

※For the Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog and French version of this newsletter, please visit the FIA's website.

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



The season of pears  
(Taken in Fukushima City, 13.9.2011)



Reopening of Aquamarine Fukushima  
(Taken in Iwaki City, 15.8.2011)



First Aid Training in session  
(Taken in Fukushima City, 9.10.2011)



### Voices from Fukushima

#### Matsumoto Toshie (Minami Soma City, Female)

My house was 2km from the sea. When the earthquake struck, I saw what seemed like big chunks of mountain-like white clouds in the sea and I had a gut feeling something was going to happen. Later, the sirens went off telling everyone "the tsunami will be here at 3:10pm". When I looked at the clock and noticed it was 3pm, my husband and I immediately took our car and started driving toward west without bringing anything. After the quake, we moved from evacuation centres to our relative's place and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, we were finally able to move into temporary housing. We feel very thankful for the electronic device donations from the Japanese Red Cross Society as well as goods supplied by many other organizations. The most important thing that must be done is not to look back at what had happened but to help each other down the road and to believe that there will always be light at the end of the tunnel.

**Kinugasa Yasushi (Koriyama City, Male)**

Fortunately, there were only a few cracks on the wall in my house during this earthquake. I work for the electrical equipment company and a week after the quake as we were trying to restore the services, we rarely had any sleeping time during this period. Aside from work, I participate in volunteer activities in which I am the representative for Friendship Force - a world class homestay organization. We were supposed to get a group from Australia in October yet because of this incident, the plan had to be cancelled. As citizens are asked to restrict themselves voluntarily by the government, the road to recovery for Fukushima is long and slow. After the incident, foreigners that come to Fukushima Prefecture have decreased significantly; however, since we can still interact with foreigners who are here in Fukushima, we should encourage people to grasp this opportunity. Let's all keep our heads up!

**Andrew Chapman(From U.S.A., Male, Aizuwakamatsu City)**

I began working at the Aizu Wakamatsu International Association in May of 2011. During the earthquake, I was on a plane from Taiwan bound for Narita Airport.

The scenery of Aizu has not changed much since I first came to Aizu 2 years ago as a tourist. However, the number of tourists, especially from foreign countries, has decreased significantly. In addition, although Aizu is one of the areas least physically damaged by the earthquake, the damage to the city because of concerns of radiation is severe. Farmers are having trouble selling their products in or outside of Fukushima Prefecture. In spite of the earthquake, I decided to come back to Japan in hopes that I could support the foreign community living in Aizu Wakamatsu during this difficult time and be an information resource to those who want to help out with recovery efforts.

**Liliana Takahashi (From Mexico, Female, Soma City)**

I was in Mexico planning for my wedding when the earthquake struck but I had to cancel it because of this. My husband told me that his parents lost their home in the tsunami and the kindergarten they own was then working as a shelter. I wanted to return immediately but my family in Mexico wouldn't allow me because of the lack of resources in Japan. They thought I would be a burden to everyone.

After a month, I returned to Japan. My parents in Mexico were still worried about the radiation problem, but they were happy to know I was with my husband, and also helping. Now, I help in the kindergarten as an assistant, we plan events and have received much help so we can keep people occupied to put their minds in other things. Half of the children in the kindergarten lost their home, and some of them lost their family member. This is why I had to be here, because I wanted to help and make these children go through this tough time and get their beautiful smiles back.

Publisher

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