

Learning about the disaster, and reporting on the current situation.



Young reporters with Mr. Ikegami (center, front row)

Elementary, Junior & High School Students Conduct Interviews and Make Newspapers

Journalism School

July 28, 2022 at the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum

July 30 & 31 at Koriyama Nature Center

August 11 at Koriyama City Central Community Center

In 2022, the “Journalism School” was organized in Koriyama City, Namie Town and other locations in Fukushima Prefecture for four days on July 28, 30, 31, and August 11. Children produced newspapers through interviewing and listening to people about their experiences in the Great East Japan Earthquake, and during the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and their reconstruction efforts. 31 young journalists from 5th graders to high-school juniors, cultivated their “ability to convey.”

The children were divided into six groups, and on the first day they visited Namie Town’s Namie Farm, NPO Jin, the Soma Nomaioi Shineha-go Kibakai, Shibaei Suisan (a fishery company), Earthquake Disaster Ruins Namie Municipal Ukedo Elementary School, and Iwaki Storytellers’ Association. They listened to the residents’ stories about their struggles to tackle revitalization and regain their daily lives.

At the Koriyama Nature Center in Koriyama City on the second and third days, the children took on the challenge of creating newspapers. The students received advice from Yoshiaki Takeuchi (a teacher at Soma High School who taught school journalism for many years), and other reporters from local newspaper companies. They took their interview notes and turned them into articles, brainstormed headlines, and carefully selected photos to be published. They eventually completed the papers after each group discussed the titles and layouts.

On the final day, the young journalists presented the newspaper they produced at the Koriyama City Central Community Center. The audience applauded as they summarized the current revitalization efforts in order to sincerely pass on the memory of the disaster.

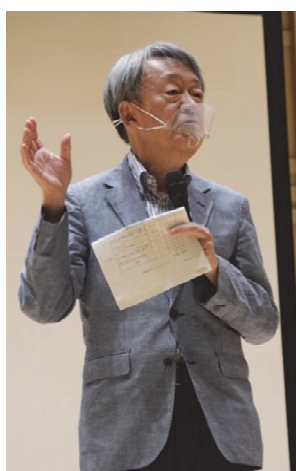
This year marks the 10th Journalist School organized by the “Fukushima-no-manabi” committee of Fukushima Prefec-

ture, as one of the “projects to hand down the experience, lessons, and revitalization status of the earthquake and nuclear accident,” with special cooperation by two local newspapers, Fukushima Minpo and Fukushima Minyu.



Young journalists doing a presentation of their newspaper

Mr. Akira Ikegami “If you read it, connections will be made”



Mr. Akira Ikegami answering the questions from young reporters about journalism

After the presentations on the final day of the program, Mr. Akira Ikegami, a journalist, joined as a special lecturer, and commented on the newspapers that students created.

In his greeting, Mr. Ikegami said, “If you strongly want to convey something, you have to think about the questions very carefully and ask them in a way that will elicit the most information possible from the subject. As a result, you will understand the subject best. In your newspapers, you wrote about hard-working people. Evacuees in and out of the prefecture will read your newspapers, and everyone’s feelings will be connected

through the articles,” stressing the importance of “knowing” and “conveying.”

Mr. Ikegami looked through the newspapers of each group and pointed out the valuable experiences that could only be learned in the field and the importance of the disaster ruins.

In the overall review, he emphasized the importance of reading comprehension in order to accurately convey things and said, “I urge you to read newspapers. Even if it’s just picking it up and reading articles that interest you, that’s fine. As you read, you will become more knowledgeable and introspective.”

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