

Holding a "Symposium on the Support of the Children who lost Their Families in the Traffic Accident"

In the Tenth Fundamental Traffic Safety Program (Developed on March 11, 2016 by the Central Traffic Safety Policy Council), the "Victim support" was listed as one of pillars for the traffic safety measures to promote support for the victims of traffic accidents and their families and bereaved family (Hereafter, called as "Victims of traffic accident").

The National Police Agency has been carrying out Traffic accident victims support services" (Hereafter, called as "support services") with a view to fostering a culture that allows victims of traffic accidents to recover from deep sorrow and the miserable experience and to protect their rights and benefits (Transfer the services from Cabinet Office to National Police Agency on April 1, 2016). In support services, a "Symposium on support of children who lost their families in traffic accidents" which can be attended by the general public is held in order to widely transmit information for the support of children who lost their families in traffic accidents.

In FY 2016, in Aichi prefecture, keynote lectures by experts and lectures for the bereaved families and bereaved families those had lost their family members in their childhood years in traffic accidents panel discussions, inviting bereaved families those had lost their family members in their childhood years in traffic accidents as panelists were carried out.



- Keynote Speech by Mr. Nobuo Seto, President of Sendai Ikuei School Alumni Association
- Lecture by Bereaved Family



Mr. Seto, who is the deputy head teacher at Sendai Ikuei Gakuen delivered a lecture questioning "5.22, have you forgotten that day?". Excerpt from the lecture are 'On May 22, 2005, the precious life of a high school student at Sendai Ikuei Gakuen was lost because of drunk driving a vehicle while participating in an event, also there were explanations for the guardians with regard to the school and correspondence with the students. After this there was a street signature obtaining campaign with a focus on students and appealing

for extermination of drunk driving. Treating this accident as an opportunity, an ordinance was passed in Miyagi prefecture (enacted in October, 2007) with regard to extermination of drunk driving. To this day Sendai educational institute continues to have various contests related to extermination of drunk driving.'

Moreover, the bereaved family that had lost their child who was 3 years old gave a lecture about not only the accident situation the remorse and mortification related to the accident and civil case suits that followed but also, how among all this, thoughts and reflections can remain unnoticed about the changes in the family also how the mutual trust with children needs to be regained afterwards.

Panel discussion “What is meant by losing a Family in a Traffic Accident in Childhood?”

Coordinator : Ms. Ikumi Inoue, Manager of National Liaison Council for Bereaved Families and Concerned Parties that Requested for Severe Punishment for Crimes like as Drunk Driving and Hit and Run

Panellists : 3 members of bereaved families who had lost their family members in traffic accident in the childhood

3 members of bereaved families who had lost their family members in traffic accidents in the childhood talked about their experience and pain of losing their dear families and also the incident that made them overcome this pain. Thereafter, in light of the stories of the 3 members, a discussion was held with Ms. Inoue as the coordinator.

Story of a person who lost a family member in a traffic accident in childhood (Female)

I lost my father before I was born. However, I was fortunate for a life where I have not felt lonely since I was child as I received a lot of support from grandparents and relatives. I joined the boy scouts as recommended by my mother since I have no father, instead of going anywhere else, and I got a very valuable experience in my childhood. When I travelled with the people of the Scholarship Foundation for Traffic Accident Orphans and NASVA, I could share my memories with my family. I really appreciate my mother and the people who supported us.

Story of a person who lost a family member in a traffic accident in childhood (Female)

I lost my father on Christmas Eve when I was 8 years old. I started my life without my father in the cold winter and I felt that I was really exhausted both physically and mentally. When I was in the 3rd grade of junior high-school, I applied and got the scholarship from Kotsuiji Ikueikai (Scholarship Foundation for Traffic Accident Orphans). I was able to get a place in the dormitory "Kokorojuku" for traffic-accident orphans when I entered university. It was a good opportunity for me to open up my mind in the dormitory that was only for traffic accident orphans. When I was in junior high school or high school, the surrounding people knew that I have no father, so the word "Father's Day" was a banned word for me. In "Kokorojuku " there was no such a banned word, we spoke such words normally. Therefore, it was a personal matter for me. Though it was easy for traffic accident orphans to get the scholarship, I thought that it was important to think about how to repay it in future. I thought that if traffic accident orphans could get further cordial support such as the benefit from scholarship it would be a relief on mental health.

Story of a person who lost a family member in a traffic accident in childhood (Female)

I lost my elder brother when I was in the 2nd grade of junior high-school. Though I heard from the police about the hit and run in my brother's case, I was not angry and sad at that time I wished it was just a bad dream My parents had not gone to the crematory. They apologized many times saying, "We cannot pick up our kid's bones. We are sorry". After losing my elder brother, my life in the junior high school was full of such pain that I had never experienced before. Since I could not discuss anything with my parents, I relied on support from my teachers. However, there were some teachers who did not think so much. Even their words of encouragement were painful for me. When I saw my husband's family taking family photographs with their siblings at the time of my wedding, I felt deeply saddened and lonely. The impact of losing my sibling hits hard on casual days, auspicious days and indeed at any time. Now, I got married living away from my parents. Right now, it is the most painful situation for me. After reaching this age, I have learned that it is important to fight the sorrow at these different times.