

EITAKO

Cultural Exchange Organisation between Okayama and NZ

What is EITAKO?

Ei-PLAY is a volunteer group that is affiliated to the Social Welfare Council of Sōja city in Japan.



Te Ara Koiora is a charitable trust in New Zealand



EITAKO

History of EITAKO project

Education Programme 2020

Started a regular school exchange programme that focuses on culture mainly between Burnside Primary School in Canterbury, NZ and Azo Elementary School in Sōja city, Okayama, Japan.

Cultural Exchange Programme 2022

- Higashi Elementary School in Sōja introduced Sōran-Bushi Minyō dance to Cobham Intermediate School on Zoom, and some Cobham students introduced kapa haka to Higashi students.
- Sōja Bicchū Kagura Kids group introduced their performing art to the UC students on Youtube live stream.

PR Character Sussa Project 2023

- The Bicchū Kagura & Kapa Haka Exchange Project, PR Character Bicchū Sussa was created.
- The very first promotional project for Sussa is a tenugui (Japanese towel). The tenugui design and printing planning was in collaboration with Okayama Prefectural University.

Visiting NZ 2023

- Visiting NZ for the Bicchū Kagura & Kapa Haka exchange programme in person. (In August)
- Joint performances, gasshuku/wānanga, and workshop in NZ

Who is Hiroe Sakai? What is she involved with?

English
teacher in
school and
from home

Organising
kids' events
in Sōja

Hiroe is
the leader
of Ei-PLAY

Her son is
a Bicchū
Kagura
performer

Working with
Okayama
Prefectural
University for
local kids
programme

Who is Yoshimi Fujikawa? What is she involved with?

Japanese
budō
activities

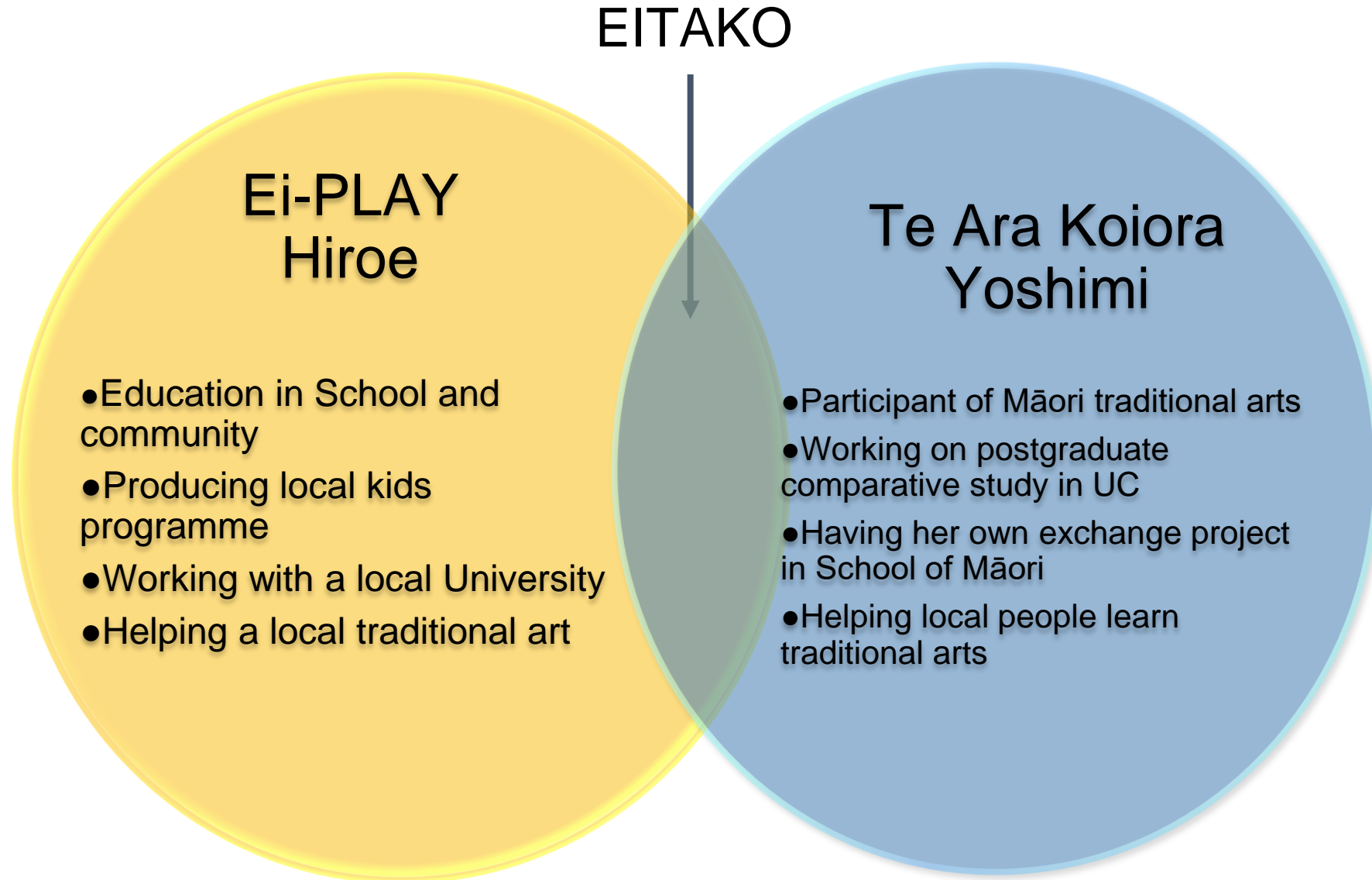
Māori taiaha
Kapa haka
activities

Yoshimi is a
trustee of Te
Ara Koiora

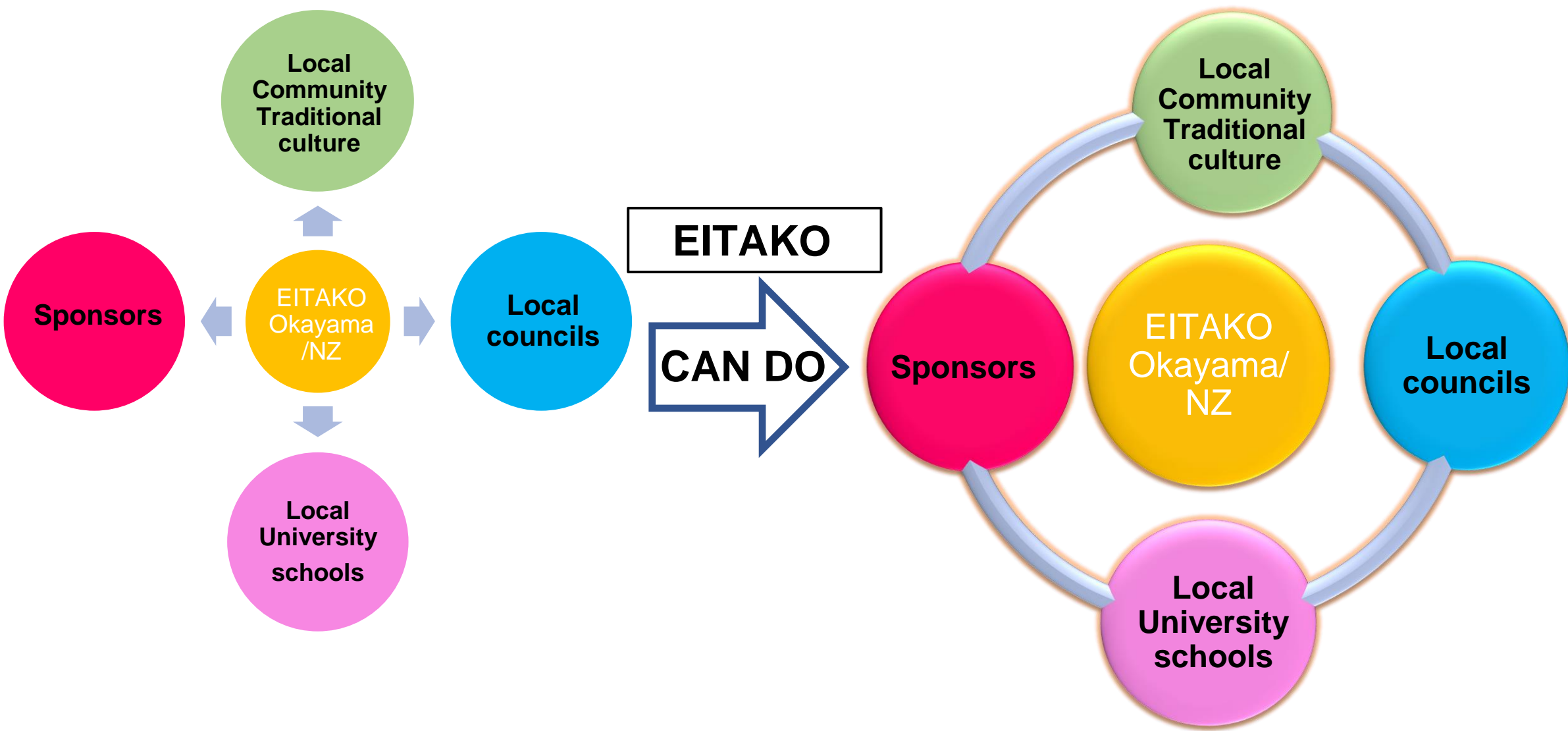
Post graduate
student of UC
in Māori
studies

Working on
Comparative
study between
Māori and
Japanese

What is unique about EITAKO?

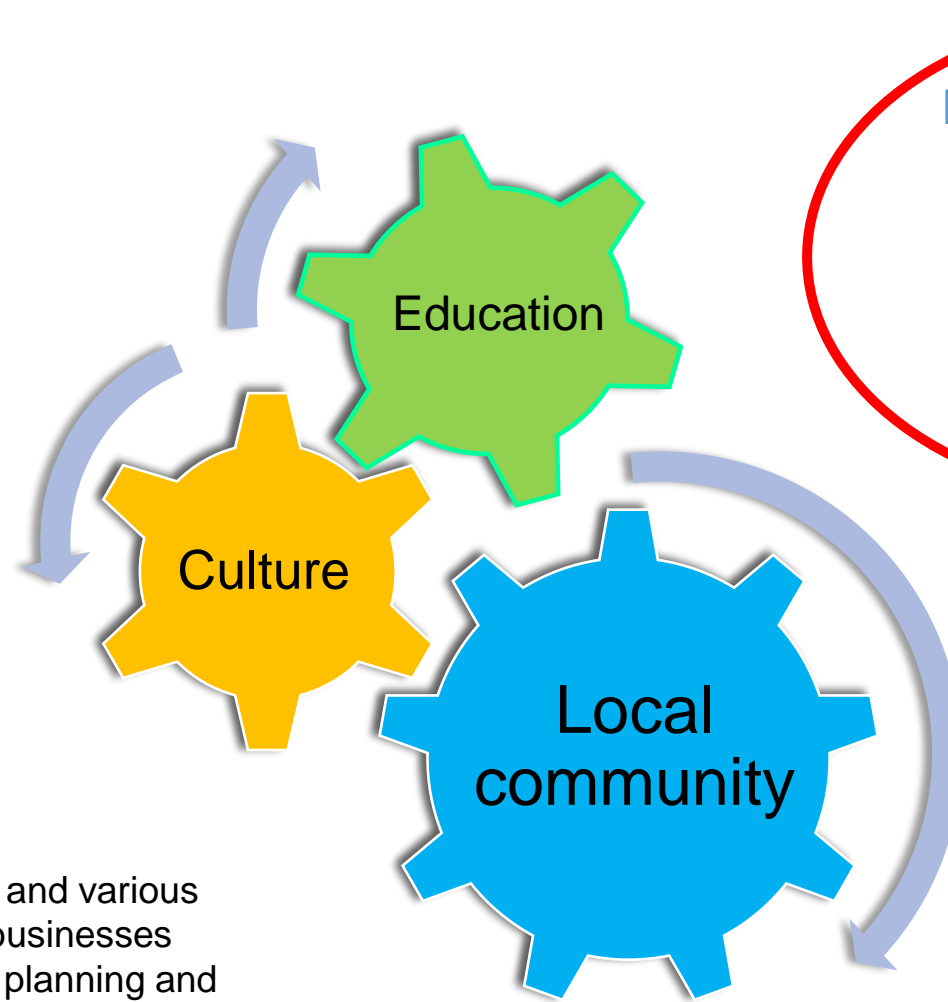


How is the EITAKO project helpful in local society?



What is the benefit from the EITAKO project?

Getting involved with local people & overseas people
↓
People can grow beyond their boundaries
↓
Knowing about each other & understanding each other
↓
Raising and nurturing people & resources
↓
Inbound benefits for both Okayama & NZ



EITAKO can facilitate meaningful programmes that enhance your community and connections with NZ and Japan!

* *Local community* includes people, schools, and various interest groups spanning education, culture, businesses and local councils with positive future looking planning and SDGs.