

***** Protect the cultural artifacts of Towada City for our shared future! *****
Volunteer Operations at the Nitobe Memorial Museum
Kyosokyodo (people and nature building a home together)Continues

In June 2015, without warning, the Nitobe Memorial Museum was ordered closed by the city of Towada due to "lack of earthquake-proofing." We express our deep gratitude to supporters from around the country who have allowed us to continue operating the museum and preserving its cultural artifacts on a volunteer basis.

On January 19, 2017, we submitted to the city of Towada 8,233 handwritten signatures and 20,019 signatures online from change.org, calling for the revocation of the demolition order and the preservation of the museum's artifacts. The city has not yet replied.

Thanks to the collective kindness of many donors, we have been able to restart the museum's homepage, pay for the severed infrastructure, and start a fund to continue its management. Awareness is being raised throughout the country and we have received signatures and messages from all over.

Prestigious architects in Japan have called the earthquake evaluation which became the grounds for the demolition order into question, but the city has not responded to a privately funded reinvestigation. Having no other options, the Nitobe family is seeking legal relief to (1) prevent the closing and demolition of the museum and (2) reevaluate the earthquake preparedness of the building based on newly discovered blueprints.

In order to fulfill our museum's mission of preserving our cultural artifacts and conveying them to future generations, we are continuing to operate the museum even under these conditions thanks to citizen volunteers, under our own system of Kyosokyodo (people and nature building a home together). We deeply appreciate everyone's continued guidance and support.

Sincerely,
 Nitobe Tomie, Kyosokyodo chairman

Our ongoing activities

- (1) We are appealing across the country to prevent the closing of the Nitobe Memorial Museum, which exhibits the pioneer roots of Towada City and the Bushido spirit of Inazo Nitobe.
- (2) We are assembling a team of experts, citizens, and like-minded people from around the country to preserve and maintain the Nitobe Memorial Museum building.
- (3) With expert guidance, we aim to preserve the "historical resources of the Nitobe Memorial Museum," start a local learning program, and spread our local history and Inazo's spirit far and wide.

Contact: Nitobe Memorial Museum Volunteers
 Kakuta Mieko, Kyosokyodo Office

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 Email: info@kyosokyodo.jp Museum Homepage: www.nitobe.jp

We are appealing for donations to keep the Nitobe Memorial Museum operating and preserve and maintain its unique cultural artifacts. We appreciate any support.

Donations to the Nitobe Memorial Museum Cultural Fund may be sent to Yuucho Bank, branch 848 (spelling: hachiyonhachi), normal account 18450, account number 18126561, name: Kyosokyodo

Fifth donation period: January 1, 2017 — March 31, 2017

- * Donations from other banks may be sent to account number 1812656
- * The accounting for donations will be managed by the entire team.
- * Accounts will be posted annually in March on our website www.nitobe.jp with an overview of our annual activities.