



NEWSLETTER NO.15

International Y's Men's Club of Takarazuka

December 2019

An International Brotherhood Club (IBC) meets STEP

Give Club & Takarazuka Club Bounded by Rigid Ties!

At the 64th International Convention in Singapore in 1994, IBC concluded between Takarazuka Club and Give Club, Denmark. After the convention I attended 150th anniversary of England YMCA. And then I had a chance to visit Give club as a club President. It is no exaggeration to say that the visit was one of the times of blisses through my life. Thereafter, heartwarming mingling between us has become oftener which made our relationship much stronger by meeting at the time of International Conventions, Helsinki, Sydney, Hong Kong, and Yokohama. We visited their 25th Anniversary and in return, they came all the way to our 25th celebration. It was a great reunion and our friendship became much stronger.

In 2017 I visited Give after a long absence but unfortunately found some of them in nursing homes. However, this summer, Tomoki Ishida had a chance to visit Give as STEP Program and our friendship and marvelous relation has revived. They took very good care and he had unforgettable and valuable experiences. We hope our relation will never be perished. (Hiroko Fukuda)

Signing Ceremony in Singapore, 1994



Welcome to Japan, 1999



Excursion to Nara



Welcome again, 2013 Meeting at Kansai Airport

The fruit of our long-term IBC

The Short Term Exchange Program (STEP) provides a great opportunity to youth to learn about culture, traditions and language of their fellow Y's youth and Y's men around the world. This summer this great opportunity came to Tomoki Ishida who is the grandson of Tago Y's. She is the current president of our club.

We Takarazuka Y's men club has been IBC with Give Club for more than 30 years and Tomoki chose Denmark since he has been studying architecture and he was attracted by the Scandinavian famous architects. Give Club welcomed him as the host club and all his host families organized many activities. His report was featured in Youth World, Oct. issue. Both clubs were so excited to get the fruits of our long- term friendship of IBC.

Both clubs are so happy to know Tomoki has enjoyed every minute and he has learnt a great deal about Y's men and YMCA.

He also became aware of the importance of international connection. And he was very much impressed to see the refugees supported by Give Club. Tomoki has more confident and became much stronger through this program. He hopes as many as youth should apply this awesome Y's Program.

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When I received the Short Term Exchange Programme (STEP) application, from RD Japan West, for Tomoki Ishida, I forwarded the documents to relevant authorities in Denmark. What amazed me was less than three hours, I received a response from RD Bjarne Hyldgarad. He had gladly accepted Tomoki as a guest, to further the 'brother' relationship between Give in Denmark and Takarazuka in Japan. Tomoki began his journey on 14 August till Sept. 4. He had an exceptional time with Give Y's Men's Club. I take opportunity to thank RD Bjarn and family, RSDs Flemming and Connie, and all members of Give Club who made Tomoki's STEP dream a reality. ([ISD STEP & YEPP Rita Hettiarachchi](#))



**Tomoki (2nd from left)
chattering with youth in Give**

Editors: T.Takeda, K.Sugitani, H.Fukua, Y.Ishida