



United We Stand Fukushima



~ Voices from Fukushima ~

It has been 4 years and 8 months since the Great Tohoku Earthquake and the explosion at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. There are currently over 100,000 people living in evacuation shelters within the Fukushima Prefecture. However, the restoration and maintenance of public infrastructure is progressing steadily, decontamination efforts have produced good results, and medical centres, welfare institutions, and other businesses that were forced to shut down at the time have been re-opened. With all this positive news slowly increasing, Fukushima is yet another step closer to a bright future.

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

The Implementation of the Foreigner’s Community Study Tour

On October 25th, the FIA organized a study tour to Sendai, welcoming 20 leaders from the community for foreign-born residents from all over the prefecture. The tour began in the morning at the Sendai International Centre with the observation of the Sendai Earth Festival. The participants were able to see the booth set up by foreign residents, along with their performances, and an explanation of their activities. In the afternoon, they attended a presentation by 2 representatives from Miyagi Prefecture’s foreign community. They were able to see how organizations outside of Fukushima work, and to gain new knowledge on living in Japan as foreigners. Many claimed that the discussion was invigorating, and renewed their motivations for the future.



Study Tour Participants



Fukushima Youth at the Korean Jeonju University visit

Fukukan Net [Fukushima-Korea Youth Exchange Program]

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Normalisation of Japan-Korea Diplomatic Relations. To honour the anniversary, the Non-Profit Organization, Fukukan Net, received funds from the (government founded) Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Foundation, to run the “Fukushima Korea Youth Exchange Program”. On July 29th 166 Korean youths traveled to Fukushima and Tokyo for 10 days, and on September 18th, 80 youths from Fukushima traveled to the Korean province of Jeonju for a 5 day visit in order to provide a fulfilling cultural exchange between the two countries.

On October 12th, a reflective meeting was held in Fukushima City, during which program participants gave a report of their visit, and expressed a firm interest in further deepening a mutual understanding between Japan and Korea.

Multilingual Website on Monitoring Information of Radioactive Materials Opening

This autumn, the Fukushima Shinhatsubai: Towards a new future of Fukushima website, accessible through the Fukushima Prefectural website, will be providing multilingual information on the monitoring of radioactive materials. This information will include inspection results for radioactive materials found in agriculture and fishery products produced in Fukushima, and will be open to the public. It is offered in Japanese and English, but will also be available in other languages such as Italian, Chinese, and Korean. It will be possible to look up entries on each product containing information such as what day they were picked (or caught) and where they were grown. Maps will also be provided. The website has been created to convey to the world, the truth about Fukushima’s situation and the inspections being carried out within the prefecture.

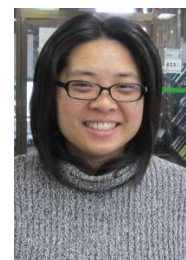


Fukushima Shinhatsubai: Towards a new future of Fukushima, website (<http://www.new-fukushima.jp/>)



Alison Lam (Living in Fukushima City, from Australia)

I became an ALT in the summer of 2011, and I currently teach at elementary and junior high schools throughout the city. Upon arriving in Japan, suddenly living in a foreign country and shortly after the Great East Japan Earthquake, I began to feel a little homesick. However, I soon realized that the easy pace of living and atmosphere of Fukushima suited my personality, and quickly adjusted to living comfortably in the city. I haven't been super aware of the situation during natural disasters, such as when it rained heavily and a "prepare to evacuate" warning was being sent out; I was not particularly worried by it. I would like to be able to attain accurate information during emergencies in order to calmly take the appropriate actions to ensure my own safety.



Mudathir Bakhit (Living in Fukushima City, From Sudan)

I arrived in September 2015, and am currently working at the Fukushima Prefectural Medical School as a medical intern. There's nothing in particular that worries me about living in Fukushima, and every day I work towards tomorrow. At my workplace, all conversations are done in English, so even without Japanese, I can communicate with others. But in my everyday life, I can feel the necessity for Japanese. From now on, I will be working in Japan for approximately 10 years, so in order to interact with native Japanese people I take Japanese lessons every week.

Li Liyan (Living in Koriyama city, from China)

In March 2015, I began the Sino-Japanese Cultural Connectedness Group, Koufuku. All our members are people with Chinese roots that want to learn about and exchange information on Chinese and Japanese culture. It was established for the sake of teaching children our mother tongue, to provide lectures on yoga and Chinese dance, and to deepen our understanding of each other, as people and as cultures. When I first came to Japan and when I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, I wished someone would help me, but I didn't know what to do or how to receive that help. Because I experienced this uncertainty, I wanted to do something to lessen the struggles of those living with the same anxiety I felt. Taking these thoughts into consideration, I would like to help create a region where people are able to help each other, and to live full and meaningful everyday lives.



Measurement of radiation levels in Fukushima Prefecture (provisional values)

The Fukushima Prefectural Government website (<http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/>) 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
2015.11.20 9:00	0.20	0.11	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07
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>