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On this occasion we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and would like to pray for the speediest of recoveries. By this newsletter, we hope to provide you with up-to-date information on the present condition of Fukushima Prefecture.



Fukushima Now in Pictures



Hikers enjoying their time in Ozenuma
(Taken on 7.14, 2011 in Hinoemata Village)



The season of the peaches
(Taken on 7.27, 2011 in Date City)



Waraji Festival
(Taken on 8.6, 2011 in Fukushima City)



Voices from Fukushima

Suzuki Emiko(Hirono Town, Female)

In response to the current situation, I feel extremely exhausted. I used to live in Hirono Town, which is roughly 25 km away from the power plant. I was forced to evacuate due to radiation problems. After the earthquake, I have been staying at my relative's place in Ono Town. Recently my mother passed away at the age of 90 because she was terrified by the quake and could not withstand the shock. I returned to Hirono Town for a night the other day, the only people that I saw were government officials, doctors and nurses, policemen, and staff from TEPCO. Although it has been 5 months since the quake, there was not a night in which I could sleep well. In order to keep myself busy so I can take my mind off what has happened, I spend time with my grandson and volunteer at various places.

Takamatsu Toyo(Date City, Female)

I have turned 72 this year and at my age, I think it is best not to worry too much for the aftermath of the radiation crisis because if I do, I will be way too stressed out. On top of that, I believe 2-3 days after the explosion of the power plants, a great amount of radioactive elements had leaked into the air. During that time, as water services were down, people had to wait in line for water. I was one of them. I know the government was trying its best to minimize massive panic from its people, yet I believe the government should have given us more information to avoid further radiation exposure. This is such a shame. However, I will be positive and enjoy my life to the fullest rather than worry too much about radiation exposure.

Luiz Gustavo Oliveira(From Brasil, Male, Fukushima City)

I have a daughter that is 8 months old. After the earthquake, essential services were all down and stores were closed so there was no way for us to find milk or diapers. Also, my wife was under great stress so she could not produce enough breast milk to feed the baby. After the explosion of the power plants, we went back to New Zealand for a month and a half to wait for things to get better. Although life is back to normal now I feel a sense of pity that I cannot take my daughter out for a walk because of the current situation. In addition, Fukushima is known for its peaches and although peaches are now in season, I am still a little hesitant to eat them. However, coming from an education background of agriculture, I can understand how the farmers feel. I believe the situation will get better in time and have hope in every day life.

Gene Lyu(From U.S.A., Male, Shinchi Town)

I cannot say too much has changed in my life since the March 11th earthquake. Sure, there were some inconveniences felt here and there, but I find it hard to complain knowing that those around me have seen and experienced far worse. At this point, I just consider myself lucky to be alive. If I were to say that anything has changed, I would say that it's my outlook on life. It was amazing to see Fukushima pull together and not shy away from the task of recovering from this disaster. I also have a renewed sense of respect and appreciation for the ALT community we have in Fukushima. The support and commitment they have shown to each other, their local communities, and the prefecture of Fukushima has been simply amazing.

Publisher

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