



United We Stand Fukushima



~ Voices from Fukushima ~

It has been 4 years and 4 months since the Great Tohoku Earthquake and the explosion at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. In Fukushima prefecture, there is a significant increase in bright new topics of conversation such as the opening of the Futaba Mirai Highschool in Hirono Town and the Pacific Islanders Leaders Meeting which took place in Iwaki. There are still many problems leftover from the nuclear accident, and though many people return to the prefecture every day, by June there were over 110,000 people unable to return home.

At the Fukushima International Association (FIA), we began providing free newspapers after the earthquake such as the *Gyro post-disaster edition* and *United We Stand Fukushima*. We hope to convey our internationalization and the current state of Fukushima to people around the world.

※You can download the Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog, Portuguese and Korean version of the free paper from our website.



Scenery of Fukushima

Exhibition for the Fukushima Destination Campaign

In 2015, from April to June, for a total of three months, Fukushima's JR Group, local governments, sight-seeing businesses, and others have teamed up to participate in the Fukushima Destination Campaign. With "Fukushima in full bloom, the lucky island" as their catchphrase, events are taking place all over the prefecture showing the charms of Fukushima's nature, food, history and culture.



The Shiramizu Amidado Illumination



The Milky Way Illumination on the ski slope

For the duration of the campaign, tourists were able to experience traditional autumn events that were held especially for the Fukushima Destination Campaign. One of these events was Iwaki's Shiramizu Amidado from April 25th to May 24th for which a wondrous world of lights was created, an unusual sight for the spring season. The ski area found on Adatar's plateau in Nihonmatsu also held an illumination event from May 16th to June 7th. Running parallel to the ski slope, a light show called the Milky Way was produced, drawing in many aspiring photographers and tourists wanting to commemorate the extravagant display.

The opening of a duty-free store aimed at foreign tourists

In the city of Aizu-Wakamatsu, tourist facilities such as Aizu's Tsurugajo-castle shop, meeting hall, and Aizu's Samurai house, have begun to offer tax exemptions to foreign tourists. Souvenir items such as local sakes, lacquer wares, and folding fans along with consumable goods will be eligible for tax exemption when purchases total over a set amount. This amount will differ depending on whether they are souvenirs or consumable goods. This initiative was implemented in the hopes that the decrease in foreign tourists as a result of the earthquake and nuclear accident, would be able to bounce back.



The state of the Tsurugajo Meeting Hall shop

Camp for Kids with International Backgrounds

On the weekend of June 27th, the [Multicultural Kids Camp Fukushima 2015] was hosted by the Hourai Japanese Class, took place at the Bandai Youth Center. At the overnight inter-cultural exchange gathering, which was aimed at children with international roots and their guardians, participants were able to enjoy a weekend full of studying, sports, games, and other such recreations. The guardians of the participating children were able to learn about school lives, future opportunities, such as employment and further education through for the children an information exchange. With the help of Japanese speaking volunteers and the children's guardians, they also read picture books in various languages, and the children were encouraged to challenge themselves by reading in another language.



A young boy attempting the picture book reading



Reika Goto (Fukushima city, from China)

In May, I gave a lecture on how foreigners and Japanese people can live harmoniously in Japan. I told my attendants that if I am to live in Japan, then I believe it is essential that I learn Japanese in order to communicate with my family and Japanese friends, but also so I can face my child's growth and education. If I am unable to communicate, my day-to-day life will not be bright. I have never been good at collecting information, and after the earthquake disaster, I went through many hardships in order to fully understand the correct information. Now, by using various SNS platforms such as Wechat and Line, I can easily keep in touch with my Chinese friends, so I am able to relieve a little of the stress of everyday life.



Faisal Budi Armansyah (Fukushima city, from Indonesia)



In November of 2012, I came to Fukushima as a technical skills trainee. This fall I will have been here for approximately 3 years, carrying out constructional machinery work and studying other techniques such as welding. In 2004 I experienced the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake. At the time, myself, my family, and the high school I attended were unharmed, but the fear of how suddenly large-scale disasters can occur was something that I came to understand, and I became constantly aware of disaster prevention. During my time living in Fukushima, I have experienced many large earthquakes, but each time I am able to calmly judge where the closest evacuation center is and how to best protect myself. Also, at the time of a disaster, I am able to accurately acquire information, and I have memorized disaster related Japanese words.

Maricel Sasaki (Fukushima city, from the Philippines)

I have one daughter in high school, one son in Jr high school, and one son in elementary school. Everyone's schedules are different, and I also work, so every day is a busy struggle. We came to Japan after the disaster, so I was unaware of the Great Tohoku Earthquake or the nuclear accident at the time, but my children's health is always something that I keep in mind.

On my days off, I try to actively participate in activities for foreigner residents. When I talk to those from the same background as myself, I learn a lot of useful things about living in Japan.



Measurement of radiation levels in Fukushima Prefecture (provisional values)

The Fukushima Prefectural Government website(<http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp.e.od.hp.transer.com/>) provides updates, with information such as that found below, on the radiation levels in Fukushima Prefecture. The FIA's website provides the aforementioned information in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Portuguese.

Unit : μ Gy/h \approx μ 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
(Usual values)	0.04	0.04-0.06	0.04-0.05	0.04-0.05	0.02-0.04	0.05	0.05-0.06
2015.6.30 9:00	0.21	0.12	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.06
Measurement device	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP
Direction and Distance from 1st power plant	Northwest \approx 63km	West \approx 58km	West southwest \approx 81km	West \approx 98km	West southwest \approx 115km	North \approx 24 km	South southwest \approx 43km

※Measurement of the radiation levels in Fukushima City were taken on the south side of the Kenpoku District Health and Welfare Office's parking lot, while the other cities and towns were taken from joint government office parking lots.

※The usual values mentioned above are radioactivity levels surveyed in Fukushima prefecture in 2009 (21st year of Heisei period). MMP (Mobile Monitoring Post) is a type of Portable Radiation Monitoring Equipment.



FIA Information

•Support Desk for Foreign Residents

Here at the FIA, we provide consultation services for foreigners in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Portuguese.

- English, Chinese, Japanese Consultation
Every Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00 to 17:15
- Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese Consultation
Thursday from 10:00 to 14:00
※Appointment necessary for 4th and 5th Thursdays.

TEL : 024-524-1316(direct 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>