

Fukushima International Association Date of Issue: March 22, 2013

It has been 2 years since the East Japan Earthquake. We would like to show our foremost appreciation to the people around Japan and the world for your continuous heartfelt support. Please take a look at our newsletter GYRO as the updates on the current situation in Fukushima Prefecture and articles on all the local activities involving foreign residents and groups are featured.

※You can download this newsletter in six other languages on our website.



Scenery of Fukushima



Photo taken on 2.5,2013

Debris removal work has started as the government lifted the boundary of the previous evacuation zone (Minami Soma City Odaka Ward)

Odaka ward in Minami Soma City had been designated as an evacuation zone after the nuclear accident. However in April 2012, warnings were waived for some parts of the area and debris removal work began in February 2013. The Ministry of the Environment hopes to remove all the debris by March 2014.



After 2 years, the entire area in Hanami Yama is now open to the public(Fukushima City)

On February 1, Hanami Yama Park was reopened to the public. During the cherry blossom season, a route will be set up around the park for people who enjoy hiking.

Starting on April 6, shuttle buses will run from Fukushima Station to Hanami Yama Park and this is expected to boost the tourism industry in Fukushima city.

※Photo taken on 4.21, 2012



Photo taken on 2.17,2013

Disaster drills for exchange students(Iwaki City)

A disaster drill was held at Taira Fire Department and exchange students from China, Nepal and Myanmar took part in this drill. A seminar was held to give a brief outline of how to use 119 and the procedures to follow during a disaster.

The students also went through the training of using a fire extinguisher.



Voice of Fukushima

Chamila Larunatilake

(From Sri Lanka, Male, Aizu-Wakamatsu City)

Although the Aizu region which I live in was not deeply affected by Great East Japan Earthquake, I was worried as my phone did not have any reception and my internet was disconnected for a few days. After the disaster, I went and volunteered with some professors from my university and some friends. I was devastated to see how the areas were destroyed by the tsunami in person but at the same time I was impressed by how hard the Japanese people fought in a crucial time like this. It is something I will never forget. I truly felt the strength and the sincerity of the Japanese people.

With the experience of the disaster, I began doing things such as comparisons between the normal level of radiation and the level of radiation in Fukushima Prefecture and did a research on how our health might be affected by radiation. I am more aware and have more knowledge of the nuclear accident and radiation now. The anxiety is now gone and I believe I am making the right judgments.

Aizu is my home and I believe Fukushima will recover from the disaster. I want to be here to witness it.

Hayato Kanno (Male, Fukushima City)

With the experience of the disaster, I have changed my mindset from worrying too much to give everything a try first mentality.

I have met many foreigners since my days in university and I want to use this experience to introduce the Japanese culture and continue to learn foreign languages.

Furthermore, I am taking training courses in becoming a Japanese language teacher and I am currently volunteering as a Japanese language teacher. I would like to provide all kinds of support for the foreigners and not just Japanese language courses. As I can utilize my own experiences in many occasions, I take part in training programs and international exchange events where I can do further studies. However one thing I have noticed is that it takes time to build good relationships with others. I believe building rapport and staying connected with others is essential and I will focus my activities around international exchange as a way to support Fukushima towards recovery.



Decontamination Information Plaza



Decontamination Information Plaza located in Fukushima City provides the local citizens a direct channel to ask any questions they might have toward the decontamination process and also provides radiation related information. Inside the plaza, booths are displayed to give citizens a basic knowledge on decontamination and radiation as well as the decontamination progress in each city, town and village. Furthermore, a model of the storage space of where contaminated soil is usually kept and materials used for decontamination are also displayed. This is done to show citizens the results from decontamination and that people can confirm the safety of the storage space for contaminated soil by themselves.

Also, as the adviser is always on site, he will be able to answer any questions that the citizens might have on radiation related matters.

Decontamination Information Plaza TEL : 024-529-5668 URL : <http://josen-plaza.env.go.jp/>



Articles submitted by foreign residents



Tameria Brent (From U.S.A, Female, Iwaki City)

I've been living in Iwaki since September 2009. I was here before and after the disaster on March 11, 2011. I work at Iwaki Amity English School and I love my job, the teachers, and the children. It's truly a blessing working there. After the disaster, I went to Nasu, Tochigi for 3 weeks until the school reopened and my apartment was inspected for safety. I stayed with my church family from Global Mission Center and friends. It was hard because I was far away but great because I was with people who loved and cared for me and they cared for others.

I love Iwaki!! I hope that I can stay here for a long time. The people here are wonderful! Throughout my time here, I have met so many people from around the world. Because of the disaster I have gain a larger family.



International Exchange Activities



Photo Exhibition—Cool Japan

“Cool Japan” is a photo exhibition sponsored by Koriyama International Exchange Association. This is an exhibition featuring photos from foreigners who live in Japan and who want to share their experiences in Japan through photos. The theme of the photos include Japan in four seasons, daily life discoveries or unforgettable trips around Japan, which they all have a strong characteristic to them. Many people showed up at this exhibition and were impressed by the photos.



Hina Festival & Rice Cake Making Event

On March 3rd, Hina festival and cake making event sponsored by Soroptimist International Marine Iwaki was held. Among the 70 participants that came, many were mothers with a foreign background who brought their children with them and many were evacuees from Okuma town. The participants had chirashi sushi and soup containing rice cake and vegetables (Japan's traditional new year's dish) for lunch. They also experienced Japanese traditional culture such as the making of folded-paper doll, enjoyed the koto performance and the making of rice cakes. Everyone had a fun time at the event.

On this day, a Philippines group in Nagoya city called SAGIP MIGRANTE donated toys and commodities and they were distributed to all the participants that came to the event.



Measurement of radiation level in Fukushima Prefecture (provisional value)

This information was taken from the Fukushima Prefectural Government website.

The Fukushima Prefectural Government website provides updates on the radiation level in Fukushima Prefecture in Japanese, English and Chinese. The Fukushima International Association website also provides the information mentioned above and on top of that, Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese are also provided.

<http://www.worldvillage.org/>

Unit : $\mu\text{Gy/h} \approx \mu\text{Sv/h}$ (micro gray/hour \approx micro sievert/hour)

Date, Measuring time	Fukushima City	Koriyama City	Shirakawa City	Aizu Wakamatsu City	Minami Aizu Town	Minami Soma City	Iwaki City
(Normal 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
2013.3.13 9:00	0.58	0.51	0.18	0.08	0.06	0.32	0.09
Measurement device	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	IMP
Direction and Distance from 1st power plant	North west About 63km	West About 58km	West south west About 81km	West About 98km	West south West About 115km	North About 24 km	South south west About 43km

※Measurement of the radiation level in Fukushima city was taken in the parking lot on the north side of the Kenpoku District Health and Welfare Office, Koriyama city was taken in the parking lot on the south side of the Koriyama government office complex.

※The normal value mentioned above are from the result of radioactivity levels surveyed within Fukushima prefecture in 2010 (21st year of Heisei period).

※MMP is Portable Radiation Monitoring Equipment (Mobile Monitoring Post), IMP is Immovable Monitoring Post.



Information

●Counseling service for foreigners

Here at the International Association, we provide counseling services for foreigners in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Portuguese.

- English, Chinese, Japanese
Every Tuesday to Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm
- Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese
Wednesday from 1 pm to 5 pm
※Appointment necessary for the 4th and 5th Wednesdays.

TEL : 024-524-1316(direce line) E-mail : ask@worldvillage.org

Publisher

Fukushima International Association

Address : 〒960-8103

Funabacho 2-1, Fukushima City,
Fukushima Prefecture

TEL : 024-524-1315 FAX : 024-521-8308

E-mail : info@worldvillage.org

URL : http://www.worldvillage.org