elderly, managed by the Division of Welfare for the Elderly, Toride City.

In another program, the Partner Artist program, artists Fukazawa Takashi, Tokuhisa William, Miyata Atsushi + Sasa Moe, and Kitazawa Jun used the *ICOIINO + TAPPINO* site in Toride-Ino apartment complex, for individual projects and conducting research.

TAP is also redesigning the Ino apartment complex in both a physical and social sense, proposing alternative uses for the former *TAPPINO* site (a joint program with the OpenA) to the Urban Renaissance Agency (UR), and also launching the *Danchi* (apartment complex) Innovators Project. The team for promoting this project is composed of members such as architects, gardeners, artists, and media-artists, in addition to local residents.

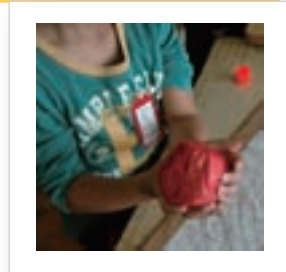


Kids' Program

From the beginning of TAP we have annually held the First Graders' Art Works to exhibit art by Toride's first graders. Each year has a different theme and all works are exhibited in the same event regardless of their level of quality. This program has two objectives: firstly, it is to let the children, who are just on the brink of entering society, feel that their art work can reach others. Secondly, it is to generate non-verbal forms of communication within the local community, which accepts and appreciates the children's work.

In 2011 the theme was '**Such seeds, I'd love to grow.**' 804 children painted seeds, from which a variety of ideas sprouted. In the exhibition site, '**Gallery Tours with Artists**' were conducted, in which visitors were able to talk with the artists while looking at children's work. Alongside this was the regular program '**Write a letter to a Friend's Work**' in which visitors were encouraged to correspond with the children, and all first graders could receive a letter from visitors.

Also in 2011 a new program was started; a talk event entitled '**Fun things make you smile: what is play for children? what is art?**'. In this event, we discussed the relationship between children and art, with Mr. Harashima Hiroshi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, Trustee of the Japanese Society of Child Science as a guest speaker.



Art Assistance program

In response to the increase in the number of Toride-based artists and people who support these artists and their practice, the City is incorporating art into its measures and policies aiming to have art take root and further develop in Toride.

In a new venture, the Art Assistance program, the local City's '2011 Art Partnership Program, Toride' operated along with our own program '**Toride Art Relay**' supported the work of eighteen artists and groups based in and around Toride in terms of finance and public relations. A wide variety of artistic activities took place throughout the area, including presentations by artists of their work, workshops, participatory art events, and making plans of freebies for individual shops. This initiative to develop the art infrastructure will continue in coming years.



International exchange program

The artist selected in the 2008 Open Call, Satō Miku spent July to September at the Seoksu Art Project in Anyang city, Korea, with which TAP has had an agreement since 2008. During her residency Satō ran workshops and an open studio, as well as pursuing her own art practice, In **the JENESYS Program**, in partnership with the Japan Foundation, Laura Preston, a young curator from New Zealand, stayed in the Toride-Ino Danchi for a month.

Preston interacted with residents at the **ICOIINO + TAPPINO** site, the location of our core program '**Art in Danchi**', giving a presentation on her activity and purpose in visiting Japan. Preston also participated in the '**Han-nō Han-gei**' forum as a round-table participant. We could share our concept and practice of the community-based art project with a young creator from abroad, who has her own view on TAP.



Environmental program

'Gas Tank – Camera Obscura' and 'Spherical Gas Holder – Design Competition'

Taking advantage of a regular open-inspection period conducted every ten years a spherical gas tank was transformed into an art work by converting it into a huge camera obscura.

This project was initially planned by Satō Tokihiro, Deputy Production Manager of TAP and Professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts, and was realized with the major cooperation of the Higashi-Nihon Gas Corporation. A special lens was fixed to the top of the gas tank, allowing light inside. Through this lens, the townscape was reflected onto a sheet covering the floor of the tank. As the reflection was dependent on good weather, some visitors unfortunately were not able to see a clear image. However, just the experience of entering the massive metal space of the gas tank was certainly impressive in and of itself.

In addition, the outer surface of the tank was painted with a design by artist Kijima Maki, winner of the 'Spherical Gas Holder– Design Competition' held the previous year. The gas tank is now a celebrated artistic icon in Toride.

