

# Sabae City

JK Division of Sabae City Government



## Situation

To overcome the depopulation problem common to local governments in Japan and create a sustainable community, the challenge is to improve the environment so that young people, especially young women, can stay in their local communities.



## Action

The project “JK Division of Sabae City Government” was set up with members as female secondary school pupils who were generally regarded as being the furthest from administration and community development. The members have been working on self-planned volunteer activities and events, collaboration projects with different groups (of adults), etc.

## Impact

The secondary school pupil project members have actively worked on as many as 80 projects every year. In addition, they have involved residents and companies in the city and created a new interaction network, changing the way the adults around them think. “If youths change, then adults will change. If adults change, then communities will change.” The youths who realise this consider community development not as the affairs of other people, but as their own affairs. Such a virtuous cycle has been bringing new energy and life to the community.