

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.



In May 2011, Fukushima NOW started under the name of "Ganbaro Fukushima". We will be publishing a 3-part special edition series on Fukushima Prefecture's progress in revitalization and reconstruction. The second issue in this series is about The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum.



Connecting Fukushima's Experience to the Future

This year marks 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident occurred. On September 20th, the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum opened. This museum has three guiding tenets:

- 1.To share with the world and pass down to future generations information about the nuclear disaster, revitalization efforts, and the lessons that were learned.
- 2.To promote disaster risk reduction and mitigation that reflects the Fukushima-specific experiences and lessons that were learned.
- 3.To contribute to the speed-up of revitalization efforts by collaborating with people and organizations that support Fukushima, to revive regional communities, culture, and tradition, while fostering the next generation who will continue revitalization efforts.

The memorial museum has only been opened for 46 days and has already reached 20,000 visitors. While trying to utilize the most out of the exhibition materials and testimonies※, there is hope that this memorial museum will be a central place to pass along experiences to the next generation.

※The testimonies are told by people who have experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster. They recount the truth and their thoughts about the actual experience as well as about the future of Fukushima.



Photo on top: Exterior of the memorial museum, Photo on the bottom left: Inside the exhibition room (Signboard promoting nuclear power in Futaba Town), Photo on the bottom right- Exhibition materials (Messages from overseas)



The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum Business Division- Yuka Kai

She was a junior high school student in Okuma Town when the disaster occurred and is now working as a staff at the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum. She is in charge of the memorial museum's events and original merchandises.

Q Could you explain the important role the museum plays in Fukushima?

I believe there are two responsibilities for the museum. Firstly, it is to maintain the progress made since the disaster occurred and secondly, it is to communicate this progress and situation to others. At the memorial museum, not only are there exhibits on display but there are other activities happening such as training and survey/research. Therefore, we are able to approach these two responsibilities from various perspectives.

Q What is the training program?

By taking part in the training program, the aim is to get people to personally comprehend the current situation of revitalization in Fukushima Prefecture as well as the remaining issues. There are 5 parts in the program which include an orientation course, a tour of the exhibition, listening to testimonies, fieldwork and bus tour of Ohirayama Cemetery and Futaba Station and lastly, a review workshop. Around 20 to 240 people can participate but please inquire regarding other participants.

Q What were you most happy about taking part in this work?

It was when we were able to have the grand opening on September 20th. I was also in charge of the staff uniforms so I was happy that all my efforts paid off.

Q What would you like visitors to experience at the museum?

I think it is listening to the testimonies which are told by victims four times a day. The storytellers are people who actually experienced living in an evacuation shelter and they talk about their own personal experiences.

Voices from Fukushima

Activities Connecting the Community Janet Pille Yamaki (From Manila, the Philippines/ Currently living in Fukushima City)

As of the end of December 2019, there are 2,719 residents with Filipino nationality living in Fukushima Prefecture. Their population ranks third in the Prefecture, following the Chinese and Vietnamese population (based on "The Present Situation of Fukushima Prefecture's Internationalisation"/ Published by Fukushima International Affairs Division). HAWAK KAMAY FUKUSHIMA is a community of people who have a connection with the Philippines. We decided to talk to Janet Yamaki who became the chairperson of the group this year. (Interview date: 27 October 2020)



- Can you tell us a little bit about HAWAK KAMAY FUKUSHIMA?

The group was established in April 2011 after the Great East Japan Earthquake, in order to expand the network of Filipino people. I came to Japan after the disaster and joined HAWAK KAMAY FUKUSHIMA two years ago. When the group was first established, they served Filipino fried rice noodles at evacuation shelters in Fukushima City. They also served food and performed Filipino songs and dances at temporary houses. A PR magazine was also created in Tagalog.

- After you came to Fukushima Prefecture in 2016, did you feel any differences with the Philippines?

I thought the health insurance system was well-established in Japan. I was surprised when I first saw how people here would pull to the side to let the ambulance pass after hearing the sirens. In Manila, where I used to live, there are major traffic jams so I wish people could act more like they do in Japan during emergencies. Filipino people really cherish the time with their families, and they also want to protect their loved ones.

- What are the kinds of activities HAWAK KAMAY FUKUSHIMA is doing currently?

"Hawak Kamay" in Tagalog means holding hands so I hope we can continue connecting and interacting with the local community. Last year, we held a Christmas party at a nursing home, where we sang songs with the seniors. We were happy that everyone had a good time. Currently, because of COVID-19, we had to limit many of our activities but I would like to keep on doing as much as we can.

Scenes of Fukushima

Consultation with Professional Advisors for Foreign Residents (Organiser: Fukushima International Association (FIA))

Professional lawyers and certified administrative procedures legal specialists will be providing advice to foreign residents and family members living in Fukushima Prefecture. The consultation is free (only a call charge is applied) and confidentiality is guaranteed. Please apply beforehand if you would like to receive advice. For more information, please contact FIA.
<Legal Consultation by Phone>

Consultation issue: Legal advice on everyday living
Application Period: January 5th to January 26th 2020
<Consultation with a Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist by Phone>

Consultation issue: Advice regarding procedures in immigration, residence, nationality, etc.

Application Period: February 2nd to February 24th 2020

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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.

<http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal/>

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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Please Send Us Your Thoughts and Feedback

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.

