

FUKUSHIMA DESK NEWS

October, 2014

“Let’s make Fukushima a
Place Full of Hope”

Ambassadors of
Reconstruction Pledge to the
World

(Based on *Fukushima Mimpo News*,
September 1&2)



The high school students of Fukushima who were sent to Paris as the Ambassadors of Reconstruction from Fukushima dispatched a message that they are ready to open the future by reaching out with peaceful smile and make Fukushima Prefecture more promising than any other place in the whole world. The students’ words come from their own experience of being encouraged by others when they themselves were experiencing the hardest time. These young people, said the adults listening to

them, moved the hearts of the audience with their sincerity.

Life Coming out of Children

(Based on *Fukushima Mimpo News*,
August 26, 2014)



Some high school students living in Soma area looked for what they could do to help reconstruct their home area. In order to get rid of the unpleasant reputation of the nuclear power plant accident of Fukushima, they collected information on some famous products of Fukushima, and started advertising to the whole country, naming this activity of theirs “Scheduled Service of Soma Products”. They made a contract with some stores in the area.

The project started with Shogetsudo Bakery, Minami Soma, including a DVD of the story of

their trials and errors since the Earthquake.

“No to Nucleus” Pronounced in Hiroshima from the Mouth of Fukushima Youth

(Based on *Fukushima Mimpo News*, August 31, 2014)

The Town of Koori has declared the Non-Nucleus City of Peace since July 2010. The Town of sent four elementary school children to Hiroshima as representatives at the Memorial Service for Peace, which was held in Hiroshima in August. The children returned very eager to share their enthusiasm with the people of Koori, and they went to see Nobuhiro Takahashi, the town mayor, to tell him about their experience. They said to him, “We must get rid of nuclear weapons and make the world really peaceful.” “The experience in Hiroshima taught me to decide to honor life.” “Wars make people insane.” “I was surprised that there are still many people suffering from the result of the atom bomb in Hiroshima.” The mayor was moved to tears when he told the children to make use of the experience in their own future life.

Temporary Houses, or Revival Houses

(Based on *Fukushima Mimpo News*, September 1, 2014)



The revival houses in Iidate Mura were completed and are now called Iinomachi Housing Complex. To celebrate the completion, the little children of Iidate Mura Kindergarten children performed a drum concert. From the hands of the mayor of the village, the keys to the new buildings were presented to the chairperson of the new housing complex, who has his three children in the school of this place. Thus Iino housing complex is considered to be the base of child upbringing. The Village of Iidate Mura chose to be independent instead of being merged into Minami Soma City, in order to maintain its unique nature. Due to its unique topography and wind, radiation had stayed hanging around at first, and all the inhabitants had to evacuate for their original village, but now they can celebrate their

new place to live. This is hopefully going to develop as a new local community.

Nuclear Power Plant Workers

A very short article occupying a tiny space on the issue of August 27 in *Fukushima Mimpo News* drew our attention. The topic was the hiding of a workman's accident at the work of decontamination. It happened to a man engaged in the decontamination work in Katsurao Village, who fell down from the scaffold and broke some of his ribs. The request for the accident compensation had not been applied, and a summary order was sent to Iwaki Summary Court of Justice. So far, no procedure has been issued from the Court since August 26.

Lawsuit Against the TEPCO from Nuclear Power Plant Workers

Some Nuclear Power Plant Workers are suing the Tokyo Electronic Power Plant and other companies, demanding the payment of the "danger allowance". The suit of the four workers consisted of the complaint that the "danger allowance" which should have been paid to them by Tokyo

Electronic Power hardly reached them, but was exploited on the way by the company which only received the order. The workers demand the payment of the total of approximately 62 million Yen of the sixteen companies, including Tokyo Electric Power. The former worker (66 years old now) says, "We are the ones who were exposed to the radiation, so we are the ones to be paid for the risk we went through during the perilous work. Why is it that the allowance does not reach us but goes into the hands of those in the middle?" They also say, "We demand that the structure of the multiple subcontract be explained clearly, so that the danger allowance reach those who are at the tail end."

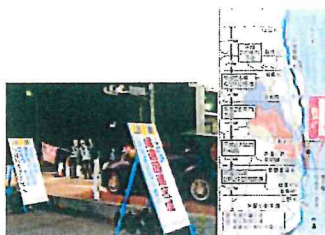
Applicants for the Rental of Farmland Only 35 % Earthquake Had Declined the Farmers' Ambition

On September 22, Fukushima Prefectural Middle Management Organization of Farms put together the number of applicants who had applied to rent the farmland. The application started on September 1 and the local government wished to have an idea of the response. The

highest number of applicants was 29 from Soma. The second highest was Koriyama, which was 27. Then follows 21 from Aizu. The total number of applicants was 126, and the total dimension they showed interest in was 850 hectares, which is only 35.4% out of the total area adding up to 2400 hectares.

National Highway No. 6 is All OK Now

On September 15, the traffic control of the National Highway No.6, which had been enacted in Tomioka, Okuma and Futaba was released. This was felt like true freedom after three and half years of restriction. Now that the traffic between Iwaki and Minami Soma will be smooth again, the reconstruction of the area will speed up. However, the traffic there is allowed only for cars, not for motorbikes or regular bikes, much less for pedestrians. Anyway, you can now go through the high way along the sea coast. Isn't this wonderful!



P. S. We have started sending copies of the Desk News translated into Spanish, Portuguese and English overseas since the summer. We are very happy to inform the readers that some response from North America reached us already. Thank you, our dear non-Japanese readers, for your interest and quick response. Your prayers and correspondence are extremely encouraging. Sister Yukie Nogami, ACI



(Cosmos covering the field where nobody can live yet)



(People enjoyed their traditional Fishermen's Feast)