

The 2012 Recovery Parade in Japan

Introduction

In 2007, I was invited to visit a number of addiction treatment and recovery centers in Japan and to deliver lectures on the new recovery advocacy movement in the United States. My description of early U.S. recovery celebration events and the images I showed of people in recovery and their families marching to celebrate recovery on the streets of major American cities drew much interest from my Japanese audiences. Upon my return, I continued correspondence with many of my new friends in recovery from Japan and was delighted when the announcement arrived of the first public recovery celebration parade in Tokyo in 2010. The report (prepared by Andy Graham) and images below were sent to me by Isamu Shiroma with a request that they be shared with recovery advocates in the United States. I hope you will be as inspired by them as I was.

William White, November 2012

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The third annual Recovery Parade in Tokyo was held on September 23, 2012. Alas, the gods declined to smile down upon us. As on the day of the first recovery parade in 2010, it was raining. But the happy alcoholics and others in recovery, together with family members, friends, and supporters, refused to let that deter them. Gathering at the appropriately named Plaza of Water in Shinjuku Central Park at 12:30 pm, we headed out shortly before 1:00, wending our way through the streets of Shinjuku, one of the busiest spots in central Tokyo, singing as we walked along. With our faces and voices, we conveyed a message of hope and joy to all who caught sight of our procession. And we all had a good time.

After the event, the Recovery Parade Executive Committee posted the following message of thanks on the Japanese and English website at <http://recoveryparade-japan.com/>:

We are pleased to report that the Third Recovery Parade took place without problem on September 21, 2012 (Sunday).

Despite the inclement weather, about 300 people took part in the event. And on the day before that, the first Recovery Parade in Hiroshima took place, also with about 300 participants.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and organizations who cooperated with and endorsed our activities during the past year, as well as supporting us with financial contributions.

Already preparations have begun for the fourth parade. We are eagerly awaiting the day one year from now when we will be able to meet you once again. Let us all gather together for number four. Thank you very much.

Yuji Sato
Chairman, Executive Committee
Recovery Parade & "Recovery Festival"



