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Reconstruction of Tohoku

Multifaceted support for recovering communities

"Arigato" Host Town for Supporting Reconstruction is a government project where towns in three disaster-stricken prefectures in the Tohoku region will host people and Olympians and Paralympians taking part in the 2020 Tokyo Games from various countries and regions, in addition to the conventional Host Town Initiative. Through hosting, each town will express their thanks to those who supported reconstruction efforts.



The Cabinet Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, under Shunichi Suzuki, minister in charge of the 2020 Tokyo Games, established the project last September as part of the Beyond 2020 Program, which transmits the attractiveness of Japanese culture to create a legacy.

The theme of the project is to promote exchanges toward or beyond the 2020 Tokyo Games between towns in Tohoku and countries and regions that provided relief during the disaster. The exchanges vary from those with elementary school children to local government officials.

Kamaishi, one of the Host Towns in Iwate Prefecture, will host Australian athletes as it has a heart-warming connection to the country. Scott Fardy, an Australian rugby player who was playing for the Kamaishi Seawaves at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, stayed in Kamaishi in spite of the Australian embassy's recommendation to return home. Among other things, he volunteered with his teammates to load and unload relief supplies for area residents.

Macedon Ranges, Victoria, began welcoming junior high students from Kamaishi in the 2014 academic year as part of Kamaishi's study abroad experience program.

Kamaishi also invited Fardy, who was also a member of the Australian national rugby team during the 2015 Rugby World Cup, to a variety of events on March 12 and 13. He played rugby with elementary school students, joined rugby practice at Kamaishi High School and Kamaishi Commercial and Technical High School, visited the construction site of a stadium to be used during the Rugby World Cup 2019 and spoke at a resident friendship event. Kamaishi is one of the RWC 2019 venues, as Japan is the host country for the tournament.

The town also plans to invite students from Macedon Ranges to show gratitude for hosting its students and take them to various locations to see the current status of reconstruction.

Watari, Miyagi Prefecture, is a designated Host Town set to host Israeli athletes. Celia Dunkelman, chairperson of the nonprofit organization Celia Circle, is a goodwill ambassador of Israel to Japan and sent aid to Watari



Left: Australian Scott Fardy teaches rugby to students in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture; Center: Former Watari Mayor Toshio Saito visits Israel in February to sign the agreement of host town; Right: Djibouti Ambassador to Japan Ahmed Arait Ali delivers speech in Minami Soma, Fukushima Prefecture, in April 2018. CABINET SECRETARIAT



residents in the wake of the 2011 disaster. Celia Circle conducted workshops on music, painting and other activities to ease mental strain and led seminars to teach child care workers how to care for children affected by the tragedy. The art workshops are ongoing.

As an exchange activity, Watari Mayor Toshio Saito and two town officials visited Israel to thank Israeli government officials, the former Israeli ambassador to Japan, therapists who provided mental care to Watari children and others from Feb. 10 to 12. They also signed an agreement for Watari to be the Host Town for Israeli athletes for the 2020 Games and requested Israeli people visit Watari for general exchanges.

In another event, Watari joined a memorial

event celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Israel. Watari's elementary and nursery school children wrote messages to children of future generations on an Israeli flag and put it in a time capsule to be unearthed on the 100th anniversary of the event. Israel collected 5,000 such flags from all over the world and displayed 200 of them, including the one bearing the messages from Watari, at an open-air museum in Jerusalem. Watari's was the only one with messages from Asia in the display.

The town is planning to hold lectures by Israeli embassy officials at local elementary and junior high schools, lead Israeli people on tours of reconstruction sites, as well as host friendly judo matches.

Minami-Soma, Fukushima Prefecture, will

host athletes from Djibouti, Taiwan, the U.S. and South Korea, as each country reached out with donations after the disaster.

After learning about Minami-Soma Mayor through Time magazine's 2011 list of the world's 100 most influential people, Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh sent a donation to the tsunami-struck town located near both the doomed nuclear power plant and quake's epicenter. In April 2012, Djibouti Ambassador to Japan Ahmed Arait Ali visited the city, bringing a second donation and offering prayers to the mayor from the president and the people of the African country.

In November 2011, the Rotary Club of Sanchong North, Taiwan, and other organizations donated a vehicle to transport food to Minami-Soma. Additionally, Taipei

“Arigato” Host Town for Supporting Reconstruction as of July 1, 2018		
	Host town	Countries/region being hosted
Iwate Prefecture	Ofunato	U.S.
	Hanamaki	U.S., Australia
	Noda	Taiwan
	Rikuzentakata	Singapore
	Kamaishi	Australia
	Miyako	Singapore
Miyagi Prefecture	Shizukuishi	Germany
	Higashi-Matsushima	Denmark
	Sendai	Italy
	Watari	Israel
Fukushima Prefecture	Ishinomaki	Tunisia
	Natori	Canada
	litate	Laos
	Minami-Soma	Djibouti, Taiwan, U.S., South Korea
	Motomiya	Britain
	Kita-Shiobara	Taiwan

invited children unable to play sports outside because of radiation concerns to visit. Junior high school students also traveled to Taipei to participate in friendly baseball games.

In appreciation for support after the disaster, Minami-Soma sent karate instructors to

Djibouti from Feb. 11 to 14. They gave karate lessons to Djibouti children and introduced Minami-Soma's culture. They also established a solid relationship with the Olympic committee of Djibouti, paving the way for visits from athletes before the games.

Fukushima reduces radiation concerns with stricter regulations

One of the government's missions is to minimize fears of radioactive contamination stemming from Fukushima's nuclear disaster caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

Fukushima Prefecture is very rich in agriculture, and to overcome the negative image plaguing produce, stricter safety standards have been introduced to ensure radiation levels in food are well below maximum acceptable levels.

Japan's standards for food radiation levels are much stricter compared to the rest of the world. For example, Japan allows only 10 becquerels (a measure of radioactivity) per kilogram of drinking water, 50 becquerels in milk, 50 becquerels in baby food and 100 becquerels in general food. This compares to E.U. figures of 1,000 becquerels per kilogram of drinking water, 1,000 becquerels in dairy products, 400 becquerels in baby food and 1,250 becquerels in general food, according to the Reconstruction Agency.

Additionally, the U.S. allows 1,200 becquerels per kilogram in all food. The Codex (an international intergovernmental body

created by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization) standard is 1,000 becquerels per kilogram for both baby and general foods.

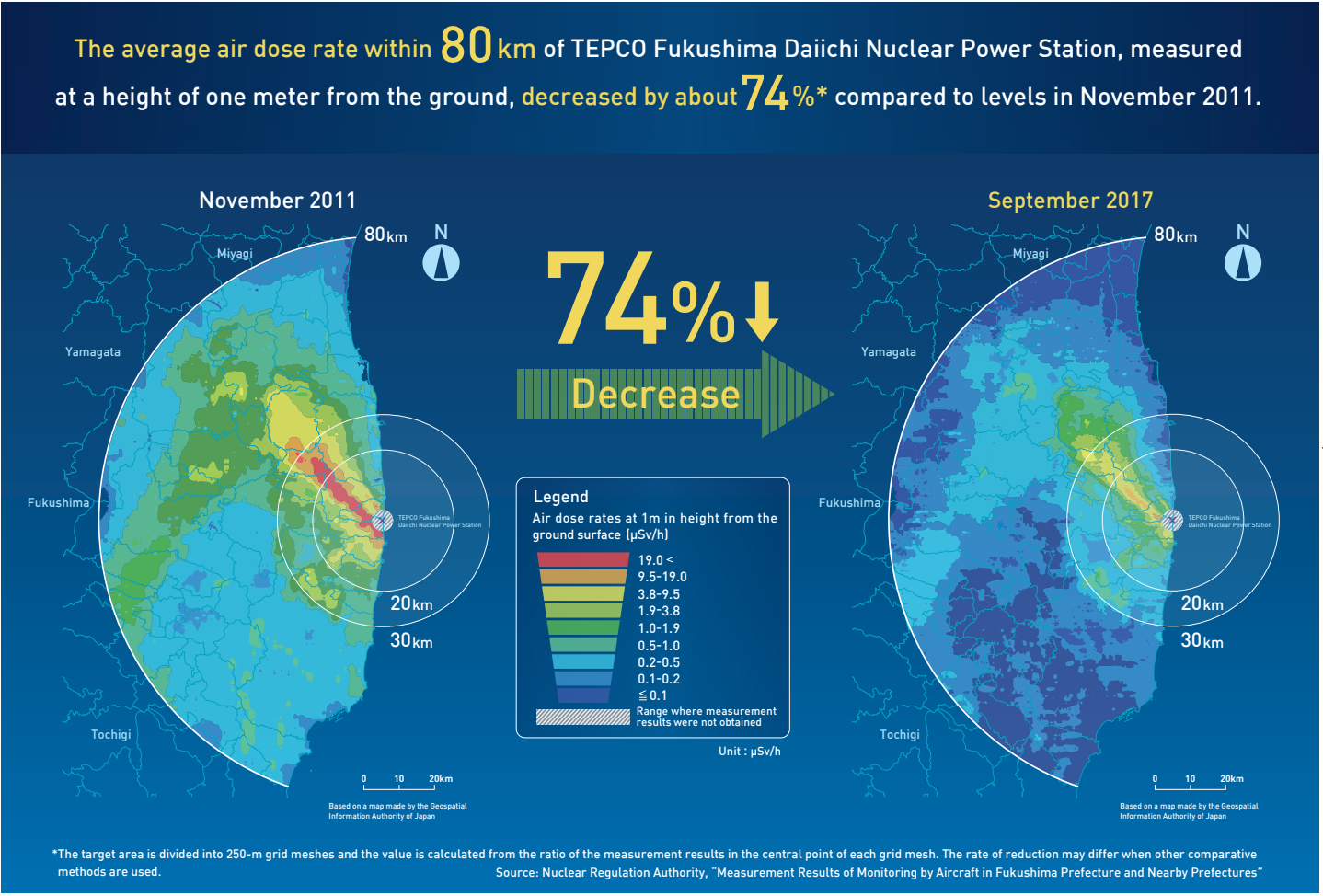
To increase food security of Fukushima's produce, the government is encouraging Fukushima farmers to acquire Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) recognition.

There are four kinds of GAP certifications they can obtain — Global GAP, AsiaGAP, JGAP (Japan GAP) and FGAP (Fukushima GAP).

Germany's FoodPlus GmbH issues Global GAP certifications, while AsiaGAP and JGAP certifications are issued by the Japan GAP Foundation. Fukushima Prefecture oversees FGAP.

GAP certification not only ensures food safety, but also indicates environmentally friendly food production, safety of food industry workers and other conditions. FGAP requirements also focus on measures to control radiation levels in food and establish strict regulations on compliance and record keeping.

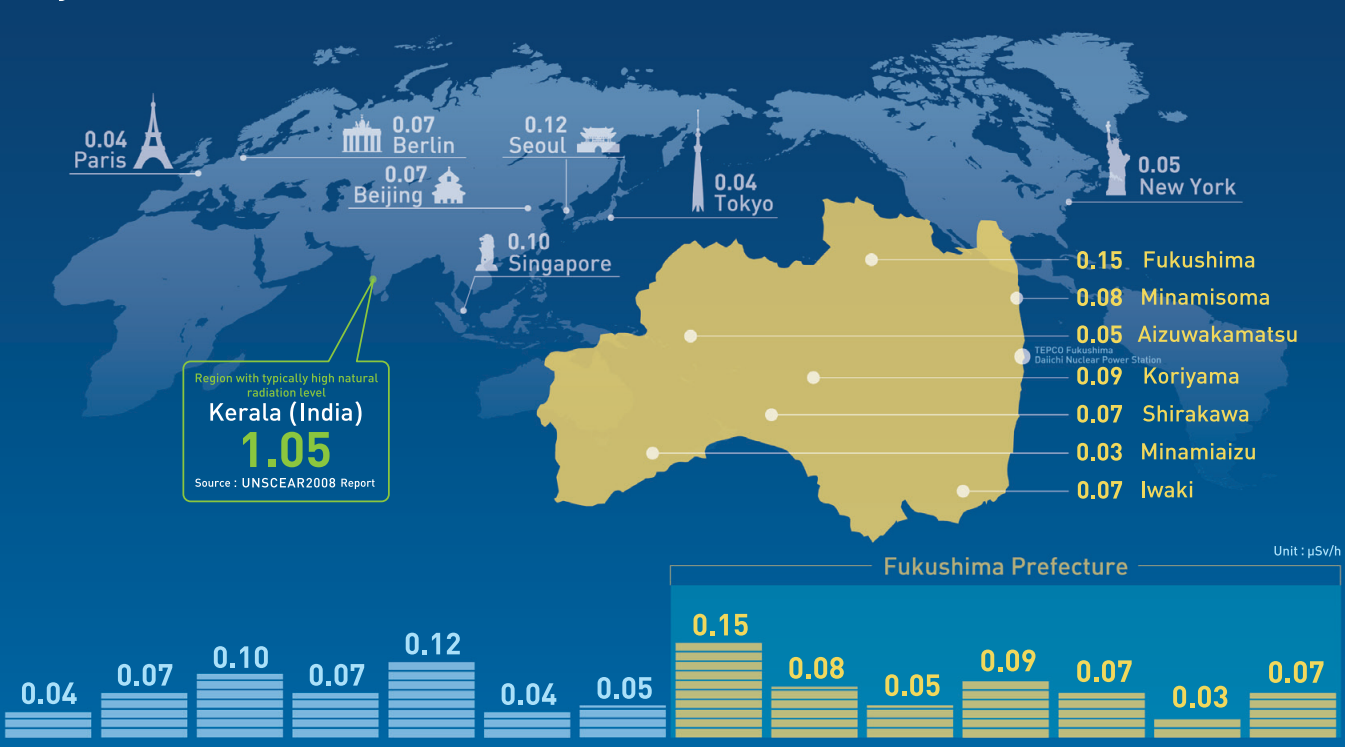
Fukushima Prefecture hopes to increase the number from 77 to 361 by fiscal 2020.



Reconstruction in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

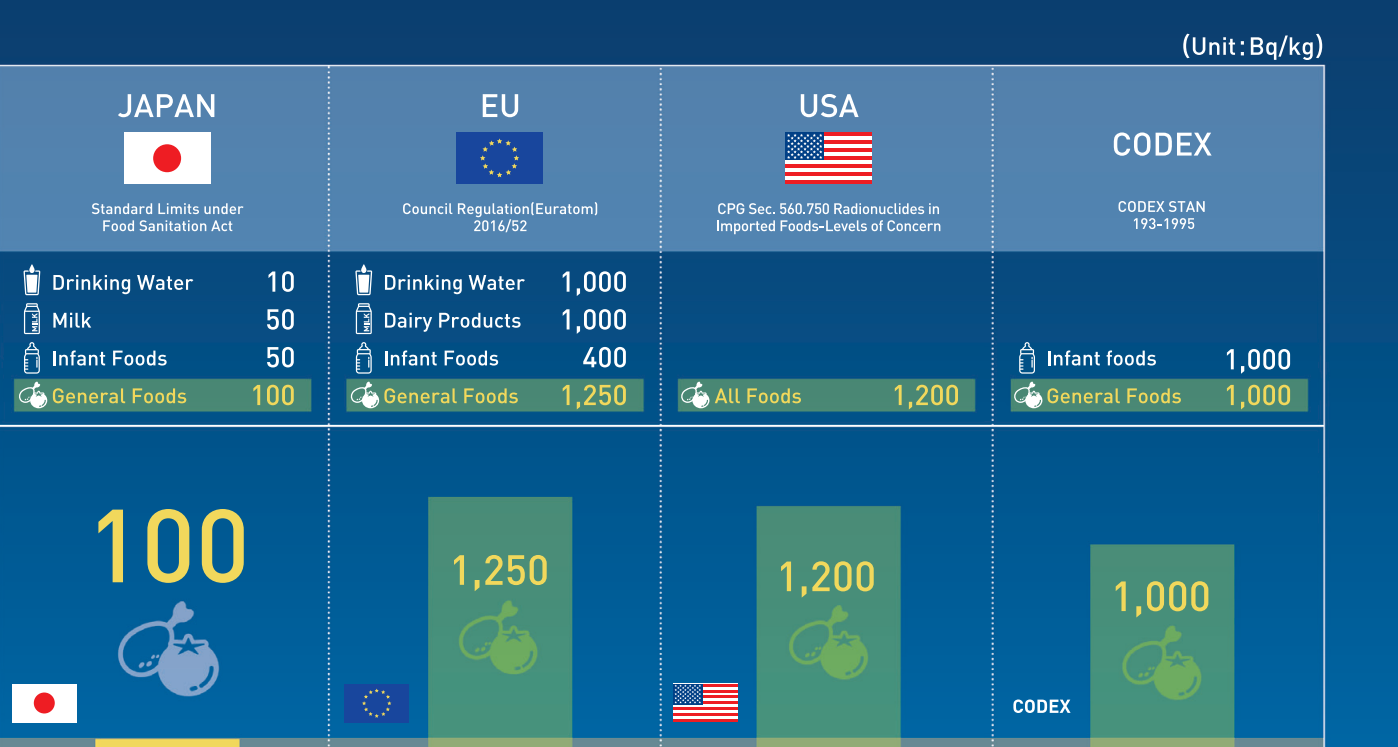


Air dose rates within Fukushima Prefecture are about the same level as other major cities worldwide.



* Figures are current as of the following dates: Locations in Japan: March 1, New York: January 23, Singapore and Berlin: January 24, and Beijing and Seoul: January 25, 2018, Paris: October 15, 2017. Source: The Reconstruction Agency based on Fukushima Prefecture "Steps for Revitalization in Fukushima [22nd]"

Food safety in Japan is ensured through inspections of radioactive substances based on the strictest level of standard limits in the world.



* Standard Limits in the above table are used to ensure radiation is below a certain level and are not necessarily the boundaries between safety and danger. * CODEX: An international intergovernmental body set up by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for purposes including to protect consumer health and ensure fair trade in food. It writes the international code on food (the Codex Alimentarius). [Member states: 188 countries and the EU as of Feb 2018] Source: The Reconstruction Agency based on material from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare