

# Fukushima NOW

Vo. 1 (Published in August 2016)

5 years ago, immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear accident at Fukushima's Daiichi Power Plant, the FIA ran GYRO's multilingual disaster recovery edition "United We Stand Fukushima" for 25 issues until this past March. It followed the restoration efforts and acts of the international associations and organizations, making the information available both domestically and internationally. We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the warm support we received during this time.

Continuing onwards, we would like to convey accurate information on Fukushima, by reporting on the current state of affairs with a focus on the voices of foreign residents living in Japan, we hope to communicate it through our new serialization, "Fukushima NOW".

## Voices from Fukushima

### Tatsuhou Sai (Fukushima City Resident, from China)



I came to Japan in 1999, after which I traveled between China and Japan. Last autumn I settled in Fukushima City, where my two sons began attending elementary and middle school. At first I worried about whether they would be able to fit in at school, but thanks to the friendly support of

those around us, they are cheerfully attending school. While considering the future, I decided I would like my sons to attend high school in Japan, so first we must prioritize their Japanese studies.

This past June I participated in an overnight gathering known as "Multicultural Kids Camp" for children with foreign roots and their guardians. My sons seemed to have a lot of fun, and I was able to speak with organizers and other parents/guardians about school lives and career paths. Also, while I am normally unable to speak with other foreign residents, from China and other countries, with this opportunity I felt the importance and necessity of sharing information.



▲ Participating in the Multicultural Kids Camp

There is a fear that natural disasters can occur at any time, and in any place. If a natural disaster were to happen, I would endeavor to maintain my usual state of mind, and proceed without panicking.

### Pahmi Ismail (Fukushima City Resident, from Indonesia)

In the summer of 2014, I came to Fukushima to do a technical skills internship. Being mostly unable to understand Japanese, and with limited knowledge on the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear disaster, my countryman who was living in Chiba was worried for me, and told me about a Japanese Language Class that I could commute to. I went almost every week, and was eventually able to hold everyday conversations with ease.



▲ Japanese Language Class Lesson

Being in Japan, I become more aware of natural disasters such as earthquakes and heavy wind and rain. There were students from various countries in my class, so in order to introduce my country's culture and customs, I researched and learned new things about my own country.

In Fukushima Prefecture there is a group created by those with Indonesian roots called "Communitas Fukushima Indonesia", and this year I began working as the leader. The members meet regularly, hold dinner parties, take trips together, and participate in events all over the prefecture. With the cooperation of the FIA, we also hold sessions on things such as how to divide garbage, which is very helpful to us.

By actively participating in and gaining interest in life in Japan, I was able to broaden my possibilities. I would like to consider a future job in which I can be connected to both Fukushima and Indonesia, while maintaining my self-challenging attitude.

# Scenes of Fukushima

## Observation from an Indian student in Iwaki City

From 2005 to 2007, Tia Kansara worked as an Assistant Language Teacher in Iwaki city and began teaching at CEPT University in India after leaving. Having lived in Iwaki, she wanted to confirm the disaster's effect on Iwaki with her own eyes, and arranged a trip for 18 of her students from May 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year. With the help of the Iwaki International Association, they were able to attend a study tour that explored concrete examples of the Japanese way of thinking towards nature and the environment. They were also able to hear about efforts from the recovery resource management of the Cleanpe house, and to see the disaster related exhibition corner in Iwaki La·La·Mew. They also visited and observed the progress made in heavily affected areas such as Usuiso and Toyoma.



▲ Students observing Iwaki La·La·Mew

## Aizu-Wakamatsu International Association 20th Anniversary

This year the Aizu-Wakamatsu International Association celebrated their 20th anniversary on Saturday, July 9th. To celebrate, a commemorative event was held in Aizu



▲ A look at the Panel Discussion

University's lecture hall. Approximately 430 people attended alpinist, Ken Noguchi's lecture and panel discussion. It became a place to once more consider the importance of international exchange, and Aizu's connection to the world.

## Arrival of new JET Programme Participants to Japan



▲ JET Programme Participants after arriving in Japan

This year 47 young people will be arriving at new appointments in Fukushima prefecture through the JET Programme in the last week of July and first week of August. The JET Participants will be moving to municipalities in the prefecture as Assistant Language Teachers to elementary, junior and senior high schools, and as Coordinators for International Relations. We have high hopes for the cultural exchange and understanding between the new JET participants and prefectural citizens.

## The Multilingual Portal Site for Restoration Information “Fukushima Revitalization Station”

One of the websites that the Fukushima Prefecture manages is the “Fukushima Revitalization Station” where information on the restoration situation, safety of food, and radiation levels throughout the prefecture can be read in 9 different languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese). “Steps for Revitalization in Fukushima” provides easy to understand explanations by way of images and data, and is officially announced in 4 different languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean). **Fukushima Revitalization Station URL** <http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal/t-01.html>



## 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.

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