

5th International Forum Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapiience



Thursday-Sunday, October 11-14, 2018

[Report]

This year, in the fifth International Forum, we discussed various topics related to issues faced by disaster-affected areas and shared opinions on the future vision for Fukushima, Futaba and Hirono.

Organized by : Hirono Town

Co-organized by : Higashi Nippon International University / Kumamoto Gakuen University / J-Village, Inc.

Sponsored by : Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency / Fukushima Prefecture / Association of Towns and Villages in Futaba District / Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Corporation / The Association of Children's Song Writers in Japan

Supported by : Fukushima Gaina Co., Ltd. / Book Café Full House

Secretariat : Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town

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Introduction

Hirono hosted the fifth International Forum titled “Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience,” from Thursday, October 11 to Sunday, October 14, 2018.

It has been seven years since the disaster occurred. We have experienced heartbreaking loss in the process of recovery over that time. However, working on recovery efforts has greatly increased our knowledge, know-how and expertise in fields such as social science and natural sciences, and we believe that passing this information down to future generations will prove valuable. Therefore, at the 2018 International Forum, we decided to focus on two topics: wide-area collaborations to communicate values, and effective information sharing (such as through movies, music, novels, dramatic art, and anime).

The town of Hirono is undergoing recovery from the damage caused by the disaster. During the period of the Forum, citizens and visitors were invited to 24 sessions, including exchange events, in which participants discussed a range of administrative issues.

As a result, participants were able to develop a unanimous message delivered on the final day of the Forum.



PROGRAM

10/11
[THU]

- ▶ Opening Ceremony
- ▶ Opening session Utilizing the media for regional development
- ▶ HIRONO (provisional title) documentary film
- ▶ Discussion on potential of Hamadori coastal region
- ▶ Tea ceremony

10/12
[FRI]

- ▶ Discussion on the decommissioning of nuclear reactors
- ▶ Hirono, hometown of children's songs
- ▶ [Keynote Address] We can do something from a bookstore in front of the station
- ▶ Drama presentation by Futaba Future High School *Indrah—we will be Kazuko*
- ▶ (1) Measures against radiation exposure and health management for farmers
(2) Wildlife damage control: easy-to-understand explanation
- ▶ Practice sale of agricultural and commercial products by Futaba Future High School

10/13
[SAT]

- ▶ Living together with reconstruction workers
- ▶ 24th Hirono Children's Song Festival
- ▶ Practice sale of agricultural and commercial products by Futaba Future High School
- ▶ Sale of foods by social welfare corporations
- ▶ Sale of variety goods by social welfare corporations

10/14
[SUN]

- ▶ Collaboration and regional development through art and culture
- ▶ Report on the overseas training received by junior high school students from Hirono Town
-Learning from cross-cultural experiences
- ▶ Presentations of results of research projects organized by Futaba Future High School
- ▶ Research on environmental impact assessment based on radioisotope measurement
- ▶ Utilizing sports for regional revitalization

PERMANENT
EXHIBITION

- ▶ Screening of video works produced by Hirono Junior High School students
- ▶ Exhibition for IGCC at Hirono Thermal Power Plant
- ▶ Boshin War in Hirono Town
- ▶ Exhibition for municipalities offering backup personnel to Hirono Town
- ▶ Hirono Town inviting public opinions
- ▶ Sports news photography exhibition



5th International Forum

Message from “Disaster Affected Areas”

Hirono held the fifth International Forum, titled “Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience” It focused on wide-area collaborations to communicate values and effective information sharing. During the four-day period, the town held 14 sessions, seven side events, and three exchange events, in which participants held active discussions and reached the following conclusions.

The participants in the Forum would like to communicate these conclusions as message from Hirono to people both inside and outside the town.

1. Measures to be taken toward decommissioning nuclear reactors

Participants agreed on the importance of the following: keeping people informed about the present situation, a system for assigning responsibility, measures for the future, risk assessments, identifying difficulties, issues to be determined, and establishing a funding system for decommissioning projects. This also includes making sure people are aware of the relevant risks. Two-way communication, as opposed to one-sided messaging, is critical to long-term measures for decommissioning. We call upon the national government, the private sector, and also local municipalities and communities to share information and develop human resources in all fields related to decommissioning.

2. Development of new technologies

Hirono was damaged by the earthquake and nuclear accident, and in addition, withstood damage caused by a negative public image. As such, the area faces a situation that is rare even on a global level. Based on these experiences, we believe that new practical technologies can and will be developed locally within the town.

Under the Fukushima Innovation Coast Scheme, Hirono will support the development of technologies that contribute to the next generation by promoting industry-government-academia cooperation to “Build back better than before.”

3. Promotion through sports

J-Village is a sports stadium located on the border of the towns of Hirono and Naraha. It was used as a base to deal with the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident triggered by the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. However, July 2018 marked a fresh start for the “New J-Village,” in which an all-weather soccer practice field and a new hotel building were constructed.

Hirono submitted an application for the use of J-Village as pre-Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games training camp facilities for national teams in soccer, rugby, wrestling, badminton and other sports, along with the use of other Hirono/Naraha sport facilities for camps.

Hirono will cooperate with sports associations and leaders to increase momentum toward the Games, aiming to make this world event a great driving force for local revitalization.

4. Local revitalization based on the culture of nursery rhymes

In 2018, as in 2017, Hirono held a nursery rhyme festival concurrently with the International Forum. Organized to celebrate the centennial of the birth of nursery rhymes in Japan, the festival involved a competition in which two songs were selected to be passed down over generations. In addition, as part of this child-focused effort, the town made a declaration to encourage the sound growth of children and help them develop the imagination and creativity necessary to be future leaders. Hirono also concluded an exchange agreement with the City of Tatsuno, Hyogo Prefecture, in which the two municipalities committed to building a culture of nursery rhymes in local communities. Based on the agreement, the municipalities will collaborate to promote nursery rhymes to people across Japan.

Hirono will strive to become a unique “town of nursery rhymes.”

5. Providing information from disaster affected areas

At the International Forum, participants focused again this year on the question of what kind of information disaster-

affected areas should provide. We discussed the possibilities for Hama-dori. We proposed various ideas, such as organizing a technology and art festival linked to the Fukushima Innovation Coast Scheme, holding a dramatic art festival featuring not performers from Tokyo but local performers living in areas recovering from the disaster, and an art festival in which both locals and visitors can collaborate and interact. In addition, we pointed out the importance of sharing information, building local cooperation, gathering power, and continuing to provide information so as to rebrand Hama-dori.

As a leader in recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Hirono will continue to adopt new ideas, promote cooperation between affected areas, and determine which information is appropriate to provide in its continuous messaging to the public.

Based on the findings made through the International Forum, we are convinced of Hirono's great potential. The town has knowledge that is based on a long tradition and rich culture. At the same time, we are convinced that we must value our hometown in order to take further steps toward the future.

Now seven years have passed since the town was hit by the disaster. We believe that we should pass on the knowledge gained from the experiences we have had in its wake, including wisdom, knowhow and expertise in social science, natural sciences, and other fields. Representing contemporary citizens of Hirono, we deem it our responsibility to work hard to transform the town into one where next-generation citizens can lead happy lives. To this end, we will add new values to the existing values, and promote a shift from recovery to creative development.

October 14, 2018

From all the participants in the fifth International Forum titled
“Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience”



OPENING CEREMONY

- ◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 11, 2018; 10:00-11:00
- ◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**MC:** Mr. Kazuma Komatsu (Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town)
- ◎**Guests:**
 Mr. Shinichi Jitsukuni, Deputy Director-General of the Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction and Revitalization, Reconstruction Agency
 Mr. Hideo Yura, Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, Cabinet Office
 Mr. Takanori Kanari, Director-General of the Fukushima Prefecture Evacuation Area Reconstruction Bureau
 Mr. Masanori Kuroda, Chair of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎**Number of participants:** 100

1 Opening Address



Mr. Satoshi Endo
Mayor of Hirono Town

We held the first International Forum in 2014, when two years had passed since we began to return to the town upon the lifting of the evacuation order, but there were almost no children among the returnees. We confronted huge challenges to restore normal community life to our disaster-hit hometown of Hirono. As part of efforts to fulfill this task, we launched this forum and have continued organizing the event every year. In the first and second meetings, we invited researchers from outside

Japan to visit the temporary housing complex and have meals with evacuees living there, to help them better understand the actual situation of the area affected by the nuclear accident. The third and fourth meetings gathered knowledge and insights from around the globe to discuss issues related to bringing the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station under control, and disseminated messages resulting from the discussions. From these activities, I am convinced that it is essential to join forces to share accumulated information and form regional collaborations.

This year, the fifth Forum has been planned under the major theme of “Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience” The knowledge in this title has been developed from experience and findings over the past years, to which will be added insights from the upcoming forum, and as such it will generate value to be shared broadly. At the same time, that valuable knowledge should be effectively used to update our activities. In light of this, we have decided to conclude the International Forum initiative with the fifth and final event this year.

Seven and a half years have passed since the lifting of the Evacuation-Prepared Area in Case of Emergency restriction. Over these years, Hirono has made progress in reconstruction, with currently 87 percent of the pre-disaster residents having returned and the actual resident population exceeding the registered resident population by more than 40 percent. Based on the past results, we will continue advancing steadily step by step from restoration and reconstruction to revitalization and creation.

I would like to hear advice, suggestions and instructions from many participants from various standpoints. Also, we expect to gain useful insights from the planned sessions to be able to start new endeavors next fiscal year.

While many disaster-affected areas are still having difficulties promoting reconstruction plans, new potential resources are being developed to rebuild Futaba, as exemplified by the opening of Futaba Future Junior High School next spring. Giving the highest priority to developing human resources, we should cooperate to promote youth education across the region, thereby creating a community where people can live with peace of mind. I would appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.



2 Guests' Addresses



Mr. Shinichi Jitsukuni

Deputy Director-General of the Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction and Revitalization,
Reconstruction Agency

This year, Hirono Town has organized the International Forum with the aim of internationally presenting “Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience” which has been developed based on findings and experience gained through its past and ongoing reconstruction efforts. In this project, the town also aims to explore future visions of the disaster-hit region. This exactly represents where Hirono is now in the context of post-disaster redevelopment. I hope that through globally communicating how Hirono and Futaba have progressed with reconstruction plans, the region will expand and deepen international networks.

Hirono Town has made progress with major reconstruction projects, such as the reopening of J-Village, which partially resumed operations in July 2018, and the opening of Futaba Future Junior High School in the next fiscal year, as the Mayor of Hirono said earlier. At the same time, there are still many tasks to be accomplished, including renovation of the Hirono Station building and construction of the west exit. Against this backdrop, this month, Hirono Town independently started to announce data for the ratio of the actual resident population to the registered resident population. This action is aimed at appropriately communicating the actual situation of Hirono, where a growing number of workers have come from out of the town to engage in reconstruction, reactor decommissioning, and other reconstruction-related projects within Futaba District. I understand this is associated with the issue of living together with these workers, a new panel discussion topic selected for this year.

We in the Fukushima Bureau will continue making all-out efforts to vigorously support Hirono Town while bolstering collaboration with relevant organizations to help the town promote reconstruction projects steadily and stably.



Mr. Hideo Yura

Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, Cabinet Office

Now almost eight years from the disaster, the Reconstruction Agency and Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters have just begun to discuss how reconstruction efforts should be in their tenth year. We are working to build awareness within the national government that Fukushima still has many tasks to work on for reconstruction.

Hirono relocated its office back to the town almost seven years ago, making it one of the earliest to start rebuilding efforts and a key leader in reconstructing the entire Futaba region. I expect that Hirono's success will energize the rest of the region, thus driving overall regional development. In a broader view, Hirono is playing a significant role in leading the revitalization of Fukushima as a whole. We at government agencies will continue to support efforts of Hirono and other municipalities to the best of our ability.

I have been looking forward to attending the fifth International Forum, where many presentations and discussions will take place over four days on a wide range of topics from local revitalization and community development, and inclusion of decontamination- and decommissioning-related workers, to future plans for Hirono to advance from the reconstruction to the revitalization stage. I am particularly interested in reporting and other presentations made by local high school students, a valuable opportunity for the region's future leaders to publicly express their own thoughts and feelings. I believe these activities are truly important.

The Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters will exert continued efforts to assist the reconstruction of Hirono Town and Futaba District in cooperation with relevant organizations.



Mr. Takanori Kanari

Director-General of the Fukushima Prefecture Evacuation Area Reconstruction Bureau

It has been seven years and seven months since the Great East Japan Earthquake. During this period of time, Hirono Town has vigorously carried out a range of projects to rebuild the living environment, such as restoring public infrastructures earlier than other municipalities, opening the government-run commercial facility Hirono Terrace, and developing areas on the east side of Hirono Station. Recently, the town has achieved more robust progress, as illustrated by the reopening of J-Village in July 2018 and the opening of Futaba Future Junior High School next spring. These achievements were attributed to the hard work of the entire town, spearheaded by Mayor Endo and involving the town assembly, town office, reconstruction project contractors as well as individual residents. I would like to express my deepest respect for all those tireless efforts.

This year marks the fifth time that the International Forum has been held. Hirono Town has continued hosting the event every year, organizing many programs in various fields, for the purpose of presenting future visions of Hirono Town and Futaba District and exploring solutions to current problems hampering the region from approaching the visions, as well as disseminating accurate information to the outside of the region, including overseas. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Hirono Town for taking the initiative in facilitating discussions to find solutions to various issues facing disaster-affected areas and in creating opportunities for exchange, making use of local resources. The Fukushima Prefectural government will do all in its power to help reconstruct and revitalize disaster-affected areas, working hand in hand with the national and local municipal governments. We sincerely ask for your continued support in this endeavor.



Mr. Masanori Kuroda

Chair of Hirono Town Assembly

The fourth International Forum held last year was truly inspiring and meaningful. Each individual participant's strong interest in and passion for Hirono Town made me feel very encouraged, and discussions on the need to increase interregional information sharing and broader collaborations were really convincing. I hope that this year's forum will also generate active discussions and useful suggestions from a broader regional viewpoint on various situations and issues that Hirono Town and Futaba District must address. The Town Assembly is working hard so that the town and other disaster-affected areas can be reconstructed and revitalized as soon as possible. I hope that all the participants in this forum will lend us their knowledge and wisdom to the revitalization of the all disaster-affected areas.

3 Other Invited Attendees

- ◎ Mr. Shuzo Sasaki, Director of Soso District Promotion Bureau, Fukushima Prefecture
- ◎ Mr. Shuji Suzuki, Director of Futaba Reconstruction Office, Fukushima Prefecture
- ◎ Mr. Yukio Kusano, Management Planning Division Manager, Higashi Nippon International University
- ◎ Mr. Kazunori Akutagawa, Vice-Principal of National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College
- ◎ Mr. Junichi Tanno, Principal of Futaba Future School
- ◎ Mr. Mikio Kitago, Vice-Chair of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎ Ms. Chikako Shio, Member of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎ Mr. Takumi Momma, Member of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎ Ms. Marie Momma, Member of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎ Mr. Hiroshi Endo, Member of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎ Mr. Michihiro Kitago, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

Opening Session

UTILIZING THE MEDIA FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◎ **Date:** Thursday, October 11, 2018; 11:00-12:30
- ◎ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎ **Speaker:** Yoshinori Asao
(Representative Director, Fukushima Gaina Co., Ltd.)
- ◎ **Participants:** 100



1 Overview

About Fukushima Gaina

Fukushima Gainax Co., Ltd. (currently Fukushima Gaina Co., Ltd.) was originally planned by GAINAX Co., Ltd. as a second studio outside of Tokyo working with overseas partners. Shortly after the disaster, I proposed that the planned studio should be established in Fukushima Prefecture, where my hometown is located, and the company approved my proposal and the plan to set up a studio and museum using a closed local school building.

We search Fukushima and Tohoku to find subjects suitable for anime, manga and characters, and create content in collaboration with local governments and companies, aiming to gain new fans and draw tourists and supporters to the region. Through this project, Fukushima Gaina hopes to create new possibilities of using local resources and contribute to the reconstruction of affected areas.

Masamune Datenikuru (Date City)

The anime Masamune Datenikuru was produced at the request of Date City as a new instrument to arouse consumers' interest in the city, and focusing on the city's well-known historical background as the birthplace of the Date clan. The main characters were created based on Masamune Date, the clan's most famous head, and his imaginary handsome ancestors, setting young women as the target viewer base. The project employed voice actors popular among women and a successful web show performer to sing the opening theme tune. We held screening events and live sessions, attracting a host of female fans.

We also organized a variety of promotional activities. Major examples include photo spots created within the related castle ruins, wrap advertising on local government vehicles, illustration contests, and open-source merchandizing inviting the participation of local citizens and companies. It's been two and a half years since the start of the project, and we see it becoming familiar to local residents.

Fukushima Gaina is invited to participate in 10 to 15 anime events overseas every year. We take every such opportunities to screen the work, and give updates on the actual situation of Fukushima, when possible.

Tabechattatte Iinonina (You Can Enjoy!) (Fukushima Prefecture)

This promotional anime program was produced at the request of Fukushima Prefecture, seeking to mitigate the reputational damage to the region's agricultural, forestry and fishery products. Rather than giving straight explanations about safety, the anime project chose to use stories and characters to stimulate the interest of consumers and inspire them to learn from the media, hoping to improve their understanding so as to voluntarily choose products from Fukushima.

The program has been translated into Spanish, French, English and Chinese, and distributed globally. It has been accessed a total of nearly 5 million times from around the world, including 700 thousand times from France.

Using anime for regional development

We have recently seen many reports on the substantial impact anime productions can have on a local economy. Specifically, Washinomiya Shrine in Kuki City, Saitama Prefecture recorded an increase in the number of New Year visitors to 470 thousand from the previous average of 100 thousand, after it appeared in a hit anime work as a featured location. An estimated total of 2.2 billion yen was generated by the production over three years from its release. Another anime work with a story set in Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture is estimated to have generated an annual economic effect worth 2.1 billion yen.

Such huge economic effect largely derives from a phenomenon often likened to a "pilgrimage to the sacred spot." It's the outcome of successful works inspiring fans to visit the relevant place, which generally does not involve local participation in the planning

stage seeking a similar benefit. Local involvement in post-release promotion often fails due to slow progress and an ineffective scheme. Even successful collaborations can lose their effect quickly as the work declines in popularity. How to retain the effect of collaboration constitutes a challenge facing local involvement in content production.

Future plans

We are planning to produce an anime program for children titled Rescue Academia, based on the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework. The program has been planned as a TV series to be broadcast nationwide. The story is set in Fukushima, where children learn about disaster prevention and new energy and perform rescue work with the help of robots. Among candidate characters under creation is one representing Hirono Town. We are considering featuring children from countries interested in this production, looking at expanding distribution to outside of Japan.

We hope that the new content production will help the reconstruction of Fukushima and aid regional development through global networks.

2 Closing (summary)

- The session presented the strong possibility of anime production to collaborate with local functions in order to attract visitors, as well as the power of Japanese anime networks to penetrate overseas markets, enabling even regional productions such as Masamune Datenikuru to be received well in many countries.
- The audience was strongly impressed by Mr. Asao's passionate commitment to contributing to the reconstruction of Fukushima and regional revitalization through anime productions.

Session

HIRONO (PROVISIONAL TITLE) DOCUMENTARY FILM

- ◎ **Date:** Thursday, October 11, 2018; 13:30-16:00
- ◎ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎ **Speakers:** Ryuichi Shimada (Film director)
Yugo Kunitomo (Assistant director)
- ◎ **Participants:** 70



1 Overview

Part 1: HIRONO (provisional title) documentary film

The documentary film HIRONO depicting the life of residents in Hirono Town after the disaster was screened in the town before the theatrical premiere, thanks to the kindness of the director.

Part 2: Panel session

Mr. Ryuichi Shimada, director, and Mr. Yugo Kunitomo, assistant director, talked about the shooting of the documentary film.

Shimada: The film is still in the process of editing. The challenge is about how much detail should be presented in the film in order to appropriately communicate the actual situation of Futaba District and Hirono Town, which were seriously affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Immediately after the disaster, media reporters and journalists rushed to affected areas in droves, but I felt I could not join them to shoot pictures at that time. However, when I was later involved in a video production project at Hirono Junior High School as an instructor and talked with many local residents and related parties, I began to feel the need to record the situation.

Kunitomo: As a production team member, I witnessed the director and the editor struggling painstakingly to complete the film. That makes me feel very grateful to be able to show the film today in Hirono Town. Among the episodes depicted in the film, I was particularly impressed by young people struggling in earnest to restore local children's organizations and traditional cultural events. Similar efforts are exerted by many people across the country to maintain local culture. I think such activities are essential for communities to continue to exist.

2 Summary

A slew of creative works have been produced to describe the disaster-affected areas. Among various media, video is distinctively powerful in depicting the actual situation and making a record to pass on to future generations. On the other side of the coin, filmmaking on the sensitive subject of disaster-affected areas tends to be a difficult challenge, carrying the risk of giving misleading impressions. Creators are challenged as to how to give an effective shape to what they have in mind to communicate. In this session, Messrs. Shimada and Kunitomo shared behind-the-scene episodes, including struggles and conflicts facing the production team.

Session

DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL OF HAMADORI COASTAL REGION

- ◎**Date:** Thursday, October 11, 2018; 16:00-17:00
- ◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Speakers:** Yoshinori Asao (Representative Director, Fukushima Gaina Co., Ltd.)
Masayuki Fukusako (Vice-President, Higashi Nippon International University)
Kaneshige Wakamatsu (Member of the House of Councilors)
Satoshi Endo (Mayor of Hirono Town)
Junichi Tanno (Principal of Futaba Future High School)
- ◎**Participants:** 60



1 Overview

Tanno: Futaba Future High School offers special education programs on the subject of disaster-affected areas. First-year students make a study tour around affected areas and do fieldwork in Futaba District, and create a drama to illuminate issues facing the region. Second- and third-year students engage in projects to present solutions to regional issues related to themes selected by the students. In these programs, students are working to explore various approaches, aiming at building a society centered on and led by themselves (local residents), while continuously reviewing the objective of reconstruction. We plan to enhance the programs by adopting diverse types of activities, such as drama, theatrical art, sports and artistic creation.

Our students come not only from Hamadori but also from Aizu and Nakadori, and they learn together in the same school, regardless of hometown. They have developed an appropriate capacity to discuss from a broad point of view, beyond Hamadori and Fukushima Prefecture, even from a global perspective. I would like to talk with many parties in the region, in order to explore approaches to allow these students to fully exercise their capacity.

Asao: In order to take the overall reconstruction initiative up to the next level, I think revitalizing Hamadori will be the key. My suggestion is, rather than focusing only on encouraging former residents to return, we should create and disseminate a new image of Hamadori to draw visitors to support the region. We have begun to work on activities based on this idea.

In 2018, Aquamarine Fukushima in Iwaki City hosted the Theo Jansen exhibition featuring the integration of art and technology, which attracted a total of 140 thousand visitors over a period from March to May. This data has proven that Hamadori can attract a substantial number of visitors and tourists. Within the region, Iwaki City may become a hub for this purpose, but we can create and communicate the attraction of the entire region to draw visitors northward. We are keen to create new attractions in Hamadori, focusing on fields related to art and culture in addition to anime.

Wakamatsu: The Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework has begun to be implemented across the prefecture. This is a grand government project to achieve 100% renewable energy supply to meet power demand in the entire prefecture by 2040. Fukushima is expected to serve as a pioneer in promoting similar plans. The Hamadori region has a concentration of power-related facilities, including: robot test fields, decommissioning research facilities, and wind farms in Minamisoma City; and a hydrogen plant in Namie Town. In Hirono Town, an IGCC (integrated gasification combined cycle) plant is under construction. These functions will serve the national energy policy to shift from the previous energy supply format of transmitting electricity from Fukushima to the Tokyo area, and Hamadori will play a leading role in promoting the policy. I hope the region will build a solid energy industry, which can have a

significant influence on public life. The national government will offer all-out support to the region.

Endo: J-Village will celebrate its grand reopening next spring. To be able to receive a large number of new visitors resulting from this, affected areas will have to prepare appropriate functions from scratch. Prior to the new opening, each municipality will develop systems and programs (including study tours) to welcome new visitors.

This year, I visited the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale held in Niigata Prefecture. I was strongly impressed by project members working together to organize the art festival while displaying a real passion for their hometown. I was also inspired to consider the possibility of developing art-themed activities to bring together disaster-hit Futaba District towns and villages, utilizing the unique history and traditional culture of each. I hope we will be able to give concrete shape to many such ideas one by one.

It is important for local governments in disaster affected areas to build a self-directed, forward-looking attitude while maintaining an on-the-ground viewpoint (as disaster-affected areas). To this end, we should share information with concerned organizations and encourage cooperation among key sectors—industry, government, academia, finance, labor and the media—to be able to take up new challenges in different fields, which, I believe, will help us effectively deal with issues emerging in the future.

2 Closing (summary)

Fukusako: The potential of Hamadori derives from the region's resources. Among the many forms of resources, I believe, the most important is people. People, in this context, should not be limited to the original locals but include newcomers from different regions, bringing in dynamism from outside, even across borders. How can we harness such human and regional resources most effectively? The speakers shared various views on this issue from their standpoints. I hope these results of the session will be published so that they can inspire new developments.

Session

DISCUSSION ON THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

Ⓞ **Date:** Friday, October 12, 2018; 10:30-11:30

Ⓞ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)

Ⓞ **Speaker:** Hajimu Yamana (President of Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation)

Ⓞ **Participants:** 50



1 Overview

Explanations were given on the following:

- Situation of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (with the help of video footage)
- Safety of the site: the temperature inside the reactors being kept adequately low; and the plant controlled to maintain an appropriate safety level, allowing general work on 96 percent of the entire site.
- Decommissioning process, which is comprised of continuous and efficient efforts to reduce the risk of radiation leakage, including measures conducted to deal with contaminated water and remove spent fuel from the plant's pools. The process will be completed by demolishing the entire building.
- Decommissioning management systems, specifically the roles to be played by the relevant organizations, such as the government, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), Nuclear Regulation Authority, and Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF)
- Situation of and measures to deal with issues related to spent fuel, contaminated water, fuel debris and radioactive substances
- Possibility of cooperating with other entities on a global level to fulfill the decommissioning mission for Fukushima Daiichi, looking at many precedent efforts such as at Chernobyl and Sellafield

2 Closing (summary)

- We are implementing decommissioning processes, hoping that Hamadori will not only regain the value lost due to the disaster,

but also create new value to be passed on to future generations.

- In order to reduce and overcome the reputational damage caused in association with the nuclear accident, it is essential to build an accurate understanding of radioactivity and share appropriate data allowing comparison by region regarding health damage incidence.
- The session has helped local residents enhance their understanding of the situation of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and the ongoing decommissioning efforts in the station.

Session

HIRONO, HOMETOWN OF CHILDREN'S SONGS

- ◎**Date:** Friday, October 12, 2018; 11:30-12-30
- ◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Speaker:** Mikio Ito (Composer and permanent director of the Association of Children's Song Writers in Japan)
- ◎**Participants:** 50



1 Overview

The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the origination of the Japanese children's song genre with the first issue of Akai Tori children's literary magazine having been published on July 1, 1918, by Miekichi Suzuki, fulfilling his lofty aspiration of providing children with art which is simple but of the finest quality. This literary landmark inspired many poets, including Ujo Noguchi, Hakushu Kitahara and Yaso Saijo, to write children's songs. Among them, Saijo's Kanariya (Canary) is known to be the first to be published.

This year, Hirono Town concluded an exchange agreement with Tatsuno City in Hyogo Prefecture, in order to cooperate with the city in promoting the Hometown of Children's Songs initiative. I am very delighted about the expected development, in which the two children's song-loving partners will hold exchange concerts and carry out collaborative promotion activities. Out of their activities, I hope, will grow government networks across Japan to popularize the genre.

Children's songs require an extend period of time to be appreciated appropriately, chiefly due to their profound nature. Hirono Town and Tatsuno City are working to produce contemporary children's songs. Actually, the children's lyric writing contest hosted by Hirono attracts a lot of interesting works. Among many countries in the world where children's songs have been created, Japan still continues to produce an outstanding 1,000 songs or more every year.

Very few municipalities in Japan have original songs. Hirono is one of the few creating original songs, which are introduced to local kindergartens. The songs are first learned by the kindergarteners and are later passed down to their children and then to grandchildren. This is a tremendously long-time process. Still, I believe, these songs should be passed to future generations to become a precious cultural asset.

2 Closing (summary)

In Hirono Town, known as the birthplace of the children's song Tombo no Megane (The dragonfly's glasses), 2018 marked the 25th year of the launch of its local development project themed on children's songs. Taking the occasion of the same year marking the 100th anniversary of the origination of the Japanese children's song genre, the session was held inviting Mr. Ito to talk about the history and profound nature of the music category.

It requires a long period of time for children's songs to become popular. Yet, collaborations among local organizations based on shared goals, as aimed at by Hirono Town and Tatsuno City concluding an exchange agreement, can greatly facilitate the progress and expansion of this field. Children's songs should be preserved and maintained as a precious property of Japan, so that the related culture can develop toward the next centennial milestone.



Keynote Address**WE CAN DO SOMETHING FROM A BOOKSTORE IN FRONT OF THE STATION**

◎**Date:** Friday, October 12, 2018; 13:30-15:00

◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)

◎**Speakers:** Miri Yu (Akutagawa Prize-winning author; manager of Book Café Full House)
Tooru Yamada (Film director)

◎**Participants:** 100

**1 Overview****Reasons for opening a bookstore in Odaka**

When I heard a news report about restricting access to caution zones related to the nuclear accident, an image of a village lost decades before under the water of the Tagokura Dam (Tadami Town) came up to mind. I had been interested in the lost village from my mother's stories. Out of fear of losing the opportunity to access the specified zone forever, I immediately headed to Fukushima and managed to reach the front entrance of Fukushima Daiichi just before the zone was closed off. Then, I began to visit disaster-affected areas, where one day, the temporary emergency broadcast station in Minamisoma invited me to appear on the radio. I accepted the invitation and started to host a radio show under the title of Yu Miri no Futari to Hitori. Through this engagement in radio programming I received another offer of employment in the region, this time teaching at Odaka Technical High School, via a teacher at the school who appeared on my show as a guest. In order to accept the offer, as well as to be able to continue the radio program as long as run by the temporary broadcast station, I moved from Kamakura to Haramachi. Subsequently, the school was planned to be reorganized into Odaka Industrial Technology and Commerce High School and newly built back in Odaka. At that time, the area was dark and desolate, where some form of emergency help function should be available. And I thought a bookstore could serve the purpose.

In every recent interview opportunity, I was asked why I began to live in Odaka. To that question, I always answer "I'm just going with the flow." This may sound a little negative, but I mean to be positive. I am a South Korean national, and my parents came to Japan, fleeing the Korean War. They moved a number of times following their destiny, and built new networks in every new location. Like them, I have moved many times going with the flow and I built new networks where I arrived. And I feel I have formed very strong ties in the past.

About the bookstore

Many books were damaged in the disaster. Those in many houses were washed away in the tsunami, or located in caution zones, those on shelves in damaged houses decaying in rainwater or torn apart by intruding wild animals. As there are no other bookstores around here, I have customers visiting from a long distance.

Books can be likened to a magical door leading to new, different worlds. Bookstores can offer numerous such doors that can take the reader to any imaginable world. The bookstore is especially important to children, for whom the world consists of only two places: home and school. However, they can visit the bookstore to enjoy experiencing an endless number of new worlds.

Drama production and future plans

I worked with Futaba Future High School's drama club to produce a drama titled Still Life Painting. The script was based on a work I wrote at age 21 and rewritten to fit the specific production, taking into consideration individual students facing poignant memories associated with the disaster.

A drama titled Memento of the Town is underway to be put on the stage. The drama project has employed a total of eight men and women in their 70s from Minamisoma. Each performer makes a pair with a professional actor, and talks about their experiences and memories focusing on the disaster via dialogue with the partner. I have chosen this approach, aiming to overcome the limitation of the presentation of kataribe storytellers, who may find it difficult to talk from painful experiences as actual disaster survivors. I thought disaster survivors could talk more effectively in collaboration with outside actors.

I am keen to continue drama activities, looking at my aspiration, which is to attract drama lovers, rather than disaster tourists, to the Hamarodi region, areas near Fukushima Daiichi. My plan is to launch a drama festival in Hamadori in 2020 in time with

the full-scale reopening of the Joban Line. The event will be held on an ongoing basis to be able to become a strong draw of stage drama fans to Hamadori. Also, for young people aspiring to a career in theater, I will work to present appropriate path options for pursuing the career from their hometown.

2 Closing (summary)

The audience was impressed by Ms. Yu's presentations on various episodes, such as moving to Minamisoma City's Odaka District after the disaster, opening a bookstore, going with the flow and forming a strong tie with new people where she arrives, feeling close to people living in disaster-affected areas, and committing herself to creating a draw to Hamadori through drama productions.

Session / Drama presentation by Futaba Future High School INDRAH—WE WILL BE KAZUKO

- ◎Date: Friday, October 12, 2018; 15:30-17:00
- ◎Venue: Hirono Town Community Center
(Main Conference Room)
- ◎Presenters: Futaba Future High School's
drama club members
- ◎Participants: 70



Session

- (1) MEASURES AGAINST RADIATION EXPOSURE AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT FOR FARMERS
- (2) WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL: EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND EXPLANATION

- ◎Date: Friday, October 12, 2018; 15:30-17:00
- ◎Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Small Conference Room)
- ◎Speakers: (1)Junichiro Ishida (Fukushima Prefecture Decontamination Advisor)
(2)Tsukasa Ono (Fukushima Prefecture Agricultural Technology Center)
Hikaru Oono (Futaba Agriculture Promotion Section)
- ◎Participants: 30



1 Overview

(1)Measures against radiation exposure and health management for farmers

Explanations were given on the basics of radiation, measures to reduce the amount of radioactive substances to be transferred into agricultural products, and measures to protect farmers against radiation exposure. A discussion was given, using a Q&A session style, about popular radiation risk-related issues facing farmers resuming operations.

(2)Wildlife damage control: easy-to-understand explanation

Explanations were given with the help of video footage about the capacities and characteristics, including body lengths, learning abilities and behavior patterns, of wild boar, Asian black bear, sika deer, masked palm civet, raccoon, and Japanese raccoon dog.

2 Closing (summary)

(1)Measures against radiation exposure and health management for farmers

For radiation exposure control for farmers, a protective mask and gloves are recommended particularly for the purpose of preventing unintended inhalation of contaminated soil dust stirred up from the ground when plowing and harvesting, and accidental intake of contaminated soil particles attached to the hands. Also, removing topsoil and reversing topsoil and subsoil, major measures for farmland decontamination, are effective to reduce radiation exposure.

(2) Wildlife damage control: easy-to-understand explanation

◎ Measures at individual fields and home gardens

- Install protective fences
- Remove harvest residues from fields

◎ Measures by the community

- Conduct a community environmental diagnosis, plot damage status and improvement spots on the map, and discuss countermeasures
- Thin brush and other vegetation to prevent animals from hiding behind
- Remove possible food resources for wildlife

Session

LIVING TOGETHER WITH RECONSTRUCTION WORKERS

◎ **Date:** Saturday, October 13, 2018; 10:00-12:00

◎ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)

◎ **Speakers:** Akira Takagi (Associate professor at Kumamoto Gakuen University)

Sumi Suzuki (Pub owner)

Shoichiro Koike (Reconstruction worker)

Shota Shima (2nd-year student at Futaba Future High School)

Mitsuki Owada (1st-year student at Futaba Future High School)

Hirokazu Igari (Head of Natural Disaster Emergency Section, Hirono Town)

◎ **Participants:** 50



1 Overview (Three years ago, locals had a negative image of “workers”)

Takagi: Workers engaged in decommissioning, decontamination, and civil engineering in disaster-affected areas are collectively called “workers,” and the locals feel a sense of uncertainty and fear about the workers. Behind this situation is the large-scale evacuation causing a sizable decline in the local population and resultant waning of the community, which then faced an influx of strangers pouring in while still suffering from a weakening community. Efforts to recover damaged community systems should aim at enhancement over the previous functionality, rather than simply restoring the pre-disaster state. We need to discuss how to approach this issue.

Suzuki: I often have an opportunity to communicate with reconstruction workers at my pub. Shortly after the disaster, I saw more workers than local people on the streets. I began to notice an increasing number of cars with non-Fukushima plates, temporary housing units and apartment houses being built, and workers began to come to my place for a drink. I heard many of them complaining about early morning work, overtime work, stressful commuting between the accommodation to worksite, and others. We generally don't have a good image of the workers, but we also understand that we need the workers, who undertake decommissioning and decontamination, an essential step to advance reconstruction.

Koike: I come from Yamanashi Prefecture to engage in reconstruction work, specifically building demolition and waste recycling. First, I was involved in removing debris from the tsunami flood in the Minami-sanriku area in Miyagi Prefecture. Then, I moved to Hirono three years ago following the related general contractor transferring its operations to Fukushima. At that time, the town became desolate during the nighttime, with no shops open. In the daytime, the roads were congested with heavy vehicle traffic every day, which was all for transporting reconstruction workers, to my astonishment.

Shima: I am leader of the social entrepreneurs club at Futaba Future High School. The club is about learning about the region, communicating the learned information, and carrying out local promotion plans. Specific activities include: participating in study sessions for young people to learn about the disaster, focusing on viewing, listening and feeling experiences and communicating findings; radiation monitoring on the school premises; and booth exhibition at local events.

Owada: I am a member of the café team within the social entrepreneurs club. The aim of the team is to offer a networking hub for local residents as part of the open school initiative. We are working to create an attractive place where many local residents, regardless of age, gender and occupation, can enjoy spending time together.

Igari: I managed decontamination operations, including for contract conclusion, as the head of the responsible section of Hirono Town. Decontamination was an essential step to lower the radiation level that rose as a result of the nuclear disaster, and as such, one key to recovering the living environment so that evacuees could return as soon as possible and live with peace of mind. Initially, we employed an average total of 1,000 decontamination workers or more per day.

2 Closing (issues and solutions related to living together with “workers”)

Suzuki: As reconstruction initiatives progress in Hirono, related workers currently in the town will likely move to districts closer to the nuclear plant. Then, operators of accommodations, apartment houses and restaurants in Hirono will lose a lot of current customers. I’m worried that many such business owners will have difficulty staying in business.

Igari: Hirono Town has promoted various projects as a leader of the reconstruction of Futaba District. Following Hirono, other municipalities lying to the north of the town will face similar issues related to reconstruction workers and excessive accommodation. Hirono is working to address these issues, hoping to be able to offer solution models to help accelerate their reconstruction efforts.

Takagi: At present, there are more than 2,000 reconstruction workers living in Hirono Town. I hope they will become fans of Hirono, long-time supporters of the town even after going back to their home base. It seems the locals and workers have very few opportunities to have a casual exchange, but there must be a way.

Koike: As one of the reconstruction workers from around the country, I think it’s important to exchange greetings with local people on the streets. When I see someone around the accommodation, I always try to greet the person even if I don’t know them. We should continue this practice to be able to build a friendly relationship.

Shima: In the past, I had a feeling of fear when seeing workers at the station. As I saw them every morning, we naturally began to greet each other, then the initial fear disappeared. In order to know each other, we should start exchanging greetings.

Igari: Last spring, the local shrine festival took place for the first time after the disaster. The resumption of the traditional event was made possible by reconstruction workers and high school students joining in carrying the mikoshi float. In order to continue the local traditional activity, which has been undertaken over the past years mainly by associated families and the conventional local youth group, new participants should be invited to join the force through unprejudiced interaction with other community members. This will lead to solving many problems.

Takagi: The situation surrounding disaster-affected areas is changing, generating new issues, such as where Hirono should be heading, what is lacking in the region, who should be able to put together a community embracing several generations and how such amalgamator functions should be performed. Among the solutions proposed were those about creating a common networking hub for the community, which is expected to provide more efficient opportunities of interaction than incidental meetings on the street. Local pubs, Futaba Future High School’s café project, community events, among others, will serve that purpose. However, we have found an easier-to-practice solution, which is exchanging greetings. The session has reminded me of the most basic of basics of forging a friendship, which is to start with exchanging everyday greetings, and this is often more effective than complicated discussions.

24th

HIRONO CHILDREN’S SONG FESTIVAL

◎**Date:** Saturday, October 13, 2018; 13:30–16:00

◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (Arena)

◎**Performers:**

Individual: Yoshiko Mari, Kan Takahashi,
Kotoe Nishiyama, Kaori Watanabe, Masako Kami

Group: Hirono Kindergarten, Hirono Elementary School,
Hirono Junior High School,
Choral Society Mejirotachi (Hirono Town);
Yotsukura Mothers’ Choir (Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture);
MJC Ensemble (Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture);
Mizuki Elementary School (Misato City, Saitama Prefecture);
Tauben Chor (Yamagata City, Yamagata Prefecture)

Music director and conductor: Mikio Ito

Conductor: Hajime Okazaki

Stage director: Takeshi Ushiyama

◎**Participants:** 900



Session

COLLABORATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ART AND CULTURE

- ◎ **Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018; 9:30-11:00
- ◎ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎ **Speakers:** Daisuke Tsuda (Journalist; media activist)
Ippei Nango (Subprincipal of Futaba Future High School)
Koichi Watanabe (Professor at Fukushima University)
Masato Matsumoto (Hirono Town school superintendent)
- ◎ **Participants:** 70



1 Overview

Tsuda: In many of the recent regional art festivals held around the country, artists pick subjects in line with the event's concept from resources rooted in the lives of local people and create works using the subject resources in collaboration with local residents, through which volunteer citizen supporters from in and outside of the region are involved in regional development. This format of event organization can contribute to regional development through employing local residents, in addition to generating an economic effect by drawing visitors. Given that many artists are interested in shedding light on the negative aspects of things, some may look at the nuclear disaster as a possible subject. These types of projects require long periods of time to produce effects, so organizers need to understand that continued efforts are essential to achieve satisfactory results.

Nango: I visited the Echigo Tsumari Art Triennial in Niigata Prefecture taking place after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The event was held in a region affected by the 2004 Chuetsu Earthquake, and I was greatly impressed by many people in the region joining forces to produce the art project. However, in the Triennial, sad to say, I was shocked by a grim stage performance created by a foreign artist to represent the person's image of Fukushima. In contrast, when I visited the Aizu Urushi Art Festival, I was enchanted by a clay wall installation made of the earth sourced from Fukushima. These experiences seemed to me to highlight a difference in the view of disaster-affected areas between insiders and outsiders.

Artistic creation can become a functional alternative to verbal expression as a means of presentation. As such, I'm looking at the possibility of using this means to convey what should be passed down to future generations about Fukushima and is difficult to be expressed verbally.

Watanabe: I visited the Echigo Tsumari Art Triennial, where I was inspired to organize a similar art project in Fukushima. Our project is planned as a biennial, primarily to encourage the participation of university students. To promote the project, the government's continuous support is essential. One major challenge to this is posed by a change of the headship, which often entails changes to the budgetary policy, including spending cut, for various local programs. Also, it is important to ensure that participating local people sufficiently understand the objective of the project. Otherwise, many participants may simply feel burdened about making ongoing efforts and drop out after enjoying only the initial festive excitement. It is also important to develop local personnel capabilities for organizing events, and I'm focusing on this issue now.

2 Closing (summary)

- ◎ Benefits of art festival
 - Art festivals can help deepen the relevant community's collaborative networks through involving local residents, in addition to generating economic effect by increasing visitors to the region.
- ◎ Issues for promoting an art festival
 - Obtaining the understanding and cooperation of local people
 - Securing the ongoing support of the government
 - Dealing with possible plans to produce artworks themed on the nuclear disaster
- ◎ Advice for ensuring a successful art festival

- Provide detailed explanations to local residents to obtain adequate understanding about participation in the project
- Plan to continue the project over the long run, rather than pursuing an immediate success
- Develop local organizer capabilities

Session

REPORT ON THE OVERSEAS TRAINING RECEIVED BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM HIRONO TOWN –LEARNING FROM CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

- ◎**Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018; 11:10-12:40
- ◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Facilitator:** Masaki Fujimoto (Representative Director, Glocalearth Co., Ltd.)
- ◎**Presenters:** Group of 2nd-year students from Hirono Junior High School
- ◎**Participants:** 30



1 Overview

A debriefing session for Hirono Town's junior high school student overseas training program took place as part of the International Forum "Living in Disaster Affected Areas gives Living Sapience."

As was the case last year, Mr. Masaki Fujimoto acted as facilitator. He has built a teaching career in junior and senior high schools and has visited more than 100 countries and regions to study the world and deepen his knowledge and outlook.

The session began with the secretariat giving an outline of the relevant municipal delegation project and specific plans of the latest program held in Canada. This was followed by the presentations of participating students in four groups talking about their experiences and learnings during the program. In doing this, the students displayed the presentation skills and manners they had gained from the follow-up training, producing notable performance in expressing themselves clearly in a self-reliant manner even when responding to unexpected questions.

2 Issues for future overseas training programs

To improve pre- and post-program training, departing students should be instructed to clarify the individual purposes and goals of participating in the program, and after returning home, students should be given adequate opportunities to demonstrate what they have achieved against the set goals. Additionally, they should be encouraged to deliver debriefing presentations in English wherever possible to exhibit part of the achievements from the overseas training.

Session

PRESENTATIONS OF RESULTS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS ORGANIZED BY FUTABA FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL

- ◎**Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018; 13:30-14:30
- ◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Presenters:** Futaba Future High School students
- ◎**Participants:** 60



1 Overview

(1) Future Creation/Exploration Team

Theme: Revive the festival of Futaba District

Objective: Plan the course of the mikoshi parade incorporating evacuation routes (for the purpose of emergency preparedness)
(Issues to be addressed)

- How regional revitalization ideas and communication capabilities should be incorporated into organizing the festival
- Nationwide promotion of the festival of Hirono Town

(2) My Project

Theme: Produce cosmetic products using local specialties in Futaba District

Objective: Raise the interest of high-school girls in Futaba District via cosmetic products
(Issues to be addressed)

- Find a partner company in Futaba District to develop cosmetic products
- Find producers of appropriate local specialties in Futaba District

(3) Social Entrepreneurs Club Café Team

A project outline was given on the café to be opened in the new Futaba Future High School building completed in fiscal 2019. This was followed by four group discussions on one of the four different topics assigned to each.

Group 1: Atmosphere

- An atmosphere of openness should be created in the café to open in school, which is essentially separated from the rest of society.
- The café should be able to provide networking opportunities not only for between parties in and outside of school, but also for among multiple outside parties.

Group 2: Planning

- Should organize events that involve students and local residents working and enjoying together

Group 3: Lineup and prices

- Local specialties and original products produced by Futaba Future High School
- For pricing, target customer bases (students or visitors) should be considered.

Group 4: Services

- Discount offering, free-of-charge offering, Wi-Fi connection, transportation to and from the school

2 Closing (summary)

The three presented projects were organized by high school students to promote Futaba District. The audience was greatly impressed by the presenters' ardent efforts to pursue the voluntary activities. The session provided an appropriate opportunity for the students to communicate their ideas to local residents. The group discussions were joined by many attendees, who were inspired by students to think through the selected topics and share their opinions. The students are expected to use these opinions to improve their activities, and continue pursuing ongoing and new projects in the future.

Session

RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BASED ON RADIOISOTOPE MEASUREMENT

◎ **Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018; 14:30-15:30

◎ **Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Small Conference Room)

◎ **Speakers:** Yoichiro Wada (Assistant to President of the University of Tokyo)
Hiroyuki Ii (Professor at Wakayama University)

◎ **Participants:** 30

1 Overview

In surveys to determine the radiation contamination level of the water environment, liverwort and algae are used as effective targets. While it is difficult to detect radioactive substances diffused in a vast mass of water, it is easier to detect such substances from concentrations within the body of these organisms, and it also allows long-term monitoring of the contamination levels in the water environment.

We studied the possibility of using aquatic insects as survey targets for the same purpose, and found that the surveyed insects began to discharge heavy metals from their bodies as they grow. This phenomenon could be attributed to detoxification using the ecdysis process. Based on this finding, we assumed that we could use cicada shells to determine soil contamination levels, on which research is ongoing in our lab. Our findings include significant discrepancies in the detected heavy metal level by survey location, as exemplified by a higher concentration of heavy metals detected in cicada shells collected from former factory sites. The target is effective in assessment of ground soil from the surface to at depth.

We will propose that this method should be adopted broadly across the country. We also think that the method can be applied to surveys on radioactive substances, and it will be helpful particularly in Fukushima.



2 Closing (summary)

The audience was intrigued by the unique project that uses cicada shells to determine radiation contamination levels of the soil deep underground.

Session

UTILIZING SPORTS FOR REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

◎**Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018; 14:30-16:00

◎**Venue:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)

◎**Speakers:** Eiji Ueda (Vice President of J-Village, Inc.)

Hiroyuki Nishijima (Former J-League player; Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation)

Tomoyuki Watanabe (Director-General of Fukushima Wrestling Federation)

Hiroshi Katoono (Deputy Director-General of Fukushima Rugby Federation)

Kazuya Sato (Representative of Hirono Town)

Tomofumi Isobe (Representative of Hirono Town)

◎**Participants:** About 60



1 Overview

Ueda: J-Village opened in 1997 an all-in-one sports facility that offers a full range of functions from football pitches, gymnasium, and swimming pool to fitness gym. After the disaster, the facility was used as a frontline base for the government's nuclear disaster control operations. Having completed this special service, the sports facility was restored to resume operations in a phased manner-partial reopening on July 28, 2018, opening of an all-season soccer field on September 8 the same year, and grand full-scale reopening scheduled for the spring of 2019.

In March 2017, the Japan Football Association and the J League jointly launched the DREAM Fukushima Action Plan to provide support to disaster-affected areas in Fukushima Prefecture. We will promote various activities hoping to bring hope and aspiration to people in the region. The reopened J-Village will play a significant role as a symbol of reconstructed Fukushima,

specifically in increasing visitors to the region while helping eradicate reputational damage and communicating accurate information.

Nishijima: In 1997, in my 3rd year of junior high school, I was selected to be a member of the Kansai youth soccer team, which provided me with an opportunity to participate in a camp held at the newly opened J-Village. I had great experiences in the camp, receiving training with other young national-level players in the advanced facility, which inspired me to seriously aspire to playing on a professional team. In light of this, J-Village became a symbol of my dream, and one of the most important places for me.

I am working as a Dream Teacher of JFA's Kokoro Project. To fulfill the project mission, I visit schools in many locations to teach children the importance of having a dream for the future and working hard to realize the dream, through organizing games and recounting personal experiences. In addition, I teach at a local junior soccer school at least once a month, seeking to do something in my capacity to help local children.

Katoono: I worked at Hirono Junior High School as a teacher for six years. During those years, I worked to arouse students' interest in rugby, a less popular sport in the region, mainly by organizing tag rugby activities using the lunch break. Unfortunately, rugby is still not popular in Fukushima Prefecture, with no rugby teams eligible for membership in the Nippon Junior High School Physical Culture Association. As a result, a limited number of rugby schools are the only option for local junior high school students to play the sport in Fukushima. In this situation, J-Village, which is equipped with appropriate functions for playing rugby, can become a strong draw.

In 2019, the Rugby World Cup will take place in Japan, and Fukushima has been selected to host a camp for a participating team. I hope J-Village will be named as the camp host, delighting people in the region, and the entire region will work as one to welcome the team. I wish that such development will help increase fans of sports, not limited to rugby, among local residents.

Isobe: I was taught how to play rugby by Mr. Katoono in junior high school, which was how I began to play the sport. Now as a member of the municipal office, I'm working on support programs to promote rugby.

J-Village is widely respected by soccer fans as a sacred spot. Going forward, this reputation should be expanded to many more sports, by encouraging the usage of the facility not only for rugby but also for many other sports. Fukushima Prefecture and Iwaki City governments are focusing on sports promotion projects, such as grant programs for sports activities and campaigns to host camps for world-level competitions. It is important to ensure that these projects can stimulate the interest of local children in sports.

Watanabe: In 2015, I was assigned to launch the wrestling club in Futaba Future High School, and coached the club for three years while teaching regular classes. At that time, no senior high schools in the Hamadori region had a wrestling club, and our club started with only two members. Our club developed abilities so as to achieve the goal of qualifying for a national tournament, satisfactory progress for the initial three years. As we had no dedicated training facility, we used the kendo training hall at Hirono Junior High School, often sharing the space with local residents teaching kendo to young children. I felt I identified in the activities the true essence of sports. I hope that wrestling will grow into a favorite sport of locals.

J-Village has yet to accommodate wrestling events or practice, but competitions can be held in the gymnasium with appropriate wrestling mats installed, which can also serve for children's mat exercise.

2 Closing (summary)

Discussions were held on the issue of utilizing sports for regional revitalization, and it was understood that the key in this issue is utilization of J-Village, which will reopen in full scale in 2019.

Primarily, the reopened J-Village facility should be able to serve many sports in addition to soccer, and be made easily accessible to local children as well as top athletes. This is important for the purpose of revitalizing the region through sports activities.

Also, prior to the Rugby World Cup and Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic Games, J-Village will serve as a base to welcome a slew of related visitors from in and outside of Japan. The host region should take this opportunity to organize exchange programs involving local residents, looking to increase sports fans among them.

SIDE EVENT

◎ SCREENING OF VIDEO WORKS PRODUCED BY HIRONO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Date: Every day throughout the period
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Training Room 1)
Producers: 1st-year Hirono Junior High School students

Overview

First-year Hirono Junior High School students held screenings of the video works they produced to introduce the region focusing on self-selected themes. This program was planned based on a concept called “cinema literacy” (character education approach through group-based video production activities), and also aimed to help them learn more deeply about the region’s issues and attractions.

◎ BOSHIN WAR IN HIRONO TOWN

Date: Every day throughout the period
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Training Room 1)
Host: Hirono Town Board of Education

Overview

Introduction of the history of Hirono Town and surrounding areas related to the Boshin War (civil war in Japan resulting in the end of samurai rule), taking the occasion of 2018 marking the 150th year of the start of the war



◎ HIRONO TOWN INVITING PUBLIC OPINIONS

Date: Every day throughout the period
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
Host: Hirono Town Reconstruction Planning Division

Overview

Participants were invited to share their opinions and requests about Hirono Town using the boards installed for the purpose.



◎ TEA CEREMONY

Date: October 11 (Tur.), 2018
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
Host: Sosei Igari and others

Overview

To extend the forum’s hospitality, representatives of the Urasenke tea ceremony school in Hirono Town entertained participants with tea and wagashi confections.



◎ EXHIBITION FOR IGCC AT HIRONO THERMAL POWER PLANT

Date: Every day throughout the period
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Training Room 1)
Host: Hirono Thermal Power Plant, TEPCO Fuel & Power, Incorporated

Overview

Showcase of state-of-the-art facilities of the integrated coal gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plant under construction within the Hirono Thermal Power Plant



◎ EXHIBITION FOR MUNICIPALITIES OFFERING BACKUP PERSONNEL TO HIRONO TOWN

Date: Every day throughout the period
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
Host: Hirono Town Reconstruction Planning Division (in cooperation with loaned personnel from other regions)

Overview

Introduction of municipalities that lend personnel to Hirono Town, using promotional posters and brochures.

Backup personnel offered by: Kita Ward (Tokyo); Misato City, Koshigaya City (Saitama Prefecture); Chigasaki City (Kanagawa Prefecture); Kakegawa City (Shizuoka Prefecture); Gifu City (Gifu Prefecture); Hiezu Village (Tottori Prefecture); Miyazaki City (Miyazaki Prefecture); Fukushima Prefecture; and Reconstruction Agency



◎ SPORTS NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Date: October 12 (Fri.), 13 (Sat.) and 14 (Sun.), 2018
Venue: Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
Host: Hirono Town Reconstruction and Planning Division

Overview

A selection of impressive news photos of Japanese athletes competing in major international events



INTERACTIVE EVENTS

◎ PRACTICE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS BY FUTABA FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL

Date: October 12 (Fri.) and 13 (Sat.), 2018
Venue: In front of Hirono Town Community Center
Host: Futaba Future High School

Overview

A group of students in the agricultural and commercial courses of Futaba Future High School sold a number of products developed using specialty items of Futaba District, such as mikan daifuku, rice cake based on mandarin oranges grown in Hirono, and pound cake containing yuzu citrus from Naraha.



◎ SALE OF FOODS AND VARIETY GOODS BY SOCIAL WELFARE CORPORATIONS

Date: October 13 (Sat.), 2018
Venue: In front of Hirono Town Community Center
Host: Yuaikai, Work Center Sakura, Misaki Gakuen

Overview

The special lineup made for the event included konjac and processed miso products from Work Center Sakura and beaded accessories from Misaki Gakuen.





ふくしまから
はじめよう。

Future From Fukushima.



5th International Forum
**Living in Disaster Affected Areas
gives Living Sapience** [Report]

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