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One year has passed since the East Japan Earthquake. We want to show our foremost appreciation to the people around the world for their supports. Please take a look at the current scenery in Fukushima Prefecture.

【This newsletter is sponsored by CLAIR】

## Scenery of Fukushima



**Kori Jyuku Hina Meguri  
(2.17.2012, Kori town)**

In Kori town, "Kori Jyuku Hina Meguri", a feast which displays hina dolls (a doll that protects girls from bad luck) has begun. The main attraction of this feast features the display of dolls such as hina dolls, hanging dolls and monkey dolls in every store. On weekends, tourists from other areas come and visit Kori town during this feast.



**Decontamination Process  
for Agricultural Products  
(2.24.2012, Date city)**

Last year, many agriculture produce was banned from shipping due to the effects of radiation. This year, however, in order to assist the farmers and help them plant fruits without the effects of radiation, government officials and the farmers will work closely together toward the process of decontamination.



**Chinese Television Broadcasting  
Team in Fukushima  
(2.25. 2012, Fukushima city)**

The Chinese television broadcasting team visited Fukushima prefecture hoping to interview residents a year later after the earthquake. The broadcasting team interviewed the organizations formed by foreign residents and exchange students who were involved in reconstructing activities.

## Voice of Fukushima

### **Miyuki Ishida (Female, Tamura city)**

As our family had already planned to visit our hometown in Shiga for a memorial ceremony, we went back on March 16 after the quake. As the school year was set to restart in April, we returned to Tamura village on April 1. With the start of the school, I thought it was a golden opportunity for us to get back on track with our lives as well. To me, I think our daily lives are slowly returning back on track one year after the earthquake. Before the quake, I took part in various events and joined some clubs however after the quake, our incomes have decreased dramatically and as I am overly stressed, I cannot afford to participate in the events anymore. Yet when I think about the people who have lost their lives during the tsunami, I cannot complain about my current situation. I have to keep working hard but I am worried that I might burn myself out one day.

**Mikami Hiroshi (Male, Sukagawa city)**

The earthquake struck ten days later after my wife and I found out that she was pregnant. As my wife's hometown is in Northern Kyushu city, I wanted her to go back and stay with her family as the situation at the power plants was unstable. However, after we calmed down and talked to each other, we decided to stay together as we feel more relieved mentally when we are with each other. As I was concerned with the effects that radiation might have on pregnant women, I was being very selective on water and food that we consumed. My wife went back home in August and gave birth to our first child on October 25. Both of them returned to Fukushima in November. We are extremely careful with what we eat because the baby is fed with breast milk. However, I try my best to not overreact and try to relax at the same time so that I would not be too stressed out.

**Sean Mahoney (from Canada, Male, Fukushima City)**

Compared with those who lost so much on the 11<sup>th</sup> March last year, I and my family have been lucky. Still, as a homeowner with small children, the nuclear disaster made me and my wife think long and hard about what to do. We're still concerned about radiation levels, and will have our lawn and house decontaminated before our children return from their grandparents' place in southern Aizu. It's too bad the nuclear power plant bears the name "Fukushima," which implies to people throughout the world that our entire Prefecture was equally affected by this tragedy. Anyway, since we love the community of friends and family around us, and cherish our home and careers as well, we'd like very much to stay. We've been greatly encouraged by actions taken to improve food testing and begin the massive cleanup, and hope they'll continue unhampered by political instability.

**Sanpei Sumie (From China, Female, Namie town)**

At midnight on March 12, I received information from the municipal government asking the residents to evacuate toward Tsujima. At the time, I thought we would only have to evacuate for two to three days and would be able to return home after. The next morning, our whole family packed up a few things and evacuated. Afterwards, we moved from one shelter to another and in August, we moved into temporary housing in Fukushima city. I have two children who are still in elementary school. After what had happened, we were forced to evacuate without much preparation and moved from shelter to temporary housing and we had to find a new school for our children. I was very stressed by everything and so were my children. We bought a new house five years ago in Namie town and we still have mortgage to pay. No matter how much I think about it, there is nothing I can do to solve it so the only way is to keep the faith and believe that good things will happen.

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