

※For the Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog and French version of this newsletter, please visit the FIA's website. [This newsletter is sponsored by CLAIR]

It has been 8 months since the East Japan Earthquake. The citizens in Fukushima prefecture are making their greatest effort toward revitalizing the prefecture. Please take a look at the current situation in Fukushima prefecture.



Scenery of Fukushima



Tourists taking photos in front of the Tsuruga Castle (Aizu Wakamatsu City, 2011.10.29)

Every year, approximately 3 to 3.5 million tourists from all over Japan visit Aizu Wakamatsu city. Although it is 100 kilometres away from the power plants, the number of tourists has decreased dramatically.

However, local corporations have shown great effort in hope to bring back the tourists.



"Gochisou Fukushima Fair 2011" (Fukushima City, 2011.11.5)

Starting with Namie yakisoba, Aizu Katsu-don, Kitakata ramen and a lot more local cuisines and souvenirs, this food festival which was held in Fukushima city featured as many as 132 stores from various areas in Fukushima prefecture. To add more excitement to this festival, live music was played and comedians performed their tricks to make this weekend a memorable one for all who came.



New rice produced by Fukushima prefecture (Date City, 2011.11.16)

All the rice which underwent radioactivity inspection on the 12th of October are below the standard measure (500 Becquerel/kilogram) provided by the government. The stores have started to sell the rice once again.



Voices from Fukushima

Fushimi Yasumasa (Minami Soma City, Male)

After the earthquake, I was in Sendai city with my wife. I did not get home until 12am. When I woke up the next day, I was astonished and became speechless to see all the debris which have been washed away by the tsunami piled up in front of my house. Although I was forced to evacuate because my house was within the 30 km evacuation zone, I returned in July. The fields cannot be used again because they are damaged by seawater and are covered with debris. Half of the children have returned and although the situation is at its worst right now, I hope people from all over the world can come and visit Fukushima. This is one of my wishes.

Nakata Hiromi (Aizu Wakamatsu City, Female)

Time has passed like an arrow as it has already been eight months since the earthquake. Although after the quake, there was no water, no gasoline and everything was sold out in stores, life seems to be back to normal now. However, the feeling I have this year is definitely different from last year. Every morning when I see my daughter off, I feel as if I will never see her again or a feeling that I will never be able to meet my husband who is currently away due to a job transfer. A few days ago, I sent my friends who live in another prefecture some persimmons from Aizu and some rice. However, as people are quite concerned with radiation issues, I asked my friends before I sent them. They were all very encouraging as they accepted my gifts without any hesitation. Right now, all I want is a peaceful life.

Chinthaka Kumara Wijesinghe (From Sri Lanka, Male, Koriyama City)

The earthquake has led to the separation of my family. After the quake, my wife and my son stayed at a friend's place in Nagoya and left the country for Sri Lanka. My son is now studying in America on an exchange program. As Japan is world famous for its technologies, I really hope that the professionals will be able to develop a technology to remove radioactive materials as soon as possible. I am very worried about children as they are the main pillars of this nation in the future. If the professionals do not act now, it will be too late. Ever since I studied abroad in the Science and Technology Department in Nihon University, I have had countless memories in Fukushima. Hence, I believe that Fukushima, the "Island of Happiness", is where I belong.

Zhu Yun Fei (From China, Male, Fukushima City)

Immediately after the earthquake, I went back to China with my wife and my five year old son. My son is still in China with my parents now. Life in Fukushima is back to normal yet the content of my occupation has changed. I used to work as the coordinator to bring exchange students from different places in Asia to Fukushima. However, due to the nuclear incident, it is very difficult to recruit exchange students and hence, I need to find other methods to try to bring the students back to Fukushima. At the moment, I am most concerned with what effects radiation will have on children because all the scientists have different opinions. I am planning to go home someday to live with my son but honestly, I do not have anything planned after that.



Revitalizing of Fukushima



litate village – Planned evacuation zone (2011.10.27)

On April 22, litate village was scheduled as a planned evacuation zone by the government. On June 22, all of the administrative offices have been transferred to lino town in Fukushima city. This is the current litate village as the fields cannot be used and with all the stores closed, you can barely see anyone here.



The streets in Minami Soma back to life (2011.10.27)

Minami Soma city is located within the 30km zone from the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant. After the nuclear incident, it was an area which government suggested people stay indoors. It was scheduled as an emergency evacuation zone at one moment however, by September 30, this order was deactivated. On October 17, the public schools in Haramachi area have re-opened and the classes are now back in session.



The fishing boats are now back in Matsukawaura port (2011.10.27)

Thousands of lives were lost during the earthquake. The tsunami had also washed away countless homes and boats near Matsukawaura port.

However, with the support from other places in Japan and the world as well as great efforts by the local people, the fishing boats are now back in the port.



Changes in reading of environmental radioactivity (taken from the Fukushima Prefecture homepage)

The information regarding the result of measurement for the radiation level in air, drinking water, and agricultural produce damages can be read in Japanese, English, Chinese, Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese.

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

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Measuring Place ※1	Fukushima City	Koriyama City	Shirakawa City	Aizu-Wakamatsu City	Minami-Aizu Town	Minamisoma City	Iwaki City
Direction and distance from the Daiichi plant	NW Approx.63km	W Approx.58km	WSW Approx.81km	N Approx.98km	WSW Approx.115km	N Approx.24km	SSW Approx.43km
Nomal value ※2	0.04	0.04-0.06	0.04-0.05	0.04-0.05	0.02-0.04	0.05	0.05-0.06
Measuring Time 2011.11.15 11 : 00	0.96	0.79	0.41	0.13	0.07	0.41	0.16

※1 The measuring locations are Kenpoku Welfare Administration Office (parking lot), East Wing of Koriyama municipal government and the parking lot of the municipal governments in other cities and towns.

※2 The normal rate of radiation was a result from 2009.

※The measuring equipments for Minamisoma city is portable MP. For other cities and towns, survey metres are used.



Information

A Seminar on the Effects of Radiation on Our Health

A seminar on the effects of radiation will be held by FIA. The speaker is Noboru Takamura, a radiation health risk managing advisor in Fukushima prefecture and also a professor in Nagasaki University.

It is free of charge yet pre-registration is necessary. Please contact us for more information.

Date&Time	Location	Capacity
Dec.17 (Sat) 13:00~15:30	Iwaki Social Welfare Centre(Iwaki City)	100
Dec.18 (Sun) 13:00~15:30	Fukushima Terusa(Fukushima City)	60

Notice on how to request a foreign language health survey

Fukushima prefecture is conducting a health survey to monitor the health conditions of local citizens. You can download the survey in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog and Japanese.

http://www.worldvillage.org/fia/fhms_e.php

Fukushima Health Management Survey Office, Radiation Medical Science Center for the Fukushima health management survey, Fukushima Medical University TEL 024-549- 5130 (every day from 9:00 to 5:00pm)

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