

THE FUKUSHIMA 2020 INFORMATION Vol.1

Latest News

"The Actions of All for the Future of Fukushima"

Thursday, August 31st 2017

[An Official Tokyo 2020 Program, sponsored by Fukushima Prefecture]

Tokyo 2020 Council for the Reconstruction of Fukushima Established!

On Monday, July 24th, the Tokyo 2020 Council for the Reconstruction of Fukushima was founded to prepare Fukushima for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and comprises members from 144 local organisations who represent various industries including commerce, tourism, agriculture, and education. The Council's inaugural meeting was held the same day, which marks three years before the opening of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At the meeting, the chairperson designated several vice-chairpersons, and the council affirmed its commitment to use Tokyo 2020 as an opportunity to accelerate Fukushima's recovery, and convey Fukushima's thanks to countries that provided support in the aftermath of the 3.11 earthquake.

Approximately 300 council members and members of the public attended the meeting. Mami Chiba (sponsored by Toho Bank), an Olympian and native of Fukushima, and a high school student from the High School Activities Committee at the 2017 Southern Tohoku Athletic Meet spoke about their hopes for Tokyo 2020. Chairman Watanabe of the Fukushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry also gave a speech recounting his experience as a relay runner in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Following the Council meeting, a panel discussion called the "Fukushima Daikoryu Meeting" was held with Governor Uchibori as a panelist. When asked what sort of legacy he hoped the Tokyo 2020 Games would bring to the prefecture, he spoke of his wish to bring about a new Fukushima, one with a more venturesome outlook. He cited world-class mountaineer and Fukushima native Junko Tabei as a prime example of this attitude.

Fellow panelist Taeko Utsugi, former manager for the Japan women's softball team, said "I want to use baseball and softball to show how far Fukushima has come as we compete together (with other athletes aiming for gold)"



(At the end of the meeting, the Council unveiled a banner bearing a message of thanks to the world)



(The Panel Discussion)

Tokyo 2020 expands Scope of Nationwide Participation Programme!

In July, the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games ("Tokyo 2020") expanded the range of organisations eligible for the Nationwide Participation Programme, a programme for initiatives that encourage interest in the Tokyo 2020 movement, and creation of Olympic and Paralympic legacies.



Support Programme Logo

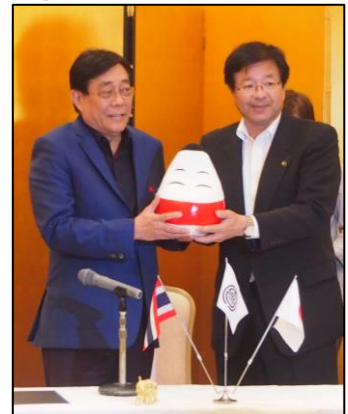
Although once ineligible for the programme, non-profit events run by local municipal governments, local authorities, neighbourhood associations, shopping arcades, local sports federations, educational institutions, and chambers of commerce and industry can now use the Tokyo 2020 Support Programme logo and develop initiatives as part of the Olympic movement.

For permission to use the Support Programme logo, the project must fall under one of the themes set by Tokyo 2020, and must meet several requirements, primarily that the project be non-profit. For further details, click the link below: <https://participation.tokyo2020.jp/jp> [Japanese language only]

[Aizuwakamatsu: Host Town Initiative]

Aizuwakamatsu City, Thailand Boxing Association sign Training Camp MoU

On August 7th, Aizuwakamatsu City and the Thailand Boxing Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding holding a boxing training camp in Aizuwakamatsu in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Thailand has sent a boxer to every Olympic Games since the country first participated in 1952, and has won multiple gold medals.



The signing ceremony in Aizuwakamatsu
Left: President Pichai Chunhavajira
Right: Mayor of Aizuwakamatsu, Shohei Muroi

Aizuwakamatsu has been designated one of Thailand's Host Towns for Tokyo 2020 by the Japanese government. Another local government in Fukushima, Iwaki city, also recently renewed its MoU with Samoa towards holding a rugby training camp.

Event!

The 2017 Japan Para-Athletic Championships

Saturday, September 23 to Sunday, September 24 at Toho Minna no Stadium

→Fukushima Sports Festival 2017 to take place concurrently

The 2017 edition of the Japan Para-Athletic Championships, the peak of para-athletic competition in Japan, will take place in Fukushima prefecture. Don't miss the perfect opportunity to witness some of the top athletes in Japan compete as they aim for a spot in the 2020 Paralympics. Several athletes from Fukushima are also scheduled to compete, so be sure to give them your support.

The 2017 Fukushima Sports Festival will also be taking place at the stadium on the same weekend. The festival will feature booths where you can try out sports such as canoeing and bouldering, as well as a talk show with former track and field athlete Dai Tamesue (Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008), former member of the Yomiuri Giants and Los Angeles Olympics gold medalist Kazutomo Miyamoto, and volleyball player Motoko Obayashi (Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996). Other attractions will include a stage promoting Fukushima culture, and a gourmet booth where you can taste Fukushima's charming food culture.

Autumn is the perfect season for food and sport so why not bring your family for a day out at the 2017 Japan Para-Athletic Championships.

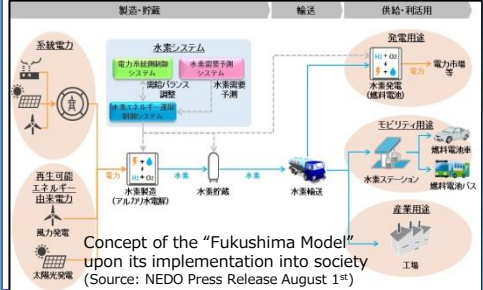
(Below: Tomomi Sato, Toho Bank)



Above: Hikari Niwase (Fukushima Para-Athletics Association)

World's Largest Hydrogen Production Plant to be constructed to supply Tokyo 2020

On Tuesday, August 1st, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO) announced its decision to construct the world's largest hydrogen production and research facility in Namie (Tanashio district). The facility will produce, and use, hydrogen generated from renewable energy. The plant is intended to promote the creation of a hydrogen-based society and experiments are expected to begin by 2020. It is hoped that hydrogen produced at the plant will be used in Tokyo at the 2020 Games.



Launch of Fukushima Olympic Paralympic Education Initiative

On August 17th, Fukushima Prefecture held a seminar at Fukushima Terusa Hall (Fukushima city) as part of the Fukushima City Olympic and Paralympic Education Program commissioned by the Japan Sports Agency. The seminar was attended by participants from ten Olympic and Paralympic Education Schools in Fukushima city (six elementary, three junior high, and one special-needs school), experts from the University of Tsukuba, one of the three national centres for Olympic and Paralympic Education, and lecturers from the Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center. The participants discussed in detail projects that will be carried out at the school level from the second semester.



Coming Monday, September 18th Event! Koriyama Universal Festival 2017

Come along to this lively festival featuring food booths and culture booths, where you can learn about various cultures from across the globe including Koriyama's host town partner, the Netherlands. Choir recitals and live dance performances will also be carried out on stage.

Date and Time: Sunday, September 18th 10am-4pm
Entry fee: Free
Venue: Koriyama Culture Park - Car Park #4
Contact: Koriyama Junior Chamber International (TEL: 024-932-2289)

Kiyoshi Nakahata to give Speech in Kunimi

Head coach and acting manager for the Japan baseball team that won bronze at Athens 2004 and manager for the Yokohama DeNA BayStars baseball team Kiyoshi Nakahata, a native of the town of Yabuki in Fukushima, will give a speech in Kunimi. The event has been designated a Tokyo 2020 Support Program, and should help to build interest in the Olympic baseball and softball matches in Fukushima in 2020.

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 20th 6.30pm (Doors open at 6pm)
Entry fee: Free (Open seating) *Ticket required for entry
Venue: Kangetsudai Cultural Centre Hall, Kunimi (TEL: 024-585-2676)

Major Completed Projects (Thank you for all your help)

Japan Women's U23 Triathlon Training Camp (Fukushima 2017)

From August 23rd ~ 27th, the Japan Women's U23 triathlon team held a training camp in Kitashiobara village, using the nearby Lake Hibara Circuit Road, Sports Park Hibarako, and Tenjin beach on Lake Hibara near the town of Inawashiro as training areas.

The training camp was held in preparation for the ITU World Triathlon Series Grand Final that will be held in Rotterdam from September 14th ~ 17th. The nine participants in the training camp are also expected to perform well at Tokyo 2020. The villagers of Kitashiobara gave their full support for the training camp, and hope that it will lead to more training camps in future.



Rio 2016 Rowing - Komazaki Recounts His Experience

On August 5th, Kitakata city welcomed rower Shigeru Komazaki to Sodeyama Yume Community Hall to recount his experience competing for Japan at the Rio Paralympics. The athlete was one of several representing Japan who, in August last year, took part in the final rowing training camp at Ogino rowing course in Takasato district, Kitakata city. The support he received from the local people, and the friendships he made during that time were a large part in why Komazaki returned to Kitakata for the 10th Kitakata City Regatta to speak about his experience at Rio 2016.



Discover Tomorrow 1000km Relay to Tokyo

This relay race from Aomori to Tokyo has been held every year since 2013 with the aim of lifting the spirits of people in areas affected by the 3.11 earth-quake. From this year the race has been designated a Tokyo 2020 Official Programme. The race was held from July 31 to August 4, during which time numerous amateur runners, Olympians and Paralympians raced through Fukushima, giving inspiration to the people of the prefecture, who are working hard towards recovery in preparation for Tokyo 2020.



(Amateur runners, Olympians, and Paralympians line up for the relay at the Prefectural Government Offices)

Fukushima Market 2017 ~ Recover & Create

On Friday July 28, Fukushima Market 2017 was held at the Tokyo branch of Tokio Marine and Nichido, to celebrate the IOC's decision to hold baseball and softball matches in Fukushima at Tokyo 2020. After the opening ceremony, the market promoted Fukushima products, and featured booths showcasing the Olympics and Paralympics, including the baseball and softball games that will be held in Fukushima.



Host Town Cultural Exchange with Samoa

Five students from Taira Commercial High School tea ceremony and flower arranging clubs visited Samoa from August 15th to 21st. The students exchanged views with the rugby association that signed an MoU on training camps with Iwaki, visited a junior high school to engage in cultural exchange, and visited areas affected by the 2009 Samoa earthquake and tsunami.



All Japan Business Committee - Product Exhibition Sendai Japan Market: Tohoku & Kyushu Recovery Edition

The Tohoku & Kyushu Recovery Edition of Japan Market, organised by the All Japan Business Committee and the Tohoku Economic Federation, took place in Sendai on August 7th and 8th. The event proved a success with a large turnout of people on both days, during which time it hosted a wide array of stalls, some promoting the Tokyo 2020 baseball and softball games in Fukushima, others selling peaches picked that same morning and sake from Fukushima. The festival is scheduled to be held in Fukuoka in October, and in Tokyo in November.



"Heidi, Girl of the Alps" Switzerland Exhibition

Held from July 30th to August 8th at Com-Com Hall in Fukushima city, with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan and Switzerland Tourism, as part of Host Town cultural exchange for Tokyo 2020. The exhibition thronged with people throughout the week.

Iwaki Sports Aptitude Tests

On Monday, August 27th, the Iwaki Sports Aptitude Tests took place at Meisei University, as part of the JAL Next Athlete Project, a Tokyo 2020 initiative designed to help encourage children to realise their potential, and follow their dreams. Former major league pitcher Hideki Okajima provided Demonstrations of the tests for the children.



Iwaki Kaiten-Yagura Bon Odori Festival

The 63rd edition of this festival was held in Iwaki on Monday, August 14th as a Tokyo 2020 Support Program. Summer festivals are being accepted as Support Programs for a limited time only. At the festival, Olympic athlete Hanae Ito (Swimming: Beijing 2008, London 2012) and Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee staff members joined locals in dancing Tokyo Gorin Ondo 2020, creating a lively atmosphere.

Our 2020 ~ Hopes & Dreams of the Children of the Next Generation

On July 24th, a panel discussion marking three years to go until Tokyo 2020 was held at Iwaki PIT, under the above title. At the event, junior high school students from Iwaki and Futaba, and Olympic and Paralympic athletes discussed their hopes and expectations for Tokyo 2020.



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: <http://www.fuku-plus2020.jp> Website Administrator: Shunsuke Tabe ☎ 024-521-7312)

Published by:
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