

This newsletter conveys the voices of foreign residents, while also focusing on the activities of various international organizations and on the restoration efforts after the disaster.



It has been 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Fukushima Prefecture is steadily moving forward in revitalization; however, there are still areas in progress. While the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries are the main industries in Fukushima Prefecture, the industrial output has greatly declined after the earthquake disaster. In order to eliminate the harmful rumors, there are continued efforts to promote the appeal as well as the safety and security of the Prefecture's products. The tourism industry is also working on attracting tourists by showcasing the appeal of Fukushima Prefecture's food, flowers and onsens. In May 2011, Fukushima NOW started under the name of "Gabaro Fukushima". This issue is part of a 3-part special edition series on Fukushima Prefecture's progress in revitalization and reconstruction.



Competing on Quality! Fukushima-brewed Sake

Japanese sake is a product that represents Fukushima Prefecture. However, since the earthquake disaster, sake breweries were damaged and many had no choice but to leave the place where they were founded. Due to the harmful rumors, consumers have a lot of fear regarding Fukushima products. However, in the Annual Japan Sake Awards, where breweries are competing for the best new sake, Fukushima breweries have won the most



33 brands won prizes at the Annual Japan Sake Awards 2020. (Due to the impact of COVID-19, Gold Prize winners could not be selected and only the regular prize winning sakes were awarded.)

number of gold awards in Japan. This helps with spreading the appeal of Fukushima products as well as with eliminating harmful rumors. Fukushima-brewed sake has won the Gold Prize in the Annual Japan Sake Awards for 7 straight years, beating the previous record. Fukushima-brewed sake is not only eliminating harmful rumors but by promoting its high level technique and quality, there is a great expectation it will increase sales for all Fukushima products.



Fukushima Trade Promotion Division Council
Langston HILL

(From the United States of America)

We interviewed Langston Hill who has been working at the Fukushima Trade Promotion Division Council since April 2020. He is in charge of promoting Japanese sake overseas.

Q What makes Japanese sake so special?

You can enjoy the sake in different temperatures. By having it hot or warm, Japanese sake is an alcohol that changes flavors depending on the temperature. Also, there are various ways to enjoy it such as by adding fruits to make cocktails.

Q What kind of role do you think Japanese sake has in the revitalization progress in Fukushima Prefecture?

I think the pride and effort (Fukushima Pride) of the sake breweries are a driving force for revitalization.

Q Why do you think Fukushima-brewed sake is delicious?

Fukushima-brewed sake has the features of being rich, refreshing and tasty. Here, the rice and water are delicious and there are also efforts being made to train skilled personnel. So I guess it's because "the rice is delicious, the water is excellent and the people are all exceptional".

Q Can you say a few words to promote Fukushima-brewed sake?

After winning the most Gold Prize at the Annual Japan Sake Awards for 7 straight years, I think Fukushima's technological capabilities in sake production are the best!

Voices from Fukushima

Researching about radiation and the environment Estiner Katengeza

(From Blantyre, Malawi/ Currently living in Minamisoma)

Estiner Katengeza is a graduate student at The University of Tokyo and is currently researching radiation at a research institution in Minamisoma. Compared to the busy life she had in Tokyo, Estiner now enjoys taking more walks, jogging and singing outside in the rich natural environment of Minamisoma. Estiner, who is a semi-professional musician in Malawi, is also a member of Minamisoma International Association and so, we wanted to ask her a few questions.

(ZOOM interview date: 20 June 2020)



- What made you decide to come to Japan?

I came to Japan in April 2018 after receiving the MEXT scholarship to study environmental radioactivity. I became more interested in Japan because of its history with radiation especially after the 2011 earthquake disaster.

- What did you hear in Malawi about the Great East Japan Earthquake?

On the tv, I saw a lot of scenes of the disaster on the news. I also read a lot of academic papers to understand what happened.

- Can you tell us about your current research?

First, I studied environmental science at The University of Malawi and later, I went to a graduate school in England to study medical physics. Afterward, I decided to research on environmental radioactivity in order to combine both my undergraduate and postgraduate training. Then, my supervisor at University of Tokyo recommended my current research institution, where I get to research about radioactivity measurements under water. I believe there are many people who have a bad impression of radiation. However, it still serves other important roles in medical treatments as well as in security. For example, X-Ray exams and airport baggage inspection.

- How do you like living in Minamisoma?

I lived in Tokyo for my first year and then after, I started living in Minamisoma City from April 2019. My friends in Malawi were worried but because I am living here, I will be able to tell them more accurate information about Fukushima.

- Do you have any goals and dreams for the future?

I want to promote nuclear science and technology (the application, education, and research) in Malawi. I also want to make a music video in Japan.

Scenes of Fukushima

2nd International Board Game Day (Fukushima City)

Fukushima City International Friendship Association held an international board game event on Sunday, July 12th. The event took place at "Fukufuru" (Fukushima Machinaka Exchange Center) and people enjoyed playing board games and cards from countries around the world. Attendees were also having fun playing unique games from Germany and Korea.



Multilingual information on the revitalization effort : "Fukushima Restoration Station"

Get the latest data in 10 different languages regarding food safety efforts and activities of people supporting Fukushima.

<https://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/>

Available in 11 languages

- Help Desk for Foreign Residents -
Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean,
Tagalog, Portuguese, Vietnamese,
Thai, Nepali, Indonesian, Spanish

Every Tuesday to Saturday
From 9:00 am to 5:15 pm

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We would appreciate hearing your thoughts and opinions. Please send us any information that you would like to see covered or information about people willing to be interviewed.

