

For the Future of Fukushima 2015

- A Message from the Governor on 3.11 -

“My grandfather drove toward the ocean to help his friend.

I still regret what I did.

He might have survived if I stopped him “

----- A high school student's regret

“Several days later from the disaster, my father told me about the nuclear power station for the first time. He gathered newspapers printed for one month after the incident and carefully kept them. He said, “When you grow up, take them out and read them for yourself.”

-----An elementary school pupil's experience

As many as 120 thousand citizens will soon face their 5th spring in places far from their hometowns. In fact, we are fighting against the invisible difficulties and fears of deep-seated harmful rumors and fading memories. What we lost will never come back, and the sorrow we experienced will never disappear.

Not only is there an ever-present gap between the hearts and minds of citizens, but communities are also being split apart and isolation is becoming evident.

On the other hand, light illuminating Fukushima is becoming brighter little by little.

The entire part of the Joban Expressway running from north to south along the coast of Fukushima was opened, which will serve as a spur to the revitalization. Research institutes are being developed in order to recover Fukushima's beautiful nature. School tours which highlight features of the prefecture including culture, nature and history are beginning to resume. In this regard, I would like to pay my deepest respect to all citizens of the prefecture for your earnest efforts made over the past 4 years.

“I am applying for the Futaba Future School, which is expected to commence this year to foster human resources to revitalize the prefecture, because I want to devote myself to a job to vitalize Fukushima as much as I can in the future.”

A junior high school student's dream

“ We should not forget the fact that among citizens of Fukushima, many families still cannot live together. I will keep encouraging Fukushima with all my family members”

A message of encouragement from a person outside the prefecture

While keeping the appreciation for many people’s warm support in our hearts, we must stand on our own feet and move forward step by step to achieve our hopes and dreams. As efforts to recover a national football training center, J-Village, which served as the base for reactor decommissioning work, back into a beautiful ground brimming with greenery are underway, the revitalization of Fukushima is beginning to shift to a new stage.

What do you think is necessary to better secure our progress towards revitalization?
I believe that each and every one of us must face the future, bravely undertaking any and all challenges.

My own challenges for the revitalization are to request decommissioning of all nuclear reactors in the prefecture and create a pioneering land of renewable energies; to contribute to the world by collecting wisdom from around the world and developing decontamination and decommissioning technologies as well as medical devices and robots; to create an environment that makes smiles on children’s faces brighter than ever; and to have each and every citizen of the prefecture be proud to have been born in Fukushima.

“The story of Fukushima’s creation starts now. Learning enables us to create the future. Through learning we can connect with our future.”

A teacher’s determination

Now is the time to demonstrate our resilience, in order to create the future of Fukushima. I would like all of us to unite to challenge all kinds of difficulties, and together pave a way into Fukushima’s tomorrow.

March 11, 2015

Masao Uchibori, Governor of Fukushima Prefecture