

For the Future of Fukushima 2016

- A Message from the Governor on March 11 -

Year: 2011 “We did not have any gasoline or food, and it was cold. In such a difficult time as this, I felt the warmth of the people. I deeply appreciated it when heading towards a shelter.”

--- A woman in her 40s, whose parents were affected by the disaster.

“My grandfather used to cultivate nice and thick mushrooms on bed logs. These mushrooms had a great reputation. Now, he is no longer allowed to cultivate them in the mountains of Fukushima. Since then, he seemed to be getting smaller little by little. ”

--- A junior high school student (1st grade) in Nakadori.

On the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we made the Fukushima Declaration and pledged that we will create once again a beautiful Fukushima and build a dynamic and vibrant Fukushima.

Year 2012 The *Soma Nomaoui* festival was revived.

Year 2013 A floating offshore wind farm, named “the Fukushima Forward” was inaugurated. Shipping of *Anpo* persimmons was resumed.

Year 2014 Access to the entire section of National Route No.6 was returned to normal. Some citizens started to return home in the evacuated areas.

Year 2015 Access to the entire section of the Joban Expressway was returned to normal. The Futaba Future High School was inaugurated. Sake produced in Fukushima was recognized as the best Sake in the world,

It has been five years since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Revitalization process has been steadily moving forward in Fukushima.

In this respect, I would like to pay my deepest respect to all citizens of the prefecture for your earnest efforts, and to all those outside the prefecture for their care and support for Fukushima.

Meanwhile, as many as one hundred thousand citizens of Fukushima are still living away from their home. As time goes by, we see some differences in the progress of restoration and reconstruction. Some citizens are in trouble because they don't know what to do in the future to come. We have to battle hard against adverse winds such as harmful rumors and fading memories.

Children of Fukushima are getting back on their feet, and realizing their hopes and dreams.

“I will advance to university and study regional promotion.

I cannot return to my village now, but in the future I want to make it a better

place to live than it was before the disaster.”

--- A senior high school student (sophomore) who is evacuating in the Central Region (Naka-dori)

“I will build a Fukushima which is bustling with people and resilient to any adversity.

I will study hard so that I can get a job to contribute to the prefecture’s revitalization.”

--- An elementary school student (5th grade) in the Coastal Region (Hama-dori)

“I hope that the nature and environment in Fukushima will be restored to pre-disaster conditions that I can proudly show to the world before the 2020 Summer Olympics and Paralympics.”

--- A junior high school student (2nd grade) in the Central Region (Naka-dori)

I picture the future of Fukushima in my mind as follows..

Children who love their hometowns and have smiles on their faces.

Development of state-of-the-art robots which are made in Fukushima and contributing to the world;

Complete decommissioning of all nuclear power stations. A pioneer land of renewable energy, Visitors from the rest of Japan and the world who are enjoying our beautiful scenery, delicious food, and hospitality.

Regaining pride and confidence advocating the concept of the Fukushima Declaration, Creating pride of a new Fukushima. With strong determination, I will address the challenges for the creation of the future Fukushima.

Citizens of Fukushima Prefecture,

I believe that, if we keep on working to fulfill our dreams and goals, we can create a bright future for ourselves.

Only we can design our own future.

So, let’s stand up on our feet, get ready for the next chapter, and create the future of Fukushima, which is our beloved home. .

March 11, 2016

Masao Uchibori, Governor of Fukushima Prefecture