

Gyro United We Stand Fukushima

Fukushima International Association (The inaugural issue)

※For the Japanese, Chinese, Korean and French version of this newsletter, please visit the FIA's website.

On this occasion we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and would like to pray for the speediest of recoveries.

Since the earthquake, The Fukushima International Association has been working towards recovery with the creation of a newsletter 『Recovering Fukushima – The present situation』. The FIA wants to provide you with up-to-date information on the present condition of Fukushima prefecture, its people, and of the nuclear power plant situation.



(left) Cherry blossom in full bloom

(right) Disaster relief goods being delivered to a volunteer center

A message from the Chief Managing Director

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the subsequent nuclear power plant accident, caused a huge loss of life and property. There has been immense damage and suffering and, on this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims of this disaster.

Thinking about all the people affected by this disaster, I pray continuously for the earliest resolution of the Nuclear power plant situation and recovery of the disaster stricken areas.

In the wake of the disaster the FIA, along with the prefecture's International division, set up an earthquake information center working to provide foreign residents of the prefecture with information and consultation services in English, Chinese and other languages.

For those people who cannot fully understand Japanese or need assistance, many may be feeling a large amount of anxiety, so to the best of our ability, we want to give those people reassurance and peace of mind.

Government organizations and international exchange groups are working hand in hand to provide various forms of support. Our association's motto is: 'With joined hearts, Fukushima wants to open its doors to the world';

This is an aim we hope to achieve.

After this unprecedented disaster and nuclear power plant accident, I would like to call on all of the citizens of Fukushima prefecture and the people involved in various international relation activities to guarantee that Fukushima prefecture makes a full comeback.

Chief Managing Director Mitsuo Yamakawa April 2011

Information regarding the nuclear situation in Fukushima

On the FIA web page you can find a link to the Fukushima prefecture homepage which will take you to information on environment radioactivity measurement results (provisional figures) and measurement results of radioactivity in drinking water (tap water) (provisional figures). These are available in Japanese, English and Chinese. In addition, the FIA homepage is continually updating this information in Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese. <http://www.worldvillage.org/>

Below are two questions relating to radioactivity taken from the prefecture's homepage. <http://bit.ly/hsYy1a>

【Q1】 I am using mineral water for drinking water and even miso soup. I am worried about washing vegetables in tap water too. How should I understand the situation?

(A1) If the levels of iodine in your water rise above the safety standards set by the government, it is a good idea not to drink or give the water to others. However, even in these cases, drinking the water on a few occasions is not a source of concern. There is absolutely no problem in using it for ordinary daily use such as washing vegetables, washing your face, and having a bath.

【Q2】 I have children who are at elementary school. Is it safe for them to play outside? Is it ok to dry my laundry outside? My home has a 24 hour ventilation system, is it better to switch it off?

(A2) If mid-air radiation levels outside are less than 10 microsieverts per hour, then it is fine for the children to be playing outside. However, it is recommended that any dirt on their hands is washed off thoroughly, and that whatever the child was wearing as outerwear should be lightly dusted off after coming home. The same is true for laundry as well; it is recommended that any laundry or futons that are dried outside be dusted off before brought inside. Lastly, there is no need to turn off any ventilation systems, or be nervous about having one running in your home.



Persons and Organizations

Ms Reiko Tezuka(Fukushima City)

Ms Reiko Tezuka, is one of FIA's multi-cultural support workers. Originally from China, she now lives with her family in Fukushima city. She came to the foreign support earthquake information center daily to answer inquiries and translate information from the prefectural disaster head-quarters, despite suffering from a lack of running water. During a time of unprecedented crisis which affected so many people's lives, Ms Reiko Tezuka continues to support and reassure people with her smile and positive attitude.



Korean Residents Union In Japan (Mindan) Fukushima Prefecture Branch(Koriyama City)

(Here after referred to as Mindan Fukushima)

The main purposes of Mindan Fukushima are providing support to Korean people living in Fukushima prefecture and visiting Korean tourists while promoting exchanges between Korea and Japan. Mindan Fukushima set up a Korean language 24-hour hotline right after the earthquake occurred. They have also distributed disaster relief goods such as bottled water, instant packaged rice and Korean seaweed to Iwaki city, Fukushima city, and the Big Pallet*.Eating Korean seaweed must have been exciting for many evacuees who may not have tried it before. <http://mindan.org/index.php>



*Big Pallet is an evacuation center located in Koriyama.

NPO THE PEOPLE(Iwaki City)

Based in Iwaki, THE PEOPLE is a Not for Profit Organization whose activities cover protecting the environment, supporting handicapped people, and the promotion of international cooperation through recycling used clothes. Without water, gasoline and other essentials, they delivered used clothes and daily necessities to many evacuation centers. They also help to arrange the supply of fresh produce to evacuation centers, which are suffering from a lack of vegetables, from farmers who have difficulties in selling their produce because of radiation scares. Drawing upon their experience of volunteerism and qualities of vitality and flexibility, they were able to meet the challenge promptly and return the help they have received so far from Iwaki residents. On April 19th, they successfully set up a disaster volunteer center in the Iwaki Onahama area.



<http://www.iwaki-j.com/people/>



Service Information

Foreign Language Earthquake Information Center

FIA has set up a foreign language earthquake information center to provide foreigners with necessary information. English and Chinese speaking staff members are available to help you with your inquiries. For other languages and out-of-hours service, we may be able to forward you to other services. Please feel free to contact us.

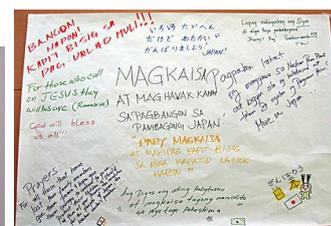
- Hours : 9 : 00 ~ 16 : 00(every day)
- Tel : 024-524-1316(exclusively for earthquake related inquiries)
024-524-1315 (general FIA number)
- URL : <http://www.worldvillage.org/>
- E-mail : info@worldvillage.org



Multi-language slogans on FIA windows



Messages from Taiwan



Messages from Philippine citizens living in Fukushima prefecture

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