

A Message from Fukushima Today



A decade has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster. These are the participants of the "Journalism School, who covered and reported the stories of revitalization.

Journalism School

October 30th, 31st, and November 14th, 2021

Soso District, Iwaki Seaside Nature Center,
and "Manabi-no-mori" Tomioka Town Art & Media Center

Elementary, Junior & High School Students Make Newspapers

Covering the enthusiasm of those working for revitalization

The Journalism School program took place in towns such as Futaba and Tomioka for three days on October 30th, 31st, and November 14th. In this program, children and young adults in Fukushima put together a newspaper reporting on the Soso District, a decade after the Great East Japan Earthquake and TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. Twelve students, from the 5th grade elementary through to high school sophomores, participated in the program and created newspapers reporting on the current state of Fukushima.

On the first day of the program, participants in three teams covered the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum (Futaba Town), the Obori Soma Potters' Cooperative Association (Namiie Town), the Naraha Center for Remote Control Technology Development (Naraha Town) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), and the NPO "Tomioka-machi 3.11-wo-kataru-kai." They did interviews, took photos and learned about the ideas and feelings of those who are working to revitalize the region.

On the second day, at the Iwaki Seaside Nature Center, they started putting together newspapers, with the guidance of journalists from local newspapers. They wrote articles based on their notes they took during the interviews, added headlines, laid out the pages and put

them together. By brainstorming, they came up with unique newspaper titles.

On the last day, they did presentations of their newspapers to local residents at "Manabi-no-mori," the Tomioka Town Art & Media Center. They confidently did their presentations, saying, "We will see through the revitalization in Fukushima", and "We want to continue to spread the latest information of Fukushima."

This is the 9th Journalism School program organized by the "Fukushima-no-manabi" committee of Fukushima Prefecture, as one of the "projects to pass down the experiences, lessons, and progress in revitalization after the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster," with special cooperation by two local newspapers, Fukushima Minpo and Fukushima Minyu.

Special guest: Akira Ikegami

After presentations on the final day of the program, Mr. Akira Ikegami, a journalist, joined as a special lecturer, and gave feedback on the students' newspapers.

He read each newspaper carefully and commented: "wonderful point of view;" "rephrase the sentence to make it easier for readers to understand," pointing out some of the good points and points for improvement. He also said, "You've learned what's happening in Fukushima by covering the stories for the newspaper. I hope you know that you're making a history of Fukushima's revitalization." "What's most important as a journalist, I believe, is not to lose our 'humanness.' Never deceive people just because you want to cover a big scoop." Answering children's questions, he revealed his principles and attitude as a journalist, "I always tried to make the world a little better by covering and reporting the news."



Mr. Ikegami gives advice from the mindset as a journalist, and tips for making newspapers.

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