

THE FUKUSHIMA 2020 INFORMATION Vol.2

Latest News

"The Actions of All for the Future of Fukushima"

Friday, December 8th 2017

"1000 Days to Go" Tokyo 2020 Countdown Events

create excitement throughout Japan!

Next up, "500 Days to Go"!

Saturday, Oct. 28th and Wednesday, Nov. 29th marked 1000 days to go until the opening ceremonies of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics respectively.

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee celebrated this fact by designating the month between the two dates as "1000 Days to Go" Month, and launched a variety of related events and campaigns throughout Japan during this time.

Various organisations in Fukushima have collaborated to promote the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball games in Fukushima city, as well as the prefecture's recovery from the 3.11 earthquake. Discover some of their projects below!



[Tokyo 2020 Official Program - 1000 Days to Go Countdown Event]

(Organised by: Yokohama City and Fukushima Prefecture, in cooperation with JXTG Energy)

Tokyo 2020 "1000 Days to Go"

Baseball Promotion Event

Fukushima and Yokohama, the two cities that will host baseball and softball at Tokyo 2020, collaborated to hold a baseball-themed event at Yokohama stadium on Saturday, November 25th.

Around 400 children took part in the event, including the Yokohama Elementary School All-Stars and the Fukushima Prefecture All-Stars, which is made up of 4th to 6th grade elementary school students from the Hamadori region of Fukushima prefecture. In addition to baseball workshops and games of catch, the two teams also took part in a friendly game against each other towards the end of the event. (Final score: 6-5 in Fukushima's favour.

Vice-governor of Fukushima Prefecture Masaaki Suzuki, mayor of Yokohama Makoto Kashiwazaki, and Tokyo 2020 Chief Operating Officer Yukihiro Nunomura attended the event as guests, along with three former Olympians, Fukushima native and first ever manager of the Yokohama BayStars Kiyoshi Nakahata, specialty adviser to the same team Daisuke Miura, and Tokyo 2020 Sports Director Koji Murōfushi, who engaged with the children through a talk show.

Both cities are planning to work closely together to hold another event in Fukushima prefecture at the "500 days to go" mark, and to further strengthen their relationship before Tokyo 2020.



(Baseball Workshop)



(Talk Show)



(Group photo after the match)

(Organised by: The All Japan Business Committee

In collaboration with: The Six Prefectures of Tohoku, and other organisations)
Joint Corporate Product Fair

Japan Market in Ōtemachi & Marunouchi -

Tohoku & Kyushu Recovery Campaign

On November 15th and 16th, several corporations based in the vicinity of Ōtemachi and Marunouchi collaborated with local governments to hold a product exhibition for the recovery of Tohoku at the sports plaza near Tokyo Station, attracting around thirty thousand visitors over the two days. Fukushima's booth was located on the basement second floor of Mizuho Financial Group's head office near Ōtemori Plaza, and proved a huge success on both days.

The Tohoku Support Performance, a countdown event marking 1000 days until Tokyo 2020, was held concurrently at the same venue to promote Tohoku and Fukushima culture, and to encourage people to turn their gaze towards Tohoku.



(View of the Fukushima Booth)



(The Fukushima products booth)



(Culture Stage)

[Tokyo 2020 Official Program - 1000 Days to Go Countdown Event]

(Organized by: The Fukushima Idea Contest Executive Committee

Under the supervision of: Fukushima University Institute for Regional Sports Policy

In collaboration with: Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Prefectural Board of Education

Sponsored by: Mizuho Financial Group)

A Yen for your thoughts at the Fukushima Idea Contest

On Saturday, October 28th, Fukushima University student organisation Wadachi hosted the Fukushima Idea Contest at Azuma Gymnasium with the support of Origami, a student organisation also active in Fukushima city.

Ten teams from around the prefecture took turns presenting their ideas to create lasting Tokyo 2020 legacies for Fukushima.

Aizu Agricultural High School placed first for their idea to use Tokyo

2020 to promote traditional vegetables

from Aizu, while Aizu University Junior College's Faculty of Early Childhood Education were chosen as runner-up for their idea to promote ping pong at hot spring resorts.

The event also featured a speech by local celebrity Nasubi and a panel booth where people could exchange opinions in an open discussion.

The students who participated in the contest, including those who created proposals for Tokyo 2020, seemed to have gained a new understanding of their role as catalysts for Fukushima's future.



(Students present their proposals)

(Students exchange views with visitors to their booth)



(The students celebrate "1000 Days to Go")

<Tokyo 2020 Official Program>

Power Up Japan from Tokyo - Sōsō Recovery Football Festival 2017

Fukushima University and student organisation Wadachi teamed up with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Japan Athlete Forum to generate excitement towards the Olympics and encourage the recovery of the Hama-dori region through football

Date & Time: Sunday, Dec 10th: from 9.30am @ Hirono football pitch

*Advance registration required

For further details, simply search "相双サッカーフェス"



[An Official Beyond2020 Program]

(Organised by: The Host Town Appeal Executive Committee

Sponsored by: The Cabinet Secretariat, Japan Tourism Agency)

Host Town Lineups



On Saturday November 11th, local governments taking part in the Host Town initiative were invited to Solamachi Plaza on the 1st floor of Skytree Tower, at the base of Tokyo Skytree, to showcase their host town projects.

(Left: The event venue)



At the Fukushima booth, staff promoted the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball games

at Azuma stadium and sold apples, currently in season, to promote Fukushima.

(Right: Fukushima's booth, bustling with visitors)

[Tokyo 2020 Official Program - 1000 Days to Go Countdown Event]

(Organised by: Fukushima Prefecture,

The Hometown Festival Executive Committee)

Namie Hometown Festival 2017

A big thank you to all those who attended the 2017 Namie Hometown Festival, where a variety of Fukushima's traditional performing arts were exhibited over two days on November 25th and 26th at the regional sports centre in Namie. The evacuation order for Namie was partially lifted in March this year.

At the same time, the Tokaichi Festival was held in Namie for the first time in seven years, along with Drone Festa 2017, resulting in a combined turnout of around 30,000 people over the two days.



(Tokyo 2020 PR Stand)

(Tokaichi Festival)

(Hometown Festival Stage)

PICK UP!It's a bit late to ask now but...
What is a "Host Town"?**Point 1: Host Towns are opportunities to connect with other countries!**

Host Town refers to local governments engaged in cultural exchange as a means of using Tokyo 2020 to revitalise local regions, e.g. by hosting training camps for athletes from other countries visiting Japan.

Local governments wishing to become a host town must decide on a partner country for cultural exchange, submit an application to the Japanese Government, and only then will they be registered as a Host Town. (A single Host Town may partner with several countries. Alternatively, multiple local governments may register as Host Town for a single country under one name). Many local governments have already registered as Host Towns and are developing projects for mutual cultural exchange.

The scope of this exchange is not limited to sports and tourism, and is also intended to create innovation towards the revitalisation of Host Towns, through mutual cultural exchange, and by learning about the leading industries of their partner country.



(Inawashiro x Ghana cultural exchange)



(Iwaki x Samoa cultural exchange)



(Aizuwakamatsu x Thailand cultural exchange)

The Host Town project is not just for highlighting regional hospitality but is also an opportunity to create strong links that last beyond 2020 through the free expression of ideas.

**Point 2: What are the benefits of being a Host Town?**

Local governments in Japan registered as Host Towns receive a certain amount of funding towards projects with their partner country, to reduce the financial burden of cultural exchange.

At the prefectural level, training camp promotional activities carried out by local governments at embassies and at international conferences for various sports are not only supported, but also subsidized.



(Promoting Fukushima to 30 embassies)



(Training Camp PR at FIGS congress)

Point 3: The three types of Host Town!**① Host Town (General)**

This type of Host Town includes all local governments that fall under the description in Point 1.

② Reconstruction Arigato Host Towns

A type of Host Town specifically for the prefectures of Fukushima, Iwate, and Miyagi who, since the 3.11 earthquake, have prioritised cultural exchange with countries that provided support after the disaster, e.g. by sending rescue and aid supplies, and who are in favour of maintaining cultural exchange (not limited to training camps) with their partner countries beyond 2020.

③ Inclusive Society Host Towns

A type of Host Town centered on the Paralympics, and designed to create communities based on universal design and to develop barrier-free mindsets by inviting athletes with disabilities from overseas.

(Japan Women's Wheelchair Basketball Training Camp)



Baseball Kibitan

There are currently five Host Towns (General) in the prefecture including Fukushima (Switzerland), Aizuwakamatsu (Thailand), Koriyama (the Netherlands), Iwaki (Samoa), and Inawashiro (Ghana). There are four registered Reconstruction Arigato Host Towns including Minamisoma (Djibouti, Taiwan, USA, South Korea), Motomiya (Great Britain), Kitashiobara (Taiwan), Iitate (Laos). There are no Inclusive Society Host Towns in Fukushima yet.

Point 4: The Future of Local Areas Shaped by Host Towns**① Motomiya (Great Britain)**

In February 2016, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, visited Smile Kids Park, an indoor playground in the city of Motomiya that was set up as a safe place for children to play following the 3.11 earthquake.

In July this year, to commemorate the opening of the English Garden within the same park in Motomiya, a Sister Garden Memorandum of Friendship was signed with the Fukushima Memorial Garden in London.

In November, Motomiya City applied to become a Reconstruction Arigato Host Town with Great Britain as its partner country, as a way to use Fukushima's feelings of gratitude and relationship with Great Britain

to shape a new future. Cultural exchange between Motomiya and Great Britain is expected to increase during the buildup to Tokyo 2020.

② Koriyama (the Netherlands)

Koriyama registered as a Host Town (General) with the Netherlands on the basis that the Asaka Canal, a Japanese heritage site, was designed by a Dutch engineer.

Koriyama's Coordinator for Intercultural Relations, Joost Kralt, gives talks about the Netherlands at schools in the city, and organises events and football workshops to promote understanding of the Netherlands in Koriyama.

(Top: Joost promotes Koriyama in Leiden)

(Bottom: Joost explains the industrial legacy of the Asaka Canal)



(Prince William plays with local children)



(English Garden opening ceremony, Motomiya)

**COMING SOON!****FUKU FES 2017**

Saturday, December 23rd at the Tokyo International Forum

Formerly known as Experience Fukushima, Tokyo's largest event for the promotion of Fukushima's towns and cities is back!

This year's event will feature a special discussion with former Japan footballer Hidetoshi Tanaka and the Governor of Fukushima, as well as an Olympic ball talk show with Fukushima Hopes baseball team manager Akinori Iwamura and former player for the Yomiuri Giants Naohiro Suzuki.

Of course, we will be promoting the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball matches to be held in Fukushima too, so make sure to invite all your friends and acquaintances in Tokyo to come and check out the event!

**Pyeongchang 2018 almost here!**

Get ready to support Fukushima's athletes!

The Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and Paralympics will be held from Friday, February 9th to Friday, March 9th of next year.

Team Japan's selection has yet to be finalized but here are several Fukushima athletes that are expected to perform well at Pyeongchang 2018. First up, Inawashiro native Takeshi Suzuki, who won a gold medal in the Slalom, sitting, and a bronze medal in the Downhill, sitting at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics. Takeshi is expected to not only compete, but also win a medal.

Shō Endō, who went to high-school in Inawashiro, is expected to make his third Olympic appearance following Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014. Similarly Junko Hoshino (Team Listel) is expected to compete once more in the Women's moguls event.



Takeshi received the Fukushima Prefecture Honour Award for his performance at Sochi 2014

Tokyo 2020 Mascot Decision Draws Near! Elementary student voting registration open until February 22nd

The long journey to decide upon a Tokyo 2020 mascot is finally reaching a climax. The mascot selection committee has narrowed the selection down from a total of 2,042 mascot designs to three final candidates, which were announced on Thursday, December 7th. The responsibility of selecting the final mascots now falls to Japan's elementary school children.

Voting registration with the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee opened on Monday, November 20th. Registration and voting will be carried out on a per-school basis. Schools must be registered beforehand, otherwise they will not be eligible to vote.

The voting period will extend from Monday, December 11th until Thursday, February 22nd of next year. Once the votes have been tallied, the results will be announced to the public on Wednesday, February 28th.

**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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