



**Non-Profit Organization NADIA**

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Dear Sponsor Organizations:

**Re: Recognition of your generous sponsorship towards the 2018 Nadia Tohoku U12 International Soccer Friendly, and the impact and scope of your contribution.**

Once again, please accept our sincerest thanks and gratitude for having helped us make the 4th Annual 2018 Nadia-Tohoku U12 International Soccer Friendly, held on the grounds of Aoba-Japan International School and Harunokaze Elementary School in Hikarigaoka, Nerima, Tokyo, on June 15~17, 2018, not only a reality, but an astounding success.

Here is a recap of what happened, and what it's all about, including links to:

- **The 2018 Event Movie:** [Web Link](#)
- **The 2018 Event Photo Gallery #1:** [Web Link](#)
- **The 2018 Event Photo Gallery #1:** [Web Link](#)
- **The 2018 Event Newsletter:** [Download](#)

**Who is Nadia**

Nadia was born in March 2011 from the shared feeling that we had to take action in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March. To respond better to the needs of disaster-stricken areas and facilitate sponsorships, nadia was officially established as a not-for-profit organization (NPO) in January 2012.

In the early days we removed rubble mostly around Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture, then our recovery activities expanded to setting up large playground equipment to carry hope to the affected areas, taking children to Italy for homestays, and building a group home for the disabled. In 2018 our teikan (NPO constitution) was amended to further expand the scope of our activities under the main objective of bringing hope to children. Our current regular activities include bringing joy to children with serious disabilities or

illnesses and supporting their family, and supporting a traditional children's festival in Ishinomaki.

The Nadia-Tohoku U12 International Soccer Friendly was conceptualized in 2014, and first executed in 2015. It is meant to enable community building, meaningful communication, encouragement through interaction, empathy to those impacted by the events of 2011, and the awareness that helping people through crises is indeed a borderless pursuit.

## **The 2018 Event**

As has happened since 2015, children and adults from Tohoku, Tokyo, and around the world participated. Where in 2015 there were 8 teams and a total event population of 175 people, the 2018 event featured 12 teams and a total number of participants and guests that at its peak exceeded 300. On the weekend of June 15~17, 2018, those 12 teams, 5 representing the affected areas of the 2011 earthquake, and 7 representing International and local school and club soccer teams, came together for the 4th Annual Nadia-Tohoku International Soccer Friendly.

## **Participating Teams**

- *Ishinomaki Fantasista SC, Miyagi, Tohoku*
- *Sendai Nakano FC, Miyagi, Tohoku*
- *Miyako Hanawa FC, Iwate, Tohoku*
- *Ofunato Sanriku Seagull, Iwate, Tohoku*
- *Shishiori FC, Miyagi, Tohoku*
- *Omiya Chosen 4.6 SC, Omiya, Saitama*
- *Hikarigaoka United FC, Hikarigaoka, Tokyo*
- *Higashi Nerima SC, Nerima, Tokyo*
- *Harunokaze Canaries SC, Hikarigaoka, Tokyo*
- *Tokyo West Eagles, Hachioji, Tokyo*
- *RECCOSS United, Yokohama, Kanagawa*
- *A-JIS Jaguars, Hikarigaoka, Tokyo*

Annually, the event is held on the cusp of Japan's rainy season. And, as has been the case since the inaugural event in 2015, the rain stopped, the sun peeked out, and stayed. Together with the warmth and support of our generous team of volunteers and sponsor organizations, it helped to ensure another exciting, memorable, and successful event.

The Tohoku teams arrived on Friday evening, June 15th, 2018, at Tokyo Station by Shinkansen (Bullet Train) where the event buses picked them up and transported them to the dormitory facilities located at Aoba-Japan International School. The remaining teams arrived first thing in the morning on Saturday, June 16th. Together, they gathered on the soccer pitch to begin a weekend of fun, friendship, and soccer. At 8:30 am the opening ceremonies took place, followed by the start of the weekend's variety of festivities.

It was a weekend of soccer and competition, excitement, collaboration on two school venues. It was a weekend of food and barbecues, of cheer and dance, and a celebration of a growing community dedicated to helping create bonds of friendship, awareness, and hope between people from Japan and from around the world. It was a weekend of soccer that across two days of competition led to one final game: A-JIS Jaguars and RECCOSS United, cheered on by the Hikarigaoka Luna Cheerleading Team. In the end, the 3 finalists were:

**1st Place:** RECCOSS United, **2nd Place:** A-JIS Jaguars, **3rd Place:** Okiya Chosen 4.6 SC

All of the 55 games that took place across the weekend were well-played, exciting, and demonstrated fair play and friendly competition. It was a weekend that would not have been possible without the dedication of our small army of volunteers, and the generous support of our service providers and sponsors:

- **JP Morgan**
- **Hikarigaoka Junior Soccer League**
- **The McCreadie Family (Victoria, Canada)**
- **Capital Group**
- **The Carbine Club**
- **Hikarigaoka Korenkyo**
- **Iwate Galaxy Railway**
- **Cheer Spirit Studio**
- **Liverpool FC Academy**
- **Aoba-Japan International School**
- **TRE Strikers**
- **Haronokaze Elementary School**
- **Hikarigaoka Luna Cheer Team**
- **Cezars Kitchen**
- **Tsubasa Bus Company**

Between games, the kids enjoyed barbecues, a professional skills clinic with former international major league English Premier League and J-League players, trips to a local *onsen* (Japanese hot spring), and much more. New in 2018 was the inclusion of a cheerleading workshop by Cheer Spirit, an organization led by former Hanshin Tigers Cheer Coach, Moeko Shimada. Our intention, and our accomplishment, was to open the event more equally to boys, girls, and families alike.

## **A Growing Base of Support**

The organizers are thrilled by the growing base of support the event is receiving, together with the generous participation of local community organizations. Organizations such as JP Morgan, the Carbine Club, Capital Group, and the McCreadie Family from Canada (through Iwate Galaxy Railway), Cezars Kitchen, and Tsubasa Bus Company provide the financial and logistical support required to bring the teams from Tohoku to Tokyo, and to provide the food, venues, and accommodations. Organizations such as the TRE Strikers and Liverpool FC Academy ensure that the kids are able to experience professional level soccer coaching and advice, delivered by former pro players from major league organizations. The Hikarigaoka Korenkyo, Hikarigaoka Junior Soccer League, Aoba-Japan International School, and Harunokaze Elementary School ensure that the event has a home, and that the tournament is safe, well-provisioned, and professionally managed. Community groups and supporting organizations such as the

Hikarigaoka Luna and Cheer Spirit help bring more community participation, inclusion, and excitement.

Again, Nadia would like to extend its sincerest thanks to all of the participating teams, sponsors, services, volunteers, and the communities they all represent, for all of their effort and contributions that helped to ensure that the 2018 event was indeed the best one yet.

Our vision is that the Nadia-Tohoku U12 International Soccer Friendly continues to grow annually to positively impact the communities and victims of the 3.11 disasters of Tohoku, Japan. We also realize that the terrible events that disrupted the lives of those people can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, and our dream is that this event will continue to ripple outwards to more and more people from around the world, bringing with it its message of hope, awareness, and support. We look forward to the future of the event, and we hope and look forward to you all remaining a part of it with us.

Sincerely,

Project Team Core Members,  
Justin Ho, Naomi Rennie,  
Morgan Knight, Greg Culos

...and all of us at Nadia

Non-Profit Organization NADIA  
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