

※The Japanese and Chinese versions of this newsletter can be downloaded from the homepage of Fukushima International Association.

On this occasion we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and would like to pray for the speediest of recoveries. Since the earthquake, The Fukushima International Association has been working towards recovery with the creation of a newsletter 『United We Stand Fukushima』. The FIA wants to provide you with up-to-date information on the present condition of Fukushima prefecture and shed light on the activities of local international exchange groups and lives of foreigners living here.



## Present Conditions in Fukushima



Pier One of Soma Port severely damaged in the tsunami ( Soma City 2011.4.12 )



The Crane Castle crowded with tourists. ( Aizu Wakamatsu City 2011.4.2 )



Commuters bustling through Fukushima Station. ( Fukushima City 2011.5.9 )

Two months have passed since the 3.11 earthquake struck, during which we have seen various changes happening throughout the wide sprawling land of Fukushima Prefecture. Fukushima City has regained its normal daily life; 6 towns and villages within the 20-30 kilometers radius zone from the Daiichi power plant, including Okuma town and Futaba town whose citizens were forced to move to new places along with their government offices are striving to build their new lives. Soma city, devastated severely by the tsunami has already launched its reconstruction. Hindered by the Daiichi power plant crisis, recovery and reconstruction work is difficult to resume in Minami-Soma City. Iitate village has been added to the evacuation list. Aizu-Wakamatsu City is suffering from a drop in the number of tourists. The damage caused by groundless rumors is not limited to sightseeing spots in Aizu but also the entire prefecture, which makes the situation a lot more complicated.

Meanwhile, some bright news has also caught our attention. The Tohoku Shinkansen has resumed full operations, the Crane Castle in Wakamatsu has attracted crowds of tourists who come to view the cherry blossoms in full bloom, shops selling Fukushima produce can be seen across the country, people have returned to their homes from shelters and foreigners have come back to Fukushima Prefecture after leaving for their home countries. All these changes have brought a sense of hope for revival to the people of Fukushima. On top of that, the aid from all over Japan and across the world reassures us that Fukushima is not alone.

We must move forward. Let's work together to deliver vitality from the areas which have regained their normal lives to places that are still striving to revive. Let's show our appreciation for the help from the rest of Japan and the world by changing the image of "Fukushima's Crisis" to "Fukushima's Vitality". Our office will provide all kinds of assistance with international exchange activities, while keeping committed to disaster prevention and providing information in foreign languages.

2011.5.9 Executive Managing Director Koukichi Watanabe



## Changes in reading of environmental radioactivity (provisional value)

( taken from the Fukushima Prefecture homepage)

On the Fukushima Prefecture's homepage (link to the homepage of Fukushima International Association), there are various disaster related updates such as the measurement value of environmental radioactivity, results of measurements for environmental radiation (drinking water) or information on the damage of agricultural products in Japanese, English and Chinese. On the Fukushima International Association's homepage, you can also find updates in Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese. <http://www.worldvillage.org/>



Measuring Time	Fukushima City	Koriyama City	Shirakawa City	Aizu-Wakamatsu City	Minami-Aizu Town	Minamisoma City	IwakiCity Taira
(Usual Value)	0.04	0.04-0.06	0.04-0.05	0.04-0.05	0.02-0.04	0.05	0.05-0.06
2011.4.1 9:00	2.44	2.24	0.73	0.24	0.08	0.92	0.58
2011.4.15 9:00	1.92	1.75	0.73	0.19	0.08	0.62	0.35
2011.5.1 9:00	1.61	1.51	0.61	0.18	0.08	0.52	0.26
2011.5.13 9:00	1.46	1.36	0.60	0.17	0.08	0.49	0.22
Direction and distance from the Daiichi plant	NW Approx.63km	W Approx.58km	WSW Approx.81km	N Approx.98km	WSW Approx.115km	N Approx.24km	SSW Approx.43km

\*Measuring location: Fukushima city ( Kenpoku Public Health and Welfare Office) Other municipalities(prefectural government branch offices)



## Persons and Organizations

### Ms Kathryn Goto (Fukushima city)

Originally from the Philippines, Ms. Kathryn Goto, works as a Tagalog interpreter for FIA. She has acted on her own initiative to report on the disaster situation and the Earthquake information center service on her Facebook since the earthquake.

She has also voluntarily served as liaison between the Philippines embassy and Filipinos living in Fukushima Prefecture. Ms. Goto hopes that more people will be able to take actions based on correct information and not be misled by false rumors.



### Fukushima Fune & Tsubasa Association (Fukushima City)

This Association is formed by members from Fukushima who were sent overseas by the Japanese Cabinet Office for youth growth related duties. Immediately after the earthquake, with the cooperation of several organizations, the Association donated supply goods to various shelters as well as provided food for the refugees. Furthermore, following directions from the homepage provided by MEXT, members of the Association have been able to bring and arrange necessary and sufficient supplies to the shelters to support the people there. Also, with a volunteer-based mindset, the members have put their personal networks, built from previous activities into practical use. The members have put an extraordinary amount of energy and effort to assist those who need help.



<http://www.iyeo.or.jp/fukushima/>

### Aizu- Wakamatsu International Association (AIWA) (Aizu-Wakamatsu City)

Essential utilities such as gas, tap water, and electricity were untouched by the earthquake in spite of big shocks. The AIWA worked closely with a local FM radio station broadcasting information in English and helped FIA contact other organizations as our office was damaged severely.

Although there was no large direct damage, Aizu saw a big drop in its tourist number because of rumors and groundless suspicions. AIWA is now counting on foreigners living in Aizu to pass out messages to their respective countries about the present conditions in Aizu.



<http://awia.jp/>



## Service Information

### Foreign Language Earthquake Information Center

FIA has set up a foreign language earthquake information center to provide foreigners with necessary information. English and Chinese speaking staff are available to help you with your inquiries. For other languages and out-of-hours service, we may be able to direct you to other relevant services. Please feel free to contact us.

- Hours : 9:00~16:00(every day)
- Tel : 024-524-1316(exclusively for earthquake related inquiries)  
024-524-1315 (general FIA number)
- Fax : 024-521-8308
- E-mail : [info@worldvillage.org](mailto:info@worldvillage.org)
- URL : <http://www.worldvillage.org/>



## Heartwarming messages from Taiwan delivered



On September 21st, 1999, an earthquake struck Taiwan which claimed the lives of more than 3,000 victims.

Fukushima Prefecture has received encouraging messages and letters from the students of Ming Tan Junior High School, located in Nantou, a place which was devastated by the earthquake. Immediately, our Chinese supporters translated these letters and our staff members have delivered them to Fukushima Public Tatsukoyama Elementary school, which has a similar scale with the junior high school in Taiwan. The staff and students from Tatsukoyama Elementary were very grateful when they received these heartfelt messages from our Taiwanese friends.

### Disaster relief activity subsidy for International exchange and cooperation groups

As part of our support for the international exchange and international cooperation groups that are registered with the FIA, we are now providing funding up to 100,000yen per each group as a subsidy to their programs.

Please check our homepage for details.

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- second application deadline May20th
  - third application deadline June15th
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