

THE FUKUSHIMA 2020 INFORMATION Vol.3

Latest News

"The Actions of All for the Future of Fukushima"

Thursday, March 1st 2018

Plans for Azuma Stadium Renovation take shape as Part of Tokyo 2020 Baseball and Softball Preparations

The 4th meeting of the Tokyo 2020 Games-related Projects Task Force, a meeting of all the prefectural government departments, took place on Monday, January 29th. At the meeting, the governor of Fukushima (Chairperson), the vice-governor (vice-chairperson), and the head of each department approved the plans for the renovation of Azuma Stadium.

The director general of the Culture and Sports Bureau gave an overview of the process of coordinating with the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, and a status update of comments and requests received from sports organisations in Japan and Fukushima, before the director general of the Public Works Department explained the specific nature of works to be carried out and the projected schedule for renovations.

In addition, it was proposed that the prefecture maximize the use of Sports Promotion Lottery funding to reduce prefectural expenditure, and that the planned renovations be carried out during the baseball off-season to minimize the impact on those using the stadium.

<Outline of Major Renovations>

• Improved Functionality

Replace entire field with artificial turf (current outfield is natural turf, infield is black soil), restore outer field fence
Using artificial turf should lead to improved drainage, greater convenience (e.g. useable year-round), and reduced yearly management costs

• Preventing Deterioration

Renovation of administration rooms (the broadcast room, and umpire room), toilets, shower rooms

• Barrier-free

Install wheelchair stair lifts, along with wheelchair-accessible and multi-purpose toilets.

<Schedule (Proposed)>

• Majority of reconstruction to be scheduled for baseball off-season between 2018~19 (approx. Nov-Apr)

The 4th meeting of the task force

Image of the renovated Azuma Stadium (Artificial turf installed, including infield)

(Organised by: Fukushima Prefecture, Toho Bank with the support of Fukushima Baseball Organisations Council)

Kōji Uehara & Takahiro Suzuki hold Baseball Clinic for Fukushima Children

Fukushima Baseball Dream Beyond 2020

Kōji Uehara, who played for the Chicago Cubs last year, and Takahiro Suzuki, Minamisoma native and former member of the Yomiuri Giants, led a baseball clinic at Azuma Gymnasium on Saturday, January 20th. The clinic was organised by the prefectural government and Toho Bank, with the aim of inspiring children and creating excitement within the prefecture for the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball games in Fukushima.

Around 740 elementary and junior high school students (52 teams) from every prefecture in Japan applied for 300 spots (21 teams), and participants were decided on the day via lottery. Kōji gave tips relating to catching skills and playing catch while Takahiro taught base-running skills, making the event a valuable experience for the children.

Kōji and Takahiro also went head to head in a strikeout duel against the aces of each junior high school team, and held a talk show between themselves, where they spoke about the Olympics, the importance of effort and of being grateful to the people around you who support you such as your parents or family. In a surprising twist, Takahiro's mother, who had been spectating the event, took part at the end of the show.

(From the top: Suzuki giving guidance, Uehara playing with the children, the Talk Show, Group Photo)



[Tokyo 2020 Official Program]

(Organised by: Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, Tokyo Metropolitan Government with the support of Fukushima Prefecture, Koriyama City and others)

Cheer for Pyeongchang 2018

Pyeongchang 2018 Live Site at Koriyama Station

Scenes of intense athletic competition at the Pyeongchang Olympics (which began on Friday, February 9th) were screened live at Koriyama station West Exit Plaza on Sunday, February 18th.

A total of five thousand people gathered around a large screen set up outside the station to watch the Japan vs US Men's Curling match in the Qualifying rounds live. The excitement in the air the moment Japan secured victory was palpable.

The event also featured a live performance by Elly from the Sandaime J Soul Brothers, a talk show by former baseball player for the Yomiuri Giants Takahiro Suzuki, and a VR wheelchair racing experience at the Experience Booth, all of which helped to create a genuine Olympic atmosphere.

(Right: A talk onstage by member of comedy duo Cocorico Shozo Endo, and Takahiro Suzuki)



(Spectators view the match onscreen)



Ambassador of Armenia visits Town of Minamiaizu to Inspect Conditions for Wrestling Training Camp

Mr. Grant Pogosyan, Ambassador of Armenia to Japan, visited Minamiaizu to inspect the local wrestling facilities on February 3rd and 4th. Minamiaizu boasts an active wrestling community and is seeking to hold a Tokyo 2020 training camp for athletes from Armenia, one of the world's leading countries in wrestling.

The town gave a warm welcome to the ambassador, who thanked them for their hospitality before going on to say that he would endorse the town's facilities in his home country of Armenia.

(Left: The ambassador inspects the gymnasium)

(Right: The Chibikko Wrestlers welcome the ambassador)



(Minamisoma City, Cabinet Secretariat, Fukushima Prefecture)

Minamisoma sends Delegation to Host Town Partner Country Djibouti

A delegation from Minamisoma, a Reconstruction *Arigato* Host Town, visited partner country Djibouti, from Sunday, February 11th to Saturday, February 17th as part of the Japanese government's Host Town Survey Model Project. The delegation included Minamisoma City Hall employees, local Karate instructors, and staff from the prefectural and national governments.

In Djibouti, the group held karate workshops at local karate dojos and junior high schools, and donated karate equipment, much to the students' delight. The delegation also visited the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, to express their gratitude for all of Djibouti's support in the aftermath of the 3.11 earthquake, and met with the Djibouti National Olympic Committee to discuss inviting Djibouti athletes to Minamisoma for training camps prior to Tokyo 2020.

Support from Djibouti
On April 26th, 2012, H.E. Ahmed Aaraita Ali, Ambassador of Djibouti to Japan, visited Minamisoma on behalf of the president of Djibouti and its people, to convey a message of sympathy and make a donation of over 10 million yen.



(Visit to the Djibouti NOC)



(Karate exchange at a local dojo)

(Organised by: The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee in collaboration with Fukushima Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Iwate Prefecture, the Japan Reconstruction Agency, and others)

"Serve Fukushima's Appetising Food and Drink at Tokyo 2020!"

Appeal at IOC Coordination Commission Dinner

On Tuesday, December 12th, food from the three Tohoku prefectures affected by the 3.11 earthquake and tsunami, including Fukushima, was served at an official dinner following a meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission to evaluate the state of preparations for Tokyo 2020.

Before the dinner, booths were set up for people to try food and drink from Fukushima, such as local sake, with the aim of promoting the use of food from Fukushima at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

(Top: The Fukushima Prefecture booth)

(Bottom: Employees promote Fukushima to Tokyo 2020 Sports Director Koji Murofushi)



PICK UP!It's a bit late to ask now but...
What is GAP?**Point 1****GAP stands for Good Agricultural Practice!**

Good agricultural practice refers to initiatives to abide by regulations and eliminate risk. The recognition of these initiatives by an accredited third party is called GAP certification.

Point 2**GAP Certification and Tokyo 2020**

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee state in their procurement standards that all food, e.g. agricultural products*, to be served during Tokyo 2020 at the Athlete's Village and media centre must have been produced in compliance with GAP standards.

One important aspect of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic games is being able to deliver them in a sustainable manner, e.g. with consideration for the future environment, and GAP certification is perfectly in line with this ethos.

The GAP initiative has already begun to spread among distributors and food manufacturers. As a result, the number of people who want to try food that has been produced with consumers and athletes in mind, and with consideration for safety and the environment may grow in future.

*In addition to agricultural products, Tokyo 2020 procurement standards also emphasise the importance of sustainability and traceability for animal and marine products, and timber.

**Point 4****Fukushima aims for most GAP certifications in Japan!**

Fukushima Prefecture has turned towards the globally recognised GAP as a means of combatting the distrust towards Fukushima agricultural products that continues to persist.

In May 2017, Fukushima Prefecture and JA Central Fukushima launched the Fukushima GAP Challenge with the aim of acquiring the most GAP certifications in Japan.

Besides being the catalyst to mend Fukushima's reputation, GAP certification is also expected to lead to improved safety of Fukushima products, as well as improvements in environmental conservation, work safety and efficiency, and agricultural administration.



Find more detailed pamphlets at your nearest Fukushima Agriculture and Forestry Office!

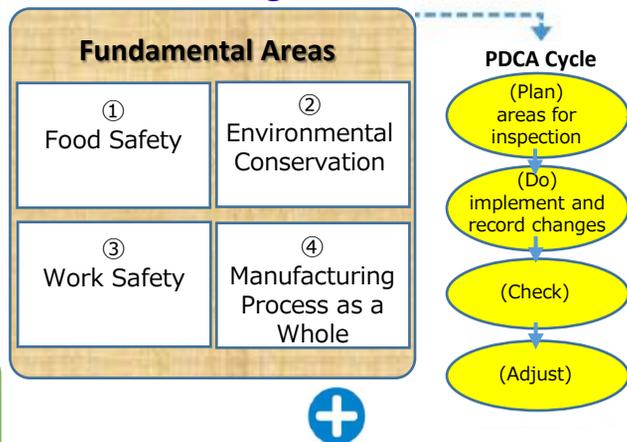
**Projected Number of GAP Certifications for FY2017 (As of January 5th)**

Total: 66 (Breakdown: GLOBALG.A.P. 21, ASIAGAP 4, JGAP 38, FGAP 3)

The above total is based off of the number of certifications and applications made as of the given date. The total number of certifications this year is expected to be around six times greater than the number of certifications last year.

Point 3**Implementing GAP – A Diagram**

Producers improve their agricultural practices by repeating a process of deciding on various areas for inspection, e.g. food safety, then enacting changes, inspecting, and adjusting

Putting into Practice**Acquire GAP Certification****GLOBALG.A.P.**

An independent certification system developed by European retailers and recognised by many countries around the globe.

JGAP/ASIAGAP

An independent certification developed by, and for farmers, distributors, and academic experts from Japan.

FGAP(Fukushima GAP)

Fukushima's own official GAP certification system, which conforms to guidelines set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Improve consumer confidence and visualise hidden value for Tokyo 2020.

Coming Soon!**Fukushima Baseball & Softball Dream Beyond2020 "Play ball" event – Ballpark Picnic****at Iwaki Green Base on Saturday March 10th**

The purpose of this event, based on the concept "ball parks are places of fun", is to build up interest in sport and excitement towards the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball matches in Fukushima.

In addition to parent-and-child workshops led by a Rakuten Eagles Academy coach (mainly for preschool children, advance registration required), there will also be an area set up with various attractions, such as an inflatable playground, a variety of stalls including one for measuring pitching speed, a performance by the Tohoku Golden Angels cheerleaders and a whole range of other exciting activities. So bring your family for a fun day out!



How to Apply
←Scan the QR code
Deadline
Thursday, March 8th
Max. Participants
150 pairs per event
(300 people)

"Samurai World among the Hills" event Saturday, March 25th at the fishing harbour near Matsukawaura Bridge

The Soma-Fukushima Route between Ryozen and Soma Tamano ICs will open on Saturday, March 10th, making travel from Yonezawa city in Yamagata prefecture to Fukushima city, Koori, Date, Soso District, and vice-versa, far more convenient.



This event is being held to commemorate the route's opening, and promote wide-spread tourism. There will be stalls serving local food, as well as an "Airshow Talk Show" with pilot Yoshihide Muroya, who continues to promote Fukushima around the world.

With a variety of experiences designed to bring the Tokyo 2020 Games closer to home, and with Endo and Shizuchan, from comedy duos Cocorico and Nankai Candies respectively taking to the stage, the event promises to be an exciting one.

Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition 2018 Thursday, March 22nd to Sunday, March 25th at Fukushima Concert Hall

The Fukushima Vocal Ensemble Competition is a symbol of Fukushima's reputation in Japan as the "Kingdom of Choirs" and is well-established as a major goal for many passionate choir fans.

A total of 127 choirs from Japan and overseas will meet in Fukushima this year, some nominated by their respective prefectural choir federations, and others that passed a strict open selection process.

The Olympics and Paralympics are also a celebration of culture so why not take this opportunity to discover the choirs of Fukushima. (Paid seating only : Advance tickets now on sale)

Day 1: Junior High School Category
Day 2: High School Category
Day 3: Elementary School/Junior, Open Categories
Day 4: Finals (Top winners of each category)



Tickets on sale at Ticket Pia, Lawson Ticket, and Fukushima Concert Hall

Have your news posted on Fukushima Plus 2020

The Tokyo 2020 portal website ("Fukushima Plus 2020") was set up by the Fukushima prefectural government in March 2017 with the aim of promoting information relating to Tokyo 2020 initiatives. Contact us if you have information relating to Tokyo 2020 events and initiatives that you would like posted.

(URL: <https://www.fuku-plus2020.jp> Website Administrator: Shunsuke Tabé ☎ 024-521-7312)

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