

Date of Issue: December 15, 2001  
(This newsletter is published once a month)

※Fukushima Prefecture is making a solid movement toward revitalization. Please take a look at the current scenery of Fukushima Prefecture. You can also download this newsletter in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog and French versions on our website.

【This newsletter is sponsored by CLAIR】



### Scenery of Fukushima



**The shipment of Fuji apples has begun**  
(11.20.2011 Date city)

Another famous product other than the peach in Fukushima prefecture is the Fuji apple. The apple is well known for its luscious taste, its sugariness, its flavour and its size. Therefore, not only has it received high reputations throughout Japan, but also it has gained popularities overseas.



**The streets in Fukushima city are embellished by the lighting up of the illuminations**  
(12.1.2011 Fukushima city)

As a year-end and beginning of the year tradition, the illuminations in Fukushima city have once again brought life back into the dark and wintry night. This year, the street lights are seen as symbols of hope toward revitalizing the city after the devastating earthquake that struck on March 11.



**Messages from a kindergarten in Chile**  
(12.9.2011 Fukushima city)

The supporting messages written by children from a kindergarten in Chile were delivered to Mebae kindergarten by Felipe Jorquera, a former AFS exchange student from Chile who used to study in a high school in Fukushima prefecture.



### Voice of Fukushima

#### Kene Uryu (Male, Kitakata City)

Kitakata is well known for its tourism industry with its *kura* and its ramen street. Every year, nearly 500 schools would choose Kitakata as their school tour destination yet 95% of the tours have been cancelled this year. Although the radiation level is very low in Kitakata, due to groundless rumours, the number of visitors has dropped dramatically. Tour buses are nowhere to be seen. The Chamber of Commerce has come up with a proposal named "Furusato Tomodachi" which citizens in Kitakata will be given post cards to send to their relatives and friends overseas. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness for the people abroad to know that Kitakata is a very safe place to travel to. All I hope now is that the government will keep its promise and minimize the damages caused by the power plants. Although I am prepared for this long battle, the only thing I am most concerned is mental damages. I have one message for the people in Fukushima prefecture – "We stand as one, Fukushima!"

**Megumi Yoshida (Female, Fukushima City)**

I was originally from Niigata prefecture but studied in a graduate school in Nagoya. I was hired by the Forestry Agency and was told to start working from April. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, a day before the earthquake, I received a notice saying that I will be working in Fukushima city. However, the earthquake struck and with all the transportation systems down, I was very worried if I could start work in time. Furthermore, I became more anxious when I heard the news regarding the explosion of the power plants. However, I was able to move to Fukushima city without any trouble with the help from my parents. I still have an uneasy feeling toward radiation yet I have no complaints for my daily life. Fukushima is a place with wonderful scenery and I will definitely make the most of it during my two year tenure here.

**Masami Kanno (From Philippines, Female, Nihonmatsu City)**

After the earthquake, my neighbours and I volunteered at evacuation centres to assist the evacuees from Namie town. I was deeply frightened by the earthquake and radiation yet when I think about the people who have lost their homes and family members, I feel that my situation is nowhere in comparison. Every meal I would use rice from other prefectures for children and rice from Fukushima for adults. I feel as if we are fighting against an enemy which cannot be seen by our eyes. However, I believe I can overcome any burdens as long as I am with my family. In addition, I try to keep myself busy and try to attend as many events as possible to release my stress.

**Zhang Qun (From China, Male, Fukushima City)**

I am an owner of a Chinese restaurant in Fukushima city. After the earthquake, my restaurant that was renovated less than a year ago ended up in a huge mess. I did not know what to do because there was no electricity and no water. However, the customers have returned and have shown support which gave me great courage. Since the quake, I have yet to take a day off but with steady efforts, I was able to build a trustworthy relationship with the customers. To me, this is a treasure that cannot be replaced. The quake has severely battered the tourism industry in Fukushima prefecture and many of the chefs in the Japanese inns have lost their jobs. I really do hope that the government can respond faster and bring Fukushima back on its feet. In the meantime, I will continue to serve delicious Chinese food and treasure the relationships I have gained during this disaster.

Publisher

**Fukushima International Association**

〒960-8103 Funabacho 2-1, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture

☎024-524-1315 FAX 024-521-8308 E-mail [info@worldvillage.org](mailto:info@worldvillage.org) URL <http://www.worldvillage.org>