

※For the Japanese, Chinese, Korean 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 and shed light on the activities of local international exchange groups and lives of foreigners living here.



Fukushima Now in Pictures



Children enjoying their time experiencing nature at Ozenuma
(Hinoemata Village 2011.6.3)



Trainees showing full concentration at a karate training session preparing for the tournament(Fukushima City 2011.6.4)



The farm produce market is packed with customers looking for fresh produce
(Date City 2011.6.14)



Voices from Fukushima

Seo Soo Yeong (From Korea, Female, Fukushima City)

When the earthquake struck, I had just come home from my child's graduation ceremony and had just finished parking my car in front of the house. With sudden huge shakes, I panicked, screaming "the house will fall down!" and "God, help me!" I went to my friend's place in Tokyo with my children in March as the situation of the nuclear power plant was full of uncertainties. We came back to Fukushima Prefecture in April as we had to prepare the children for school. When I visited the shelters and saw evacuees living in such difficult conditions, I wanted to help them. Thus, I visited different shelters within the prefecture and performed a song called "From March 11 to a Brighter Tomorrow" hoping that the evacuees would regain their courage.

Sanjay Pareek (From India, Male, Koriyama City)

I am mostly concerned with the nuclear problems. Although my children are here as classes have resumed, we went to a relative's house in Kawasaki City which is 250 km away from Fukushima right after the incident of the nuclear power plant occurred. Although there have been continuous debates between the Central Government and TEPCO regarding the possible dangers radiation causes, as residents who reside in Fukushima Prefecture, it does not mean anything to us. Our family is still in Koriyama because my children have to attend school, I have work to go to, and my parents have been here for such a long time that it might be difficult for them to adapt to a new environment. Nonetheless, as refreshment, our family would travel to Aizu, a place further away from the power plant for hot springs on certain weekends.

Liu Yan Ting (From China, Male, Fukushima City)

I am currently in my third year in Fukushima University. After the earthquake, I went to a friend's place and a shelter for a brief stay and hopped onto a bus organized by the Chinese government which was headed toward Niigata Prefecture and eventually flew back to China. I returned to Fukushima on the night of the 10th of May before classes resumed. When I went back to the campus the next day I saw smiles on people's faces as they participated in club activities. I was deeply touched by this. I certainly feel a bit of uneasiness returning to Fukushima yet when I saw this scene, but thought to myself, "I will be fine, I will study hard and graduate in two years!" I believe Fukushima will not falter even in a crisis like this.

Ishida Cecilia (From Brazil, Female, Fukushima City)

I was back home in Brazil when the earthquake struck. I was able to finally reach my husband two days after the quake. Although I returned to Japan on the 13th of March, as the bullet train and highway buses were not running, I was not able to return to Fukushima until the 28th of March. I feel a sense of deep regret knowing the fact that the scene of children playing outside with great energy is nowhere to be found, radiation problems cause concerns in people's daily lives and what people used to believe to be "normal" is not "normal" anymore. I love Fukushima. I sincerely hope that Fukushima will regain its footsteps at a speedy pace.



Persons and Organizations

Yuseco Galileo (Ishikawa Town ,Australia)

Galileo Yuseco is a third year Assistant Language Teacher (JET Programme) in Ishikawa town. After the earthquake, Galileo received an e-mail from a friend who works at a company that prints T-shirts and this is how the T-shirt charity project began. With the permission from Aizu Wakamatsu Tourism Produce Association, Galileo designed the T-shirt with a logo of the "Akabe".



The project started in mid April and two months later, with the help of social network websites such as Twitter and Facebook, orders within Japan and overseas have increased rapidly. The total T-shirts sold have reached 1,000. All of the profit will

be donated toward the rebuilding of Fukushima Prefecture. "I believe that even if people cannot help out directly at the places devastated by the disaster, there are always people out there who are willing to help in other ways," Galileo said.

<http://fukushimatshirt.blogspot.com/>

NPO Think About Education in Rwanda (Fukushima City)

Kambenga Marie Louise, the President of the Rwanda Non-Profit Organization has herself had the misery of experiencing the loss of her home during the civil war in Rwanda and the separation of her family. "I know how the people who were affected by this disaster feel," she said. On March 25th, starting with Fukushima High School (which was used as a shelter back then), the Organization has visited six different shelters in Fukushima City, Nihonmatsu City and Date City. Marie Louis



would share her own personal experience as well as talk about the importance of life. During some occasions, the members of the Organization would perform mini flute concerts and the

evacuees at the shelters can enjoy coffee and tea from Rwanda while listening to the music. A charity event "Nepal Bamboo Flute Concert" is set to take place on the 18th of July in Fukushima City.

<http://www.rwanda-npo.org/>

Aloha Initiative (Fukushima City)

The Maui-Japanese Culture Association (NPO) has launched a project called [Opening hearts. Opening homes] with a slogan of "Aloha Initiative" in hopes to provide support for people who were affected by the disaster. The main purpose of this project is to have the people from disaster hit areas to do a two week to three month home stay in Hawaii to experience Hawaiian hospitality with "Aloha Spirit" to heal their hearts and to regain courage. The liaison office between the promising participants and the Association is Moriguchi Marian. According to Marian, the number of participants was set at 60 in the beginning yet around 190 people have shown interest toward this project which is about three times more than she originally anticipated.



"Although I am very busy every day going through the application forms, I feel a sense of fulfillment because I am doing something meaningful," Marian said with satisfaction.

<http://alohainitiative.com/>

Supporters for F.I.A.

After the earthquake, Fukushima supporters helped us with English and Chinese translations for the Earthquake Information Centre. Although the supporters were affected by the disaster themselves, they accepted the offer to help us without any hesitation. We feel very thankful to have supporters that were willing to provide assistance in foreign languages in such an unprecedented disaster.



Iwama
Mayumi
(Chinese)



Kainuma
Michiyo
(English)



Sakuma
Kaori
(English)



Oomiya
Misaki
(English)



Service Information

The 3.11 earthquake related damage updates

On Fukushima Prefecture's homepage (link to the homepage of Fukushima International Association), there are various disaster related updates such as the measurement value of environmental radioactivity in Japanese, English and Chinese. On the Fukushima International Association's homepage, you can also find some updates in Tagalog, Korean and Portuguese. <http://wwwcms.pref.fukushima.jp/>

Change of Office Hours

Our office will resume regular hours as before. We will also continue our Earthquake Information Centre in foreign languages during regular office hours. Please contact us for further inquiries.

● Office hours: Tuesday to Saturday 8:30~17:15 (We will be closed on Sunday, Monday, Holidays and the end/beginning of the year)

This newsletter is issued by

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