

Fukushima International Association

# Fukushima NOW

Vo. 2 (Published in November 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" 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.

[Fukushima NOW] will be a portal for conveying the current situation in Fukushima with the voices of foreign residents as the centerpiece.

## Voices from Fukushima

### Zoe Vincent

(Fukushima City Resident, from U.K.)



I began working at the Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association this past August. Up until July, I was working as an ALT in Unzen city in Nagasaki Prefecture for the past year, fully experiencing the Kumamoto earthquake in April. Unzen city, where I lived, also experienced strong shakes. With this experience,

my awareness of the fact that natural disasters can happen anywhere in Japan was more strongly cemented. After moving to Fukushima, the first things I did was confirm where to evacuate to, and prepare an emergency bag.

I am currently working to introduce various tourist spots in Fukushima while also supporting business activities regarding the prefecture at overseas events. I think that Fukushima is a place abundant in nature, coexisting with a long history and a recent flair for the metropolitan, which I find fascinating. Through my work I'm able to meet people from all walks of life. I believe that because I live here, I can make use of these experiences and show the world the unknown wonders of Fukushima, along with how much the reconstruction effort has progressed.



▲ Trying on a dress made from Aizu Cotton at Tenkyokaku in September

#### ●Rediscover Fukushima

URL : <https://rediscoverfukushima.com/>

### Ben Sreynich

(Fukushima City Resident, from Cambodia)



I have been living in Fukushima since 2004 when I first arrived in Japan. On my honeymoon to Thailand, I became fascinated with traditional massages, and afterwards, I went back to study and eventually receive special certification as a masseuse. I've been working at a massage parlor in Fukushima for about 3 years, and have opened my own store.

Making use of my experiences and abilities, I thought that perhaps I could alleviate some of the stress and anxieties that came with the disaster. My work is always one-on-one, so communication with the customer is imperative to my work, and I believe there is great worth in meeting and supporting the needs of the customer.



▲ Taking time to provide careful and precise treatment

While I am unhindered by everyday Japanese, my children have started going to school, so I would like to know more Japanese related to school, and also other expressions that I can use or would be necessary for me to understand at work. Therefore, I began attending Japanese classes again last year. I want to learn Japanese to support the various aspects of my life.

Recently, there are many natural disasters in Japan, so I start worrying when I watch the news. However, when I look back on my time growing up in Cambodia, we also endured a tragic event. By comparison, Japan is a country where the laws are well protected, and security is taken very seriously. When I think back on this, I am able to live more calmly. When I think "I am living right now" I consider it a blessing.

## Scenes of Fukushima

### JICA Trainee Acceptance Training: “Promoting Societal Participation of Disabled Persons Through Sports”

The main goal of JICA Tohoku is to accept and send trainees to developing countries to support both human resources and problem solving. From October 13th to the 28th, 13 participants from 11 countries moved to Fukushima as trainees to participate in the “Promoting Societal Participation of Disabled Persons Through Sports” training set up by JICA. After learning about the measures taken by disabled persons in Fukushima city, and the state of sports in Fukushima prefecture, the trainees headed to JICA Nihonmatsu to try out wheelchair bocce and discus. The trainees were also able to deepen their understanding of Fukushima by checking out the Iwama area of Iwaki, and the Kouyou Soccer facilities in Soma City, while also learning about the Great East Japan Earthquake, and observing the current state of the reconstruction efforts.



▲ Trainees participating in a wheelchair bocce match

### Concert by the Chinese Luoyang City Star Performance Group

On September 25th, the Fukushima Chinese Traditional Culture Adoration Club sponsored concert was held at Sakura no Seibo junior college. Traditional Chinese songs were performed on instruments such as the erhu, but the final song was “Blooming Flowers” which drew much excitement from the crowd. During their stay, the performance group will be visiting elementary schools, and homestay at various houses in Fukushima.



▲ Members of the Fine Arts Company

### Practical Japanese Lecture for Foreign Residents

This year, the FIA implemented a lecture on Japanese for everyday life. On October 16th at AOZ in Fukushima City, a lecture was held on Japanese for emergency situations, with a focus on those of Indonesian origin. The lecture consisted of Japanese for rescuing pedestrians, how to call 119 and the give the necessary information, and other life saving treatment.



▲ Participants receiving an explanation on AEDs.

### 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). Also, on the Fukushima Radiation Measurement Map, you can see the results of environmental radiation for the various establishments in the prefecture.



**Fukushima Revitalization Station URL** <http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/>

## FIA Information

### OSupport 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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