

This newsletter conveys the voices of foreign residents, while also focusing on the activities of various international organizations and on the restoration efforts after the disaster.

※Translated versions of the newsletter can be downloaded from the FIA's homepage.



## Voices from Fukushima

### Steve Terada : Communicating Fukushima's Revitalization Situation to the World

( From Honolulu, Hawaii/ Currently living in Fukushima City)

Steve Terada is a 3rd generation Japanese-American whose grandparents were from Kumamoto Prefecture. From March of this year, Steve and his wife Jackie moved to Fukushima City from their home in Honolulu. Wanting to help tackle the harmful rumors caused by the nuclear power accident, Steve has been very active visiting various places in Fukushima. (Interview date: May 28th 2019) \*The interview was conducted in English.



#### - Could you tell us about the reason you decided to move to Fukushima?

After visiting Fukushima as a volunteer back in June 2011, I had always kept thinking about Fukushima.

Right after the earthquake disaster happened, the United States government ordered military personnel to not set foot within 80 km of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. While I went to Fukushima to help, I had no choice but to follow the order because I worked for the military.

I always regretted the fact that I had to leave Fukushima after just one day.

In 2018, I retired from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and visited Fukushima again the same year in May. Because of that trip, my wife and I both fell in love with Fukushima so we made the decision to move here the following month.

#### - When you first came to Fukushima back in May 2018, where did you go and visit?

I went to various places in

Fukushima for two weeks, including the area of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and I was able to meet many people. At that time, seven years have passed since the earthquake disaster. However, I realized that due to the harmful rumors, there were still many people who were finding it difficult to rebuild their lives. As a result, I started thinking how I wanted to help them.

#### - Could you tell us about your future plans and activities in Fukushima?

I will be covering and writing topics such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture, evacuation zones, Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, revitalization, etc. Then after this summer, I will be releasing articles regularly.

#### - Besides writing articles, do you also have plans to give lectures?

Yes, there are already several lectures planned currently.

Also, I would very much like to have the opportunity to talk about revitalization to foreign communities and international organizations in and outside of the prefecture.

#### - What was the reaction of your friends and families in Hawaii?

My friends were worried about the impact of radiation and so they were surprised to hear about my move to Fukushima. However, they were able to understand the current situation that Fukushima is in after learning more about the prefecture.

Also, there isn't much being reported overseas regarding the steps Fukushima is taking towards revitalization. As a result, I believe that the world's perception about Fukushima has remained the same since the accident.

#### -Do you have anything you would like to say to the readers?

With the Olympics coming next year, I believe this year to be really important. Japan is currently receiving a lot of attention as a host country and so, we need to continue spreading information carefully.

In order to do this, I would very much like to connect with various different people. If there is anyone who is interested or would like to help with my work, please feel free to get in touch with me.

### Foreign Residents Involved with the Tohoku Kizuna Matsuri in Fukushima City

The "Tohoku Kizuna Matsuri 2019 Fukushima" took place in Fukushima City on June 1st and 2nd 2019. Festivals from Tohoku's six prefectures were featured and around 300,000 people attended during the two days. Foreign residents registered in Fukushima International Association's volunteer list helped as interpreter guides and the Fukushima Vietnam Association had a Vietnamese food booth set up as well.



### An Event Making Use of the Local Resources in Aizu Wakamatsu City

On Saturday, June 8th, there was an event at the Sutou Nousan farm where ducks were released into the rice paddies. For four years, the event organizer, Aki Sutou Bond, has been holding art and farm-related events with her Scottish artist husband, Richard Bond. 25 people participated on this day, including people from the Kanto region. After, local cuisine and pizza, made from Richard's handmade oven, were served at the gathering.



### Making Soba Noodles In Iwaki City

Iwaki International Association held a soba noodle and Kashiwa-mochi (rice cake wrapped in oak-leaf) making event on July 28th. 27 people from China, the Philippines, Nepal and Japan participated. Cho Hei, a Chinese participant, said, "Making soba noodles is a bit similar to making gyoza wrappers but still different. I found cutting the noodles to be difficult as well."



### Multilingual information on the revitalization effort from "Fukushima Restoration Station"

"Fukushima Restoration Station" hosts the latest data on food safety efforts and the activities of those supporting Fukushima in 10 different languages.

<http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/>

#### Consultation services are now available in Vietnamese!

- **Support Desk for Foreign Residents** -  
English, Chinese, Japanese

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00~17:15

Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese, Vietnamese

Thursday 10:00~14:00

(Reservation required for 4th, 5th Thursday)

☎024-524-1316 ✉ask@worldvillage.org (direct line)

#### Please Send Us Your Thoughts and Feedback

We would appreciate hearing your thoughts and opinions. Please send us any information that you would like to see covered or information about people willing to be interviewed.



Publisher

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