



United We Stand Fukushima

~ Voices from Fukushima ~



It is now four years since the earthquake, various commemorations were held throughout the prefecture. Revitalization is in process as the Joban highway was open on March 1st and *Fukushima Destination Campaign* will be held in April. On the other hand, problems related to constructing the interim storage facility remain prominent. And until this day, there still are about 120,000 people evacuating away from their homes unable to return, despite some have come back slowly.

At Fukushima International Association (FIA), we started to provide free papers like *Gyro post-disaster edition* and *United We Stand Fukushima* after the earthquake. We hope to convey the current state of Fukushima and our local internationalization to more people.

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



Scenery of Fukushima

Revitalization shopping district Toyo-Marche

In January, the "Revitalization shopping district *Toyo-marche* has opened 4 stores such as restaurants and fish markets at Iwaki Taira Toyoma area.

Toyoma area was one of the place hit the most by the tsunami after the East Japan earthquake. Process of revitalization and area division arrangement are going smooth; the public shelter was established in October. Many people have returned three years post the disaster and have already visited *Toyo-Marche*. Fukushima University students created a booklet called *Toyo-Map*, prefecture special products and revitalization plans to appeal the local allure.



(Photo above) Toyo-Marche (Photo below) Toyo-Map

Japanese study achievement

Japanese Speech Contest hosted by Fukushima Japanese academy in the city was held on Feb 19th. Right after the earthquake, the number of students dropped dramatically, and it is only till recent the number rose to 95 students.

Japanese Speech Contest is an annual contest. This year, there were 16 student presenters coming from countries like Nepal, China and Vietnam. They made speeches in Japanese about their Japan life, family back home and home culture. Many of them wore traditional customs; it was a great event to attend.



The Nepal student who spoke about her Japan life

Emergency announcement CD for Foreign-born residents

FIA produced emergency CDs in both English and Mandarin to broadcast during natural disasters for people who don't know Japanese well. The press conference about the CDs was held on Thursday, the 5th in March.

The CD content is divided into two parts: the first announcement targets at the time immediately following an earthquake, and the second announcement is for a few days later. FIA will send the data to various radio and TV stations in the prefecture, media facilities and government-related places should future emergent accidents occur.

(Photo above) Emergency announcement CD for Foreign-born residents

(Photo below) Press conference





Voice from the citizens in Fukushima

Mirasol Suzuki (Iwaki city, from the Philippines)

Immediately following the disaster, I evacuated to my husband's home and my sister's place in Wakayama for a while, and I have lived in Iwaki since. My son was born 2 years ago and parenting life is tough, but I now work at an English conversation class there, enjoying my peaceful life. Many people are slowly coming back after the immediate evacuation post the disaster. We have many new comers too coming to Iwaki. There are many Filipinos living in Iwaki right now and we have several local Iwaki-Philippine communities targeting different ages and backgrounds. We are very collaborative as a whole.



Ketsu Go (Fukushima city, from inner Mongolia, China)

After having studied at several Japanese language schools and colleges in Tokyo since 2010, I was admitted to Fukushima University last year in spring. I selected Fukushima University not because it has the major I wanted to study but also because of its resemblance to inner Mongolia I realized it when I came to volunteer right after the earthquake. I am currently majoring management at Fukushima University and have had many chances to interact with some local companies. I wish to honor their gratitude and work in Fukushima post graduation.

Binita Thapa (Fukushima city, from Nepal)

I have been studying Japanese at Fukushima Japanese Academy since spring last year. There are many memorable moments such as going to Soma and Iwaki to see the ocean. It was the first time I ever see the ocean! My friends and I were so excited about it! It was our first time ever! After we learned that Fukushima was severally hit by Tsunami from the ocean in front of us, I then became quite disaster-conscious.

I will be upgraded to the upper class from spring this year, it means the language level would be high, yet I am enthusiastic to work hard for it to secure my future dream job in tourism in Japan.



Measurement of radiation level in Fukushima Prefecture (provisional value)

This information was taken from the Fukushima Prefectural Government website.

The Fukushima Prefectural Government website provides updates on the radiation level in Fukushima Prefecture in Japanese, English and Chinese. The Fukushima International Association website also provides the information mentioned above and on top of that, Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese are also provided.

Unit : $\mu\text{Gy/h} \doteq \mu\text{Sv/h}$ (micro gray/hour \doteq micro sievert/hour)

Date, Measuring time	Fukushima City	Koriyama City	Shirakawa City	Aizu Wakamatsu City	Minami Aizu Town	Minami Soma City	Iwaki City
(Normal value)	0.04	0.04-0.06	0.04-0.05	0.04-0.05	0.02-0.04	0.05	0.05-0.06
2015.3.20 9:00	0.22	0.13	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.07
Measurement device	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP	MMP
Direction and Distance from 1st power plant	North west About 63km	West About 58km	West south west About 81km	West About 98km	West south west About 115km	North About 24 km	South south west About 43km

※Measurement of the radiation level in Fukushima city was taken in the parking lot on the north side of the Kenpoku District Health and Welfare Office, Koriyama city was taken in the parking lot on the south side of the Koriyama government office complex, the other cities and town were taken in the parking lot on the every joint government offices.

※The normal value mentioned above are from the result of radioactivity levels surveyed within Fukushima prefecture in 2009 (21st year of Heisei period). MMP is Portable Radiation Monitoring Equipment (Mobile Monitoring Post).



FIA Information

Information service for foreigners

Here at the International Association, we provide information services for foreigners in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Portuguese.

- English, Chinese, Japanese
Every Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00 to 17:15
- Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese
Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm
※Appointment necessary for the 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