

United We Stand Fukushima



~ Voices from Fukushima ~

Since the earthquake two years ago, 1000 days have passed by. There still are many people who are living in anxiety and pain.

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 are featured. You can download this newsletter from our homepage.



Scenery of Fukushima

“Study tour at the affected zones” – Let’s think about the recovery in Fukushima

The study tour which aims to offer a chance to see the actual situations in the affected areas by Tsunami was being held by Iwaki’s support and tourism office in Iwaki.

On the 23rd of November 2013, there were 24 participants coming from inside and outside of Fukushima prefecture. They visited places such as Hisanohama area and Toyoma (Usuiso area).

At Hisanohama area, the participants visited Hamakaze shopping street, which was created post the disaster at the area once Hisanohama First Elementary was being built. At the shopping street, the participants had a chance to talk to the people who worked there and saw the photos taken directly after the earthquake. Afterwards, the participants moved closed the Hattachi beach, at where they had a chance to listen to the stories of how the people worked hard to revitalize while at the same time remembering the pain brought by the disaster.

Toyoma (Usuiso area), where the tour visited in the afternoon, was the most heavily affected area. There still are spots where no one can get in. The once crowded “Usuiso sea spa” has become inactive.



Hamakaze shopping street and the nine operating shops



Hisanohama, Hattachi beach area

This tour provided the information that is hard to gain from the media resources. By actually seeing how the disaster affected the area, hearing the personal experiences from the victims, it provoked the participants to think about recovery, prevention and protection in Fukushima critically. (Photo taken at Iwaki City, 2013.11.23)

Information Communication Technology (ICT) for recovery

The fair *Fukushima Recovery Information fair 2013* which utilized the advanced Information Communication Technology (ICT) was being held at Fukushima Corasse on the 21st in November 2013 at Fukushima city.

There were booths which aimed to introduce the recovery process at Fukushima by various companies, as well as presentations from journalist Daisuke Tsuda, Marika Takeda, the recovery support IT volunteer, who talked about the volunteer activities at Iwate prefecture Rikuzen Takada city Nagahora-genki village. We can expect the further usage of ICT in Fukushima.



Daisuke Tsuda's presentation on the Information communication

(Photo taken at Fukushima city, 2013. 11. 21)

“Special decontamination areas” – the decontamination process



The decontamination procedures at Iitate village Usui area

Japan has been carrying out the decontamination plans at areas within the 20 km of the nuclear accident as well as at the areas that were being pointed as the “Special Decontamination areas” by the government.

At Iitate village in Souma, one of the special decontamination areas, the decontamination process has been carried out to cover buildings, houses, farms and roads. One can certainly expect the earlier recovery. (photo taken at Iitate village, 2013.12.3)



Voices from Fukushima

Panida Terada (From Thailand, Female, living in Koriyama city)

Due to the disaster, the Thai restaurant that I opened was forced out of business for a period of time. I reopened it finally in the autumn in 2012. There were customers with various backgrounds coming ever since.

I have befriended with many people who were born in Thailand from Koriyama and Shirakawa. Sometimes, they would counsel me about their lives after the disaster.

I am often quite busy that I rarely have time to take off to enjoy myself, therefore, whenever I find time to go to Koriyama Bandai Atami Hot spring, I always feel relaxed and refreshed. These are the moments I realized the goodness of living in Fukushima prefecture.

Rin Ookura (From Philippines, Female, living in Fukushima city)

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Philipino group Hawak Kamay Fukushima was created. I volunteer there to support the victims. Whenever I recall the typhoon diaster in Philipine on the 8th of November 2013, I feel the pain in my chest. Moreover, we held a campaign to raise fund at the JR Fukushima East entrance on the 30th in November and 1st in December. There were many who encouraged us to do more, I feel grateful for all the helps we received. It made me realize the importance of cooperation even on some smallest things. (2013.12.4)

Min Shinyan (From China, male, living in Fukushima city)

I originally planned to go to Fukushima University in the spring of 2011, however, due to the diaster, I had to delay my enrollment for a year. During the year, I gathered much information on radiation and it helped me to recognize the actual risk, which results in my worry-free mentality living in Fukushima.

I became the president at the student council for exchange students; I also participated in the cultural festival and various events held by Fukushima International Association. Moreover, as a guest for the International Understanding workshops at Fukushima International Association, I had an opportunity to introduce the elementary and junior high school student's Chinese culture and customs. I feel very blessed having the students listening to my talk. Although, there are only two more years to spend in Fukushima, I would like to further enrich my experiences here by participating in events actively. (2013.12.7)



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 : $\mu\text{Gy/h} \rightleftharpoons \mu\text{Sv/h}$ (micro gray/hour \rightleftharpoons 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
2013.12.10 9:00	0.30	0.16	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.14	0.08
Measurement device	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP
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).



FIA 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.

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