

The Actions of All for the Future of Fukushima

# THE FUKUSHIMA 2020 INFORMATION Vol.4

Latest News (2018.4~2018.6)

Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

(Organiser: Japan Softball Association, Yomiuri Shimbun Co-organiser: Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima City, The Fukushima Minyu Shimbun, Fukushima Central Television Co., Ltd In cooperation: Fukushima Softball Association)

## USA vs Japan All-Star Series 2018 took place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Baseball/ Softball Competition Venue!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the "USA vs Japan All-Star Series 2018" took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (Sat) at Azuma Stadium of Fukushima City the designated competition venue for baseball and softball for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The game attracted more than 7000 people from within and outside the prefecture to watch the intense competition between the Japan Women's TOP Team (World no. 2) and USA Softball Women's National Team (World no. 1). During the ceremony before the competition, Mr. Uchibori (Governor of Fukushima Prefecture) and Mr. Kohata (Mayor of Fukushima City) presented the "Shirakawa Daruma" and "Tsuchiyu Kokeshi" dolls to the Japan and USA team. With Ms. Yamada, captain of the team, scoring two points with a homerun and great pitching from the two pitchers, Ms. Ueno and Ms. Fujita, Japan scored victory against USA with 2 - 0. The Japan team had performed excellently well with three consecutive victories.

In addition, as the excitement after the "USA vs Japan All-Star Series 2018" continued, the Japan Women's TOP Team participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> enhanced training camp at the same stadium the next day till 27<sup>th</sup> June (Wed). Governor of Fukushima, Mr. Uchibori, visited the team to cheer on the players.



(Photo: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Enhanced Training Camp)  
※Front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left: Coach Utsugi, 4<sup>th</sup> from left: Governor Uchibori



(Photo: Ceremony before the competition)  
※Front row, 5<sup>th</sup> from left: Mayor Kohata, 6<sup>th</sup> from left: Governor Uchibori

## (Fukushima Prefecture) Towards the goal of gold medal at 2020 Tokyo Paralympic! Enhanced Training Camp for Wheelchair Rugby Japan Players

As a continuation from last year, the enhanced training camp for Japan Wheelchair Rugby Players was held at Fukushima Azuma Gymnasium from 3 Apr (Tue) to 8 Apr (Sun). Director of Fukushima Prefecture Culture and Sports Bureau, Mr. Anzai, visited and encouraged the team.

This enhanced training also aimed to select players for the Japan Paralympic Tournament which would be held from 24 May (Tue) to 27 May (Fri) at Chiba Prefecture. The training was attended by around 20 players who hope to represent Japan in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, such as captain of the team (Mr. Ike Yukinobu), national player (Mr. Ikezaki Daisuke) and the youngest player of 15 years old from Mihar Town (Mr. Hashimoto Katsuya). Captain Ikeda said with strong conviction that he hopes to achieve greater success beyond the Rio Olympics at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.



(Photo: Wheelchair Rugby players received prefecture souvenirs and encouragement from Director Anzai.)



(Photo: Banner "Do your best! Japan Players of Wheelchair Rugby"

Softball Kibitan Moving towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the local governments in Japan have been utilising the "host town" system recommended by the Cabinet Office to promote exchanges and trainings with the participating countries. Amongst the local governments having ongoing host town exchanges, we will introduce these cities in this issue - Minamisoma City, Motomiya City, Iwaki City and Tamura City. ※Please refer to Network News (Vol. 2, 8 December 2017) for a summary of the host towns.

## (Minamisoma City, Ministry Cabinet, Fukushima Prefecture) Partner Country: Republic of Djibouti/ Reconstruction "Arigato" Host Town

Lecture by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Ali and H.E. Mr. Yonetani and Meeting with Governor Uchibori On April 4 (Wednesday), Ambassador of Japan in Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Koji Yonetani, attended the invitation lecture by Ambassador of Djibouti in Japan, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Arait Ali.

About 300 attendees listened to the lecture with great interest, as the Ambassadors introduced the history, culture of their country and the relationship between Japan and Djibouti.



(Photo: From left, H.E. Mr. Yonetani, H.E. Mr. Ali, Governor Mr. Uchibori)



Furthermore, at the conversation with Governor of Fukushima, Mr. Uchibori, H.E. Mr. Ali said there will be further public relation exchanges between Djibouti and Japan. More exchanges would be expected in the future. (Photo: Governor Mr. Uchibori presented lacquered tumbler set from Aizu to H.E. Mr. Ali)

(Organiser: Fukushima Prefecture Planning/Operations: Rakuten Baseball Academy (Inc.) In collaboration: Economic Council for Olympics and Paralympics, Tohoku Economic Federation In support: Fukushima City, Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture Baseball Council, Fukushima Softball Association)

## Ballpark is a fun place! (Fukushima Prefecture X Rakuten Baseball Academy) Fukushima Baseball and Softball Dream Beyond2020 Ballpark Picnic

In collaboration with Rakuten Baseball Academy (Inc.), Fukushima Prefecture organised the "Fukushima Baseball and Softball Dream Beyond2020 Ballpark Picnic" for pre-school children with the aim of building up the momentum for the Tokyo Olympics baseball and softball competition.

Coach of Rakuten Academy conducted classes for families with children on 9 June (Sat) and 24 June (Sun) at Soma Kids Dome and Azuma Baseball Stadium, the prefecture-owned facility.

Children from within and outside Fukushima Prefecture participated actively, experiencing strikeout and tee-batting. Participants could also experience "Boccia" - a Paralympic game - and quiz on dietary education by Meiji Co. Ltd.

Furthermore, Japan Softball Women's TOP Team player, Ms. Yukari Hamamura, Ms. Natsuko Sugama and Ms. Nozomi Nagasaki, who were currently training at the Softball Enhanced Training Camp graced the event, and they interacted with the children through games such as catchball and scissors-paper-stone.



(Top photo: Playing catchball with Japan Softball Women's TOP Team player, Ms Hamamura)



(Left photo: Soma Kids Dome)



(Right photo: Experiencing "Boccia", a Paralympic game

## (Fukushima Prefecture) The first from our Prefecture selected as Representative for Women's Softball GEM2 (U16)! Pitcher Ms.Yuna Yuda from Minamiaizu paid a courtesy visit to Governor

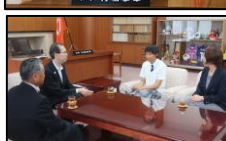
Born in Minamiaizu, Japan representative for Softball GEM2 (U16), Ms. Yuna Yuda paid a courtesy visit to Governor Mr. Uchibori ahead of the international competition "Canada Cup Showcase Gold Tournament" which would be held on 16 July (Mon).

Pitcher Ms. Yuda was the first representative from Fukushima Prefecture to be selected through the "GEM Project" organised by Japan Softball Association when she was a first year student of Teikyo Asaka High School Softball Club.

During the chat, Ms. Yuda said with great enthusiasm that though she was surprised to be selected, she would try her best. Governor Mr. Uchibori encouraged her and would like her to work hard and take pride as Japan's representative.

※GEM2 is for players under 16 (1st year Senior High/Junior High School 3rd Year).

(Top photo: From left, Teikyo Asaka High School Softball Coach, Ms. Monma, Chairman of Fukushima Softball Association, Mr. Nagazawa, Pitcher Ms. Yuda, Governor Mr. Uchibori) (Bottom photo: Chat with Governor)



## (Motomiya City, Ministry Cabinet, Fukushima Prefecture) Partner country: England/ Reconstruction "Arigato" Host Town

### Lecture by Senator Mr. Holmes and Visit to the English garden

Paralympic Gold medalist for swimming and Operating Director of London Paralympic, Senator Mr. Chris Holmes, visited Fukushima Prefecture School for the Visually-handicapped and Motomiya City and gave a lecture at Motomiya 1<sup>st</sup> Junior High School on 1 June (Fri). The students listened attentively to the lecture with great interest.

Mr. Holmes toured the English garden and enjoyed the scent of roses.

In exchange, Motomiya City will visit England in late July, and more future exchanges would be expected.

(Right photo: Lecture at Motomiya 1<sup>st</sup> Junior High School)



(Iwaki City, Ministry Cabinet, Fukushima Prefecture)

## Partner country: Independent State of Samoa/ Host Town

### Sports and Cultural Exchange between high school students of Iwaki City and Samoa

On 16 May (Wed) to 22 May (Tue), eight high school students from Independent State of Samoa Rugby Team visited Iwaki City and had a deep exchange with the high school students of Iwaki City. In addition to the friendly match held at "Iwaki Green Field" which Prime Minister of Samoa had been looking after, there was also cultural exchange of Ikebana and tea ceremony between students of Samoa and Taira Commercial High School. Taira Commercial High School had visited Samoa in 2017. As Iwaki is the designated venue for the Rugby World Cup and Tokyo Olympics



Rugby Competition, preliminary camps with Samoa had been scheduled.

Following which, there are plans for further preparations to enhance exchanges.

(Photo: Exchange with Iwaki High School Rugby Players)

## (Tamura City, Ministry Cabinet, Fukushima Prefecture) (The 8<sup>th</sup> series) The 6<sup>th</sup> Registration in Fukushima Prefecture Tamara City had been designated as host town to Nepal!!

Tamura city, which has attained high ranking at the "Long-distance Relay Road Run across Fukushima" and has shown great interest in track and field competitions, was registered as the Host Town with Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on 29 June (Fri).

The registration with Tamura City was made possible as there are many Nepalese international students in FSG College League (Koriyama City), which has collaboration agreement with Tamura City.

This is the sixth Host Town to be registered in Fukushima Prefecture.

Tamura City will be planning for exchange activities with Nepalese athletes from now on, and will extend invitation to Nepal regarding long-distance track and field training camps.



(Photo: Tamura City Track and Field Stadium)

# PICK UP! Two years to Tokyo 2020! What is the schedule from now on?



Finally, it is two years to 2020 Tokyo Olympics!  
In preparation for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Fukushima Prefecture has begun full-scale preparation through activities such as countdown events and recruitment of city volunteers.

## ① Confirmation of Torch Relay Schedule

### Relay will begin at Fukushima

**Duration:** March 26 – July 24, 2020 (121 days)  
**Fukushima:** March 26 – March 28, 2020 (3 days)  
**Route:** Specific route will be discussed and considered by the working committee set up in August this year.

## ③ Application for Games Volunteer

**Mid September – Early December / 80,000 people**  
(Main administrator: Organising Committee of Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games)  
[Venue] Competition venues, Athletes' Village  
[Activities] Guidance to Visitors, Support for competition operations etc.  
※Fukushima Prefecture is recruiting for "City Volunteer". More information would be provided once the details are finalised.

## ② Countdown Event 2 years before Olympics

### Reconstruction Fukushima Promotion Conference & Fukushima Exchange Meeting

**Date & Time:** July 24, 2018 (Tue), 2pm  
**Venue:** Fukushima Green Palace (Fukushima City)  
**Details:** Panel Discussion with Japan Baseball National Coach Mr. Inaba, Softball Women's Team Coach Ms. Uzugi, Governor Mr. Uchibori etc.

## ④ Announcement of Medal Design

### Do you have unused small electronics at home for recycling? Let's do Urban Mining! Tokyo 2020 Medal Project

(Tokyo 2020 Official Program)  
**Details:** Manufacture of approximately 5,000 medals for Olympic and Paralympic Games through recycling of small consumer electronics. We look forward to your support as the project continues till Spring 2019.



## — Thank you for participating! —

[Co-organisers: Tohoku (Iwaki · Miyagi · Fukushima Prefecture), Kyushu Oita, Kumamoto Prefecture)]

### All Japan Business Committee Joint Product Exhibition by Enterprises

"Hiroshima Japan Market for the recovery of Tohoku and Kyushu"  
The World Urban Sports Conference (FISE Hiroshima 2018) was held at the old Hiroshima Municipal Ball Stadium from 6 Apr (Fri) to 8 Apr (Sun) in Japan for the first time. The Hiroshima Commercial Meeting and the "Hiroshima Japan Market for the recovery of Tohoku and Kyushu" was also held at the same venue.

The Prefecture booth publicised for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Baseball and Softball Games. There were also sale of prefectural products such as Japanese Sake. Many visitors visited the event.



(Photo: Sale of Japanese Sake and other local products)

[Fukushima Prefecture]

### "The 69th National Tree Planting Festival (Fukushima 2018)"

The "69th National Tree Planting Festival" was held on 10 June (Sun) at Minamisoma City, Harumachi-ku, Shidoke.

The publicity booth for Olympics and Paralympics was exhibited at the hospitality square, where there were information panels about the torch relay and host town.



(Photo: Panel on Olympic Torch (Centre), Host Town (Right))

## Start of full-scale planning for Olympics & Paralympics at local municipal office!

[Fukushima City] 19 April (Thursday)  
[Aizuwakamatsu City] 24 May (Thursday)

### Olympic and Paralympic Games Promotion Council Meeting

Fukushima City - the competition venue for Tokyo 2020 Olympics Baseball and Softball competition - organised a meeting with Thailand regarding exchanges of being the Host Town and invitation for pre-Olympics training camps for boxing team at Aizuwakamatsu City.



(Left Photo: Meeting at Fukushima, Right Photo: Meeting at Aizuwakamatsu)

## COMING SOON!

[Tokyo 2020 Official Program]

**Organiser:** Tokyo Metropolitan City, Tokyo Sports Benefit Corporation  
**In support:** Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima Prefectures, and each Prefectural Board of Education etc.

### Road to Tomorrow 1000km Relay to Tokyo 2018

**Goal-Start Ceremony was held on 1 Aug (Wed) and 2 Aug (Thur) in front of Fukushima Prefectural Government Office!**  
For the purpose of supporting reconstruction after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, the "Road to Tomorrow 1000km Relay To Tokyo 2018" - a running and cycling event from Aomori to Tokyo - will be held from 24 July (Tue) to 7 Aug (Tue).



As the runners will be running within the prefecture from 31 July (Tue) to 4 Aug (Sat), cheers from the public along the road is greatly welcomed.

In addition, please visit us for the "Goal-Start" Ceremony on 1 Aug (Wed) to 2 Aug (Thur).

For more details, please refer to "Fukushima Plus 2020".

**Organiser:** Fukushima Prefecture

**Planning / Operations:** Rakuten Baseball Academy (Inc.)

### Publicity begins for Tokyo Olympics Baseball/ Softball Competition!

### Publicity Event for Children of Fukushima (Kids Ambassador) [2nd Round]

To publicise for Tokyo 2020 Olympics Baseball and Softball Competition, 42 children from within Fukushima prefecture (4 years old to Grade 6) were appointed as "Kids Ambassador". On 8 Jul (Sun), a publicity event "Rakuten vs Seibu Competition" was held at Rakuten Life Park, and the kids participated enthusiastically with Vice-Governor Mr. Suzuki. The next "Kids Ambassador" activity is scheduled on 9 Sept (Sun). Please come and support us!



(Photo: Group photo with the publicity banner for Tokyo 2020)



(Photo centre: Vice-Governor Mr. Suzuki)

**Organiser:** Fukushima Prefecture

**In collaboration:** Fukushima Rugby and Softball Association, Fukushima Prefecture Soso Area Reconstruction Unit  
**In support:** Hirono Town, Naraha Town

### Fukushima Big Scrum 2018

~The beginning of Sports Circle~

### Exchange event for Rugby starts!

The "Fukushima Big Scrum 2018" will be held on 2 Sep (Sun) at J Village (Hirono Town and Naraha Town) which was re-opened on 28 Jul (Sat) this year.

In addition to experiencing rugby and paralympic sports (such as Wheelchair Rugby, Boccia), there are many activities at the event, including "Tag Rugby" where even beginners can play at ease and enjoy themselves.

There will be food and drinks booth, where you can enjoy the special menu by Chef Yoshiteru Nishi, the Chef for Japan World Cup Soccer Team.

For more details, please refer to the event homepage.

### Exchange Event for Tag Rugby

Note: Please register for the event by 20 Aug (Fri).



Free admission  
9:00~16:00

## About sharing information on website "Fukushima Plus 2020"

Fukushima Prefecture has set up a website "Fukushima Plus 2020" to update news related to Tokyo 2020. Please check out the website!

In addition, as part of our efforts towards Tokyo 2020, if you have any events that you would like to put on this website, we greatly welcome you to provide us with information of the event anytime!



[Fukushima Plus 2020]

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### Enquiry

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