

Changing Mt. Fuji, a World Treasure to bequeath to the future



Fuji was registered as a World Heritage site in 2013, many "homework" assignments were made.

Various measures have been taken, but unfortunately, no drastic solutions have been reached.

However, it is our grave responsibility to pass on to future generations the world's treasure, Mt,

Fuji, a world treasure, to future generations.

Yamanashi Prefecture is now starting to look ahead to the next 100 years.

This is where things will change!

Toll fee of 2,000 yen - starting this season

At the time of the registration in 2013, the World Heritage protection and conservation monitoring body, Icomos (UNESCO's advisory body), imposed the following three "homework problems to be solved" on the Fuji-Subaru Line Fifth Station.

- ▼ Too many visitors.
- ▼ The environmental impact is too great.
- ▼ The scenery is not appropriate for a place of worship.

The number of visitors to the fifth station reached 5.06 million in 2019, more than double the number in 2013 when it was registered as a World Heritage site. Although it decreased due to the Corona disaster, it returned to the same level in 2023 as in 2019.

The number of climbers to Mt. Fuji has also returned to the pre-Corona disaster level, and the pre-dawn trail was overflowing with people who wanted to see the sunrise, and climbers were crowding each other so closely that one false move could have resulted in a serious accident.

Furthermore, the media, both domestic and international, repeatedly reported scenes of "bullet train" climbers sleeping on the trail or lighting bonfires during the night, as they attempted to reach the summit in one fell swoop without staying at a lodge.

It is not right to leave the world's treasures to be handed down to the future in this state.

Therefore, the prefectural government has decided to begin regulating the mountain trails from the fifth station up this season.

Since the mountain trail is a road stipulated by the Road Law, the prefectural government cannot regulate the trail as it is.

Therefore, we decided to control climbers by setting up a gate at the entrance of the trail by making part of the trail and the descent road a prefectural facility.

To prevent bullet climbing, the gate will be closed from 4:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. the next early morning. In addition, to prevent congestion on the trail, the maximum number of climbers per day will be capped at 4,000, and the gate will be closed if this limit is exceeded.

In both cases, climbers with overnight reservations at mountain lodges will be able to pass through the gate.

Since 2014, we have been asking for a cooperation fee (1,000 yen) for climbers above the fifth station. In addition to this, we have decided to ask them to bear a toll fee of 2,000 yen.

The money will be used for various efforts to ensure safe ascent of Mt. Fuji, including the cost of implementing regulations, assigning "Fuji Climbing Appropriateness Instructors," and building shelters that can protect you in the event of cinders or falling rocks.

Fuji, a mountain of faith. In the past, people worshipped the mountain as a divine mountain and climbed to the summit from the foot of the mountain. The tolls will also be used to restore the pilgrimage routes of the past. First, we would like to conduct a thorough research and study of the culture of Fuji Ko and "Oshi" who supported the belief in Mt. Fuji, and make "mountain climbing from the foot of the mountain" more attractive based on its cultural value.

The prefecture will continue to do its utmost to protect the world treasure that is Mt.

We ask for your understanding.



(Photo 1 caption)

Trash on the mountain trail. They are on the decrease thanks to the volunteer activities of many people.



(Photo 2 caption)

Buses arrive incessantly and the fifth station continues to be crowded.

This is where things change!

Let's think about the ride to the fifth station!

Many people have heard about the Mt. Fuji Tozan Railway project, which will connect the foot of Mt. Fuji and the fifth station of the Fuji-Subaru Line with a new

transportation system.

The plan is to run a new eco-friendly transportation system with wireless power supply on the road of Fuji-Subaru Line to control the number of visitors and reduce the environmental burden, which is the homework from Icomos. Depending on the method of the new transportation system, it is also expected to improve the infrastructure of the fifth station. For visitors, the trip should be more comfortable than it is now.

Regarding the concept, the governors of the six municipalities at the northern foot of Mt. Fuji have been attending briefings for local residents since November 2023, and we have heard many questions and opinions, such as concerns over eruption, avalanche response, and profitability. We believe that this is a step toward building up "collective knowledge" to make things better through discussion among everyone.

We asked a total of approximately 1,180 people who attended the information sessions to complete the survey and received 492 responses. The details are shown in the graph.

More than 75% of the respondents answered that their understanding of the current status of Mt. Fuji, 80% of the respondents answered "Yes" and 20% answered "No." The majority of the respondents answered "Yes" to the question "Do you think

improvements are necessary? We feel that the majority of respondents understand the current status of Mt. Fuji and share a common understanding of the vector of the need to improve the current situation.

Regarding the concept, 65% of the respondents answered that their understanding had improved. Those who did not make progress in their understanding (the sum of "not deep" and "not very deep") was 35%.

The prefecture is not adhering to the currently proposed concept.

We are considering other options besides the LRT (Next Generation Tram) that we are currently proposing, based on the opinions of the residents of the prefecture as well as the feedback we received at the residents' explanatory meeting. With a flexible attitude, we will work together with everyone to develop a better concept.

The concept underlying the plan is not limited to the Fuji-northern foothills area. What the concept aims for is nothing less than "high value-added regionalization. By expanding this concept to the entire prefecture, we hope to solve all current problems and create "Yamanashi, a world-class tourist area.

This is where things will change!

Fuji research will become more detailed.

In April of this year, following the revision of the Active Volcano Law in June of last year, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) issued a report entitled "Volcano Research in Yamanashi Prefecture,

In April of this year, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology established the Headquarters for the Promotion of Volcano Research and Study (Volcano Headquarters).

What will change with the establishment of the Volcano Headquarters?

We interviewed Mr. Toshitsugu Fujii, a leading expert on volcano disaster prevention in Japan and director of the Yamanashi Prefectural Fujiyama Science Institute.

Fuji Science Institute, Yamanashi Prefecture.

Volcano Headquarters was established

I have always said that the only way to change volcanic disaster prevention in Japan is to revise the Active Volcano Law. This is because the JMA has traditionally been a

bottom-up organization that aggregates data from individual surveys and observations conducted by universities and other research institutes and disseminates it as volcano information.

For volcano disaster prevention, the national government must take the lead in creating a specialized department to conduct systematic surveys.

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, when the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion (established in the Prime Minister's Office at that time, now under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) was established, I advised that volcanoes should be included in the scope of research. However, the establishment of a volcano headquarters did not take place. I was seriously impatient, thinking, "If we continue with this kind of disaster prevention system, we are going to be in big trouble."

The situation began to change in 2019. Fuji, a new crater was discovered and the number of people to be evacuated increased by approximately 100,000, so work began on revising the Mt.

Governor Kotaro Nagasaki, who was first elected that year, called for cooperation from the 23 prefectures designated as "Volcanic Disaster Precaution Areas" and

established the "Prefectural Federation for the Promotion of Volcanic Disaster Mitigation" under his own auspices. I was surprised that what had been impossible for more than 20 years was accomplished in only four years.

This amendment to the law established the "Headquarters for Volcano Research Promotion" (Volcano Headquarters). This will finally switch to a top-down approach, with the national government taking responsibility for centralized research and investigation of all volcanoes in Japan. This was the moment when volcano research, which had been "three laps behind" earthquake research, made its start.

The establishment of the Volcano Headquarters

What are the advantages?

There are two major advantages to the establishment of the Volcano Headquarters.

The first is that the government provides a budget for research. Until now, we have not been able to install sufficient observation equipment due to a lack of budget.

Fuji is the largest active volcano in Japan, but there are almost no observational instruments above the fifth station, where there is no electricity. From now on, with a budget in place, we will be able to conduct meticulous surveys.

Second, the Volcano Headquarters will serve as a command post and will be able to promote volcano research in a unified manner.

The "Policy Committee," of which I am the chairman, considers basic policies and measures for observation and research. The "trench survey," which involves digging holes in the ground to examine geological strata, has been a burden on researchers until now, but the survey method will be made manual and outsourced to contractors so that researchers can concentrate on analyzing data.

By the summer of this year, the main points of a comprehensive basic policy must be finalized. "Where should we install the instruments? and "How can we make the survey more efficient? It's a lot to think about, but we are bracing ourselves for the "start of the project! We are now getting ready for the next phase of the project.

A Leading Expert's Opinion

Mt. Fuji is full of mysteries.

I first encountered an eruption of Mt. Akita Komagatake in 1970, and as a graduate student, I was fascinated by volcanoes. I was fascinated by volcanoes. That is when I first became interested in magma.

Magma forms at relatively shallow depths of 50 to 100 kilometers below the surface of

the earth. I wanted to know what kind of magma it was, so I studied fresh magma formed on the seafloors of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Actually, more than 50% of the magma on Mt. Fuji is solidified liquid, not fresh. In that sense, I was not originally interested in Mt.

Fuji in 2000-2001, when a low-frequency earthquake occurred and I became the representative of a major project to investigate Mt. Fuji, I thought from the bottom of my heart. Fuji is a mystery!

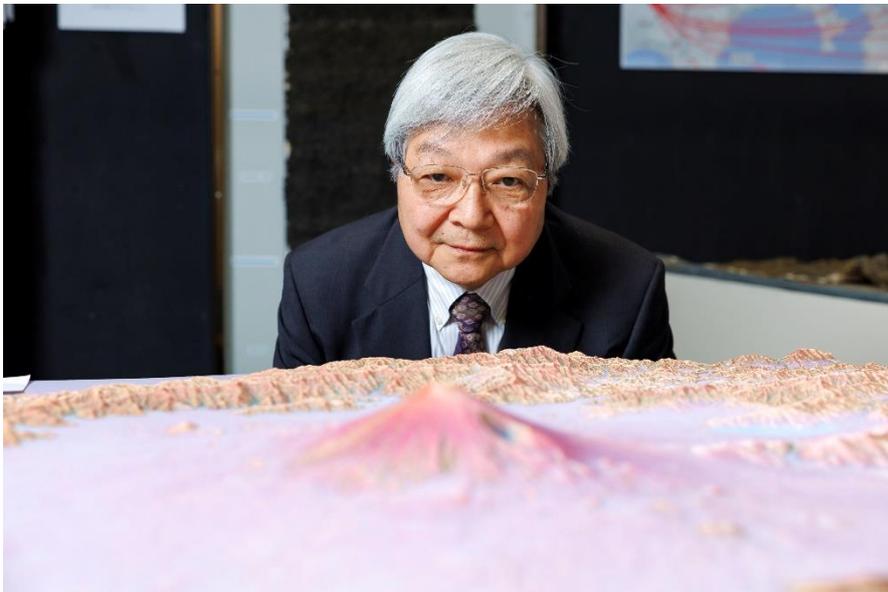
First of all, there are too many eruptions. It has erupted about 200 times in the last 5,600 years, which is more than 10 times the number of eruptions of a normal volcano. Also, normal volcanoes are a mixture of basalt and andesite, but Mt. Fuji is a special mountain made up of more than 99% basalt. As I was trying to figure out what I didn't understand, my thought changed to "Mt. Fuji is interesting! I was changing to "Mt.

I have been studying volcanoes for more than 50 years, but there is still so much I don't know about Mt.

Toshitsugu Fujii

Director of the Yamanashi Institute of Fuji Science. Professor Emeritus of the

University of Tokyo. Doctor of Science, born in 1946. D. from the Graduate School of Science at the University of Tokyo. He has played a central role in various volcanic disaster research projects in Japan and abroad, including Pinatubo Volcano, Unzen Fugendake, and Izu Oshima. He served as the chairman of the Liaison Committee for Prediction of Volcanic Eruptions for 14 years from 2003. 2014, he became the director of the Fujiyama Science Research Institute.



Fureai 81, Textbook 8-11

Residents' Lawsuit

Prefectural government won the lawsuit.

We will explain the details of the ruling

The survey contract is legal.

Attorney's fees are reasonable

Residents appeal

Regarding a lawsuit filed by residents of the prefecture over a prefectural land court decision on the shores of Lake Yamanaka,

On April 23, the Kofu District Court ruled in favor of the prefectural government's claims.

Here is an easy-to-understand explanation of the ruling

Fujikyu has long used prefectural land for vacation homes and other purposes along the shores of Lake Yamanaka.

It is the prefectural government's responsibility to properly utilize prefectural land, which is the property of the people of the prefecture.

Therefore, in order to determine the appropriateness of the rent paid to Fujikyuko, the prefecture has conducted an investigation into how the rent was determined and how the appropriate rent was calculated. In the course of this investigation, we are aware that there have been media reports about the investigation fees paid to lawyers, saying that the fees are too high.

The residents who filed the lawsuit claimed that the contract under which the prefecture outsourced the investigation to the lawyer violated the Local Autonomy Law and other laws, and demanded that Governor Kotaro Nagasaki and his lawyer pay the 66 million yen in investigation fees paid to the lawyer.

The Kofu District Court ruling found that the survey consignment contract "was made with an eye toward the future and to achieve a drastic solution to the lease agreement," and that "there was no abuse or abuse of discretion in the governor's decision.

The court also found that the amount of money paid to the attorney was not illegal because "the hourly rate per hour based on the attorney's position and the expected time required were considered, and that the unit price was not unreasonable.

Another point of contention was that the contract with the attorney was entered into on a voluntary basis without obtaining multiple quotes, but the Kofu District Court found that "the research work was to comprehensively review a long-term lease contract from 1927, and there was reason to believe that entering into a voluntary contract with this attorney would benefit the prefectural government. The Kofu District Court rejected the residents' arguments, stating that "there is reason to believe that it would be in the best interest of the county to enter into a voluntary contract with this attorney.

The residents appealed against this decision.

Three Points of the Judgment on the Residents' Lawsuit

The court's decision is harsh on the prefectural government

Reflect on the past and promote appropriate leasing of prefectural land

We will proceed with appropriate leasing of prefectural land.

It is understood that the Kofu District Court's decision fully recognizes the prefecture's claims. However, it was not all joy.

The ruling mentioned that newspapers had reported in the past that "leasing vast tracts of land to a private company with little public interest under a voluntary contract is an unusual and undervalued lease even by national standards," and that "it is incorrect that each land is valued as a 'mountain forest,'" and went on to explain the need for the prefectural government to investigate "whether there is a cozy structure between Yamanashi Prefecture and Fujikyu, and whether there is a need to make a decision on the future affairs of the company. The investigation includes such matters as the existence of a cozy relationship between Yamanashi Prefecture and Fujikyu, issues related to past loan operations, and the ideal administrative procedures to be followed in the future. The study was conducted with an eye toward the future and to achieve a drastic solution to the lease agreement," he certified.

At a press conference last year, Governor Nagasaki also stated, "The fact that the prefectural government has suffered a tremendous loss as a result of an easy agreement

with the user side (the lessee of the prefectural land) on the amount of rent for the prefectural land should be greatly regretted by the organization.

It cannot be said that there was no aspect in which the interests of the people of the prefecture were sacrificed in favor of precedent. The prefecture will accept the court's decision, sincerely reflect on what needs to be reflected on, and continue to promote the appropriate leasing of prefectural land in the future.

Realizing a Cycle of Return to Prefectural Citizens

Raising rents will increase the prefectural government's voluntary financial resources.

With this self-financing source, we will be able to introduce our own measures that exceed the uniform services provided nationwide.

By acquiring this self-financing source, the prefecture will be able to realize a "virtuous cycle of giving back to the people of the prefecture," including the 25-student class system in public elementary schools and a society with zero waiting lists for nursing care.

Governor Nagasaki said, "The prefecture hopes to earn as much rent as possible in order to make effective use of prefectural assets. On the other hand, Fujikyū, as the

lessee, wants to keep the rent as low as possible. Both parties have a natural inclination and are not at loggerheads with each other. The residents of the prefecture share the common understanding that Fujikyu has long contributed to the development of this area. We will continue to rely on the cooperation of Fujikyu to enhance the value of the region. It is true that there is a gap in perception between the prefectural government and Fujikyu, but we believe that if the prefectural government continues to negotiate with Fujikyu, we will be able to gain their understanding and work together to improve the value of the region.

Effective Use of Prefectural Forests under New Rules

Prefectural forests cover 35% of the prefecture's land.

In order to maximize the use of this asset for all the people of the prefecture, the prefectural government has decided to make the best use of prefectural forests.

In order to maximize the use of this asset for all residents of the prefecture, the prefectural government has revised the rules (*1) governing the use of prefectural forests.

The prefectural government has revised the rules (*1) governing the use of prefectural

forests in order to maximize the use of this asset for the entire prefecture.

1: Enforcement Regulations of the Yamanashi Prefecture Imperial Gift Prefectural Property Management Regulations

The prefectural forests are based on the forests (approximately 160,000 hectares) that were gifted to the Imperial Family in 1911.

The prefectural forests have been protected and nurtured through the tireless efforts of our predecessors, and have contributed greatly to the development of the prefecture through the preservation of the prefectural land and the supply of timber. In addition, rental income from these forests has provided part of the prefecture's financial resources when companies and educational institutions have used them for a variety of purposes.

However, in 1991, the prefectural government froze all leasing to the private sector in response to the growing priority given to the protection of the natural environment.

Furthermore, a number of companies and educational institutions that had previously leased the land did not renew their loan agreements and returned the land to the prefecture due to changes in the socioeconomic environment and a declining population.

It is necessary to make effective use of the assets of the entire prefectural population to improve services for all residents of the prefecture.

In October 2020, the prefectural government decided to put together a basic policy (*2) to increase its own financial resources and to make effective use of underutilized prefectural land. The study of a concrete plan began in 2022, and recently the prefectural government decided to revise the regulations governing the use of prefectural forests in order to secure its own financial resources and at the same time improve the brand power of the local community.

Prefectural forests are divided into three main categories: ❶ forest land, ❷ land currently leased, and ❸ land that has not been used since it was returned. For each of these, we are considering different new ways to utilize the land.

Large areas of forest land

Effective use

We will begin leasing forest land that does not interfere with the preservation of prefectural land and the management of prefectural property. We will ask companies and others to propose how they would like to use the land, and after a screening process that compares the purpose of maintaining the land as forest land with the purpose of

utilizing it, we will decide who to lend the land to.

The review will take into consideration not only the amount of rent, but also whether or not it will contribute to the enhancement of the local brand.

The current leased land may be sold.

Returned land will be publicly offered.

Of the approximately 500 current loan agreements, we will consider selling the land if it makes more economic sense to sell it than to lease it, and if there are willing lessees.

In addition, of the 38 sites where we surveyed land that was not being used after being returned, most of the land was cleared for utilization, but there were administrative and other costs involved.

The prefectural government has created a guideline for public solicitation of land that is desired for use, and will begin accepting applications around August. After examining the land use plans of each applicant, bids will be submitted and the winning bidder will be selected around December.

In all cases, we will promote the effective use of prefectural lands based on highly transparent rules and regulations by listening to the opinions of the conservation

associations of each Imperial Forest and other groups and examining them.

*2: Basic Policy on Measures to Secure Financial Resources



(Photo 1 caption)

A monument of gratitude (center) erected to commemorate the gift of imperial forests in the prefecture.



(Photo 2 caption)

Prefectural forests extend to some of Japan's most famous mountains, including Mt.

Kai-komagatake (left) and Mt. Yagatake (far right)

Achieving Zero Lethal Disposal of Incarcerated Dogs and Cats

Aiming for a Society in Harmony with Animals

Aiming for a society where people and animals coexist in harmony.

Since 2020, the prefectural government has been implementing measures to save the lives of dogs and cats housed at the Animal Protection and Guidance Center.

Since FY2023, the prefectural government has been working on measures to save the lives of dogs and cats housed at the Animal Protection Guidance Center.

In FY2023, the prefecture achieved the goal of zero fatalities of dogs and cats.

However, we have not been able to do so in cases where there is a reason for the death of an animal, such as significant aggression or a painful disease.

However, this does not include animals that have been killed due to aggression or painful diseases, or those that have died after being placed in the shelter.

What can we do for small lives?

We want to protect small lives.

The Yamanashi Prefectural Animal Protection Guidance Center houses dogs and cats that have been taken in from their owners or whose owners are unknown. In the 2019 fiscal year, 224 dogs and cats were fatally killed, of which 208 were kittens, most of which were born from ownerless cats. Since newborn kittens are unable to regulate their body temperature and defecate on their own, they need to be nursed and urinated on every few hours. However, it is difficult to treat all kittens. Many of them had no choice but to be put to death, and this was a heart-wrenching moment for the staff in charge of protecting the animals.

In response, the prefectural government launched six initiatives in FY 2020. The "Cat Sterilization and Neutering Subsidy Project" (see Table 1) is one of the largest subsidies in Japan to reduce the number of ownerless cats and requests from owners to take them in. In addition, we have also focused on the "Volunteer Milk Program" (see Table 2), in which we take care of soon-to-be-born kittens housed in the prefecture at home until they are ready to be weaned.

As a result of these measures, we were able to reduce the number of fatalities of dogs and cats to zero in FY2023, except in unavoidable cases. However, our efforts do not

end there.

As described in "Establishment of the Animal Protection Guidance Center's Portal Site," the Center has been widely disseminating information through the website established in March 2024, and holds monthly pet-keeping classes and transfer events with the goal of transferring all animals.

At the transfer meetings, many people want to adopt small dogs, but most of the dogs at the Center are medium to large mixed breeds and older dogs. Even dogs that are not accustomed to people and are difficult to find adopters have moments when they open up to us when our staff spends time and affection taking care of them. We wanted people to be able to see these adorable dogs and cats, so in April of this year we began distributing videos of them on TikTok.

We will continue to work with volunteers and municipalities to create a society where people and animals can live together in harmony.

Milk Volunteers Connecting Kittens' Lives

The Ariizumi family, who started milk volunteer activities in March of this year

We interviewed the Ariizumi family, who started volunteering as milk volunteers in March of this year.

We interviewed the ARIZUMI family, who started volunteering as milk producers in March this year.

Hanaha Ariizumi was a cat shelter volunteer before she got married. When she heard her mother-in-law, Chitose, say that she wanted to raise cats from babies, the idea of milk volunteering immediately came to mind.

In early March, she called the Animal Protection Guidance Center to inquire about it, and two days later, she decided to take the course. The milk volunteer registration was completed, and on March 29, four kittens smaller than the size of her palm arrived.

The newborn kittens need to be fed milk every two to three hours, even during the night. Chitose says, "It's not as hard as I thought it would be, because I can just give them milk when I hear them meow-meow-meow."

The center provides milk, pet sheets, and other supplies necessary for raising the animals. If there is anything they don't understand, they can consult with the center's veterinarian, so they have no worries.

Chitose's second son, Yamato, who is taking care of the kittens with her, is in the fourth grade of elementary school. The kittens weighed around 150 grams and had gained 550 to 650 grams in about a month.

Hanaha feels that the kittens' growth has strengthened the family bond. We have become a family that can talk about anything as we take care of them together," Hanaha said. The kittens bring smiles to everyone's faces.

The kittens are kept by the Milk Volunteers for two months. The Ariizumi family will say goodbye to their healthy kittens. We are sad to see them go, but we hope they will live happily ever after.



(Photo 1 caption)

The Animal Protection Guidance Center has a grassy area where dogs for transfer are walked.



(Photo 2 caption)

(From left) Hanaha Arizumi, Chitose, and Yamato holding the four kittens.

Is Your Housing Safe?

You may have seen in the news reports how old wooden houses collapsed after the Noto Peninsula earthquake.

I am sure that you have seen the news reports of old wooden houses collapsed by the Noto Peninsula earthquake.

It is not something that is a matter of concern for others.

In Yamanashi Prefecture, we are cooperating with municipalities to develop the nation's top level

We are developing the nation's top level wooden housing support program in cooperation with local municipalities.

Please consider taking advantage of this program.

Japan is one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world, and approximately 20% of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater occur in the vicinity of Japan.

The Noto Peninsula earthquake that occurred on New Year's Day this year collapsed many old wooden houses. The damage was extensive.

It has been pointed out that the earthquake resistance rate was particularly low in the areas where most of the damage occurred.

The earthquake resistance rate of wooden houses in Yamanashi Prefecture was 87.3% at the end of 2020, slightly higher than the national average (87%). However, it is estimated that approximately 41,000 of the total 327,000 housing units are not earthquake resistant enough. The earthquake resistance rate tends to be particularly low in areas with large numbers of elderly residents.

Is the earthquake resistance of your home and your family's housing safe?

In this prefecture, we aim to create safe and secure communities that are resistant to earthquakes. We are conducting a wooden house residence safety and security support project. Why don't you take this opportunity to have a free diagnosis of the earthquake resistance of your wooden house?

In this prefecture, we hold system explanatory meetings for earthquake retrofitting businesses and collaborate with architects and builders.

The Yamanashi Association of Architectural Firms holds seminars for architects in the prefecture on seismic diagnosis and reinforcement planning.

In many cases, architects and builders who receive consultation from clients are also guided by the support system.

In this way, we are working together with builders and others to improve the earthquake resistance rate in order to strengthen the safety of all residents of the prefecture.

We do not know when a major earthquake will occur. It has been suggested that Yamanashi Prefecture could be severely damaged by a Nankai Trough earthquake or an earthquake directly under the Tokyo metropolitan area. If buildings collapse, they could block roads and hinder rescue and evacuation. In addition, if people lose their houses, they will be forced to live in evacuation centers and face concerns about their privacy and health. We ask that each of you take a personal interest in your own safety and ensure the safety of yourself and your family.

To prepare for a major earthquake, start with a free seismic evaluation to find out how resistant your home is to earthquakes.

Specific details of the retrofitting work include adding braces and lightening the roof to make your home more resistant to earthquakes and protect your life and property.

The prefectural government has one of the most extensive subsidies for earthquake retrofitting and rebuilding in Japan.

However, the problem is that the information is not well known to the public. We have been widely informing the public through door-to-door roller campaigns in cooperation with municipalities, direct mailings, newspaper and radio advertisements, etc. However, it is difficult for information to reach the elderly in particular. We will continue to raise awareness through door-to-door visits, etc. We encourage younger generations to tell their families about the earthquake resistance support system and to check the earthquake resistance of their parents' and grandparents' houses.

The prefectural government, municipalities, and building-related organizations are working together on this project, but the cooperation of all residents of the prefecture is essential.

Let us all raise awareness of disaster prevention and work together to promote earthquake resistance.

Fureai 81,Textbook 16-17

From the Prefectural Government Information Dissemination Site

Rainbow-colored Koshu fireworks, let's go see them!

It's summer! It's a festival! Fireworks!

With the Corona disaster under control, it looks like we will be able to enjoy fireworks from the bottom of our hearts this year.

In Yamanashi, there is the "Koshu Fireworks," which is a traditional technique,

There are big fireworks festivals held in various places in the country.

In March 2023, Koshu Hanabi, which colors the night sky in summer, was recognized as a new local traditional craft of the prefecture. We interviewed Mr. Katsuji Saiki, president of Saiki Smoke Honten, which has been carrying on the Koshu Hanabi technique from generation to generation.

The history of Koshu fireworks is long, and it is believed to have two roots.

The first is the tradition of "noshi" (smoke signals) and "gunnery" that began during the reign of Takeda Shingen. The second is "choshu fireworks," which is believed to have been established by the end of the Edo period (1603-1868). At that time, various epidemics were prevalent. It is said that fireworks were launched as a memorial service for the spirits of the dead and the repose of their souls.

Saiki Fireworks was founded in 1901. I am the fourth generation.

We are not taught the techniques in detail, but rather we learn by watching the actual making of the fireworks. Today, our company, Marugo Co., Ltd. and Yamauchi Smoke Shop, which are members of the Yamanashi Traditional Fireworks Association, are trying to pass on the techniques that have been handed down to the next generation.

It takes one month to produce a small firework of 6 to 9 cm in diameter. The No. 10 ball, commonly known as the shakudama, is 30 cm in diameter and takes two and a half to three months to make. Our company manufactures a total of about 20,000 balls of various sizes.

In the days before my father, the third generation, the mainstream was a three-color changing fireworks display, in which the fireworks would light up and change from red

to green to blue. Now we make fireworks that change colors in a gradation pattern, and the time and effort required to make a star has increased three to five times.

We specialize in rainbow-colored fireworks that change into seven different colors, so people say, "Wow, it's beautiful! The colors change! I hope you will experience the excitement of "Wow, it's beautiful!

Shinmei's fireworks display features approximately 20,000 fireworks. The highlight of the festival is the "Theme Fireworks," in which fireworks based on a yearly theme are shot off, and the "Grand Finale" at the end of the festival. Come and see the numerous starmines set off to music.

HIGH QUALITY YAMANASHI (Koshu Fireworks, a local traditional craft of Yamanashi Prefecture. (Excerpt from "Koshu Fireworks," a local traditional handicraft of Yamanashi Prefecture, and the feelings behind the techniques and fireworks balls that have been passed down from generation to generation.)



(Photo caption)

Shinmei fireworks in Ichikawa Misato Town (courtesy of Ichikawa Misato Town)

Gathering beyond the language barrier!

High school students from Yamanashi crossed the sea

Exchange between the prefecture and Vietnam continues to deepen.

Not only exports of local products, but also exchange of human resources who will be responsible for the future is progressing.

This is a digest from Yamanashi in depth.

Conclusion of Sister and Friendship Prefectural Province

The exchange started when Governor Kotaro Nagasaki made a direct request to the Minister of Agriculture of the Vietnamese government in May 2023. The aim was to lift the ban on the export of Yamanashi grapes. The export of Japanese grapes to Vietnam is prohibited and restricted, with some exceptions. Not only did the group receive a positive response from the Minister of Agriculture, but they also received a flurry of "proposals" from the Vietnamese side, which they welcomed with open arms.

Not only in the field of agriculture, but also in energy and human resource exchange. They were suddenly invited to meet with dignitaries that they had not planned to meet. In particular, during a visit to Quang Binh Province in the north-central part of Vietnam, the two sides had a lively discussion and confirmed their intention to promote exchanges through a variety of channels.

As early as September of that year, Secretary Vu Dai Thang, the head of Quang Binh Province, and others visited Yamanashi Prefecture, and a sister and friendship agreement was signed.

Secretary Tan and his delegation enjoyed the best of the season's "Shine Muscat" at a

grape farm in Kosshu City. They also visited the "Next Generation Energy System Research and Development Village" in Komekurayama, as Quang Binh Province is focusing on the development of renewable energy to achieve carbon neutrality.

At the private sector level, the "Yamanashi Prefecture-Vietnam Friendship Exchange Association" will be established in January 2024, and "Vietnam fever" in the prefecture is only increasing.

High School Students "Connect" with Vietnam

Human resource exchange is another major theme for sister and friendship prefectures. As a first step, 20 high school students from Yamanashi Prefecture visited Quang Binh Province in February this year and interacted with students from Võ Nguyen Zap High School.

We decided to have students who understood the significance of the exchange and who had a clear sense of purpose as to how they would develop a global sense and apply it to their future participate in the program. We also aim to give them a new appreciation of Yamanashi Prefecture by giving them the opportunity to experience a

foreign country firsthand.

A representative from the prefectural board of education said, "The students introduced each other in English.

The high school students introduced each other in English and exchanged SNS IDs on their smartphones, connecting them in no time. After returning to their home countries, they are still surprising their friends in the tropics by saying, "I made a snowman.

Was the exchange successful? One sentence in the report submitted by the students after their return may answer the question.

English, our common language, was the magic tool that brought us young people closer together."



(Photo 1 caption)

The visiting group visiting the "Next Generation Energy System Research and Development Village" at Komekurayama (September 2023).



(Photo 2 caption)

High school students from Yamanashi and Vietnam interact with each other (February 2024)

Fureai 81, Textbook 18-19

[Series] "Yamanashi Kenjin"

Deciding to become a juror

In May, Kumiko Yamada was present at a meeting between a representative from Seven-Eleven Japan and a prefectural government official at a community center in Kofu City.

Prototypes were lined up on the desk. They were considering commercializing "Chozenji-na" vegetables.

If you heard that Yamada was growing vegetables to be used in products at major convenience stores, you would have jumped to the conclusion that she was a veteran farmer. Yamada started farming in September 2020.

Growing up in a part-time farming family, she loved being out in the fields as a child.

She went on to Yamanashi Gakuin Junior College, obtained a nutritionist qualification,

and worked in hospitals and companies. After getting married in 2002, she was in charge of accounting at the electrical construction company run by her husband.

Then one day, she received an envelope. It was informing her that she had been selected as a juror.

She was in charge of a murder case within a family. Behind the scenes, factors such as disabilities and isolation were intertwined in a complex way.

"Crime is unforgivable. But no one is alone. If the defendant had had someone to talk to, the life of the murdered person may have been saved."

I want to connect people. That thought led to agriculture.

"When I used to help my parents, I really enjoyed it. When I'm in the fields, I feel alive. I couldn't stop wanting to farm. Because farming is also a place where people gather and connect."

When I heard that a grape farm near my parents' house was going to stop growing grapes, I decided to do it. I learned how to grow grapes and went out to the fields every morning. At night during the busy farming season, I put on headlamps and did farm work.

I did farm work with people who work at welfare facilities and people who tend to be reclusive. Everyone's smiles and hard work became the nourishment for Yamada's life.

In September 2022, the head priest of Kochozenji Temple (Minami Alps City) asked me if I would like to work together to promote the traditional Yamanashi vegetable "Chozenji-na," as the seeds were about to disappear.

Chozenji Temple was one of the "Five Mountains of Kofu" established by Lord Shingen, but it fell into total ruin during the Edo period. The temple was rebuilt with the profits from Chozenji-na, a vegetable related to turnip.

Chozenji-na is in danger of extinction. Yamada immediately approached people at a

welfare facility and started cultivating it.

Make it a stir-fried vegetable and make it a business

Until then, Chozenji-na had been sold as a vegetable for pickling, but when an acquaintance told him that it was delicious in peperoncino, he wondered if it could be used as a stir-fried vegetable, and tried it in oyaki and other dishes. It was very well received.

The price of Chozenji-na, which was about the same as the pickled Nozawana (5 kg = about 300 yen), rose to 150 yen for 250 grams, more than 10 times the price. Making it into a stir-fried vegetable made it a viable business.

The prefecture and Seven-Eleven have signed a "Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement" to revitalize the region and respond to disasters. Seven-Eleven consulted with the prefecture's agricultural department about local production and consumption

in Yamanashi and the development of original products, and connected with Yamada.

After repeated trial and error, product development is finally coming to fruition, and from around November, side dishes using Chozenji-na are scheduled to be available in all stores in the prefecture.

Yamada runs Kirameki Kumi Farm, which is the agricultural division of her husband's electrical construction company. In February 2023, the office and processing plant was established.

"When you connect with various people, something will happen. We will continue to look forward and move forward without stopping."

She hopes to turn Kirameki Kumi Farm into an agricultural corporation within the next seven years.



(Photo 1 caption)

In addition to Chozenji-na, Yamada grows grapes, plums, sweet potatoes, and rice.



(Photo 2 caption)

She grows Chozenji-na with children from Yamanashi Gakuin Kindergarten.

Fureai 81, Textbook 20-21

Fureai Square

Oy, Mt. After walking uphill from the parking lot, we went to CAFÉ Sanpo at the top of the Hottarakashi Campground in Yamanashi City. Sitting on the terrace and drinking coffee while looking at Mt. Fuji feels different



I stopped by Nishiura, the central area of Fujiyoshida City. The retro and Showa-era atmosphere almost sucks you in. Once a thriving entertainment district, this area is now attracting newcomers. Renovating vacant stores and turning them into new tourist spots



Cold At Fuji River Craft Park, not only the canoeing area, but also the fountain plaza is very popular in the summer!



Umbrellas falling A shot taken at the Fujiyoshida City "FUJIHIMURO" event. This area is a textile production area and is known as "Gunnai textile"!



Moehnen Sweets: Cafe troisième marché in Fujikawaguchiko Town. Looking at the cross section of the cake, you can see a lot of fruits. The atmosphere inside the store is calm and relaxing.



Q&A SPACE

Have you heard the news that a manufacturer in Yamanashi Prefecture has developed clothes to survive the hot summer in Yamanashi? In fact, these clothes made their debut as the first "official wear" at the National Governors' Meeting held in Yamanashi last year. What kind of clothing is it?

In this corner, prefectural staff will answer your questions.

What is "Kaikuru"?

It is a nickname for "Yamanashi's summer clothes."

From among 939 entries from all over the country, the nickname "Kaikuru" was chosen by Mr. Shinzo Tanabe.

The grand prize for the symbol mark was awarded to Yohei Higashi's work.

Four companies in the prefecture produced a total of 12 designs and 20 products.

"Kaikuru" is an all-Yamanashi summer clothing made by businesses in the prefecture using fabrics produced in the county area.

Can we buy them too?

From June 20, the summer clothes are on sale at the stores of the companies that produced them and on their e-commerce sites. The prefecture will also promote Kaikuru.

Is it also available for women?

We have developed a new design for women, a ladies' shirt made of cotton silk fabric. They are available in three colors: blue, khaki gray, and off-white. Unisex designs are also available.

What is the material?

To survive the summer heat in Yamanashi, we offer cotton silk fabric for our ladies' shirts, fabrics made of 100% organic cotton for other designs, and fabrics that use light cupra or wool, which is highly deodorizing and pleasant to the touch, as part of the material. The buttons are made of crystal or onyx, polished by jewelry craftsmen in Kofu, and other unique and attractive items.



(Photo 1 caption)

Atsushi Abe, leader, Industrial Promotion Division



(Photo 2 caption)

Onyx buttons polished by Kofu jewelry craftsmen

YAMANASHI

POLICY NEWS

Young artists, spread your wings from Yamanashi to the world!

Fuji Five Lakes Event

Two competitions, "Fuji-California Young Artists Expo (art works)" and "Fuji-California Youth Leadership Summit (word works)," were held for high school and university students from around the world, inviting them to submit works on social issues such as "race and gender equality" and "sustainability. Leadership Summit (works expressed in words)" and the "2nd Fuji Five Lakes Summit," a social plan presentation event, were held at the Kawaguchiko Museum of Music and Forest Art (Fujikawaguchiko Town).

This event was held as a project of the "Fuji Five Lakes Global Village," an international consortium derived from the "Fuji Five Lakes Natural Capital Region Forum" (headquarters: Yamanashi Prefecture), an organization that aims to develop the

Fuji Five Lakes region into an advanced "Natural Capital Region" where nature-rich resorts and metropolitan functions are integrated.

The competition received entries from 38 countries, and the best entries were exhibited not only at the Fuji Five Lakes Campus of 21st Century Academia Educational Corporation, but also at its campuses in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka, at Creative Space in Harajuku, and in major cities in California, USA.

The Fuji Five Lakes region also hosted a presentation of social plans to revitalize the region, with the grand prize going to a plan to hold performing arts events at venues rich in nature and to discover young talent.

Through these events, the prefecture is working to make the Fuji Five Lakes region a center of the arts where many young artists from Japan and abroad can gather. We hope that this area will produce wonderful works of art that will attract attention from around the world, and that artists will be born in this prefecture who will go on to become world-class artists.



Opening of an Initial Emergency Medical Center to Accept Patients with Minor Ailments on a Widespread Scale

In May, the prefecture, together with all municipalities in the prefecture, opened the "Early Emergency Medical Center" at the University of Yamanashi Hospital (Chuo City) to treat patients with minor ailments such as sudden illness or injury during the night.

The opening of the center is expected to ensure the stability of the initial emergency medical care system, which has been facing issues such as aging physicians and a shortage of emergency hospitals.

The center accepts patients with minor illnesses in internal medicine, surgery, and ophthalmology (on call) from a wide range of areas in the prefecture, and provides first aid to keep them comfortable until they can be seen by their family doctors or other physicians the next day or later.

The center is open from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (open year-round, reception hours: 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.). Please call in advance (055-273-1122) before visiting the center.



Center to Support Persons and Families in Need of Medical Care Opens in Fuji and Eastern Regions

On May 8, the prefectural government opened the "Fuji/Eastern Area Support Center for Children with Medical Care" in Tsuru Municipal Hospital (Tsuru City) as a consultation center for people who need medical care such as ventilators and suctioning of their tummies and their families.

At the center, physicians and nurses will take a thorough look at the content of the consultation, collaborate with related organizations, and provide seamless support for the individual and family.

There was only one center in the prefecture, located in the National Hospital Organization Kofu Hospital (Kofu City), but with the opening of the center, people and families in need of medical care in the Fuji and Eastern regions can now receive support in a community close to them.

The two centers will play a central role in providing appropriate support, leading to the healthy growth of children requiring medical care throughout the prefecture and reducing the burden on their families.



Beware of Door-to-Door Roof and Other Inspection Businesses

Beware of home inspection salesmen who visit your home unexpectedly to inspect your roof, walls, etc., and then try to make you sign a contract for repair or remodeling work, in order to make you feel uneasy.

If you are visited by a contractor who offers you a "free inspection," be cautious and do not make a decision right away.

Be aware that many malicious sales methods also occur during disasters such as heavy rains and earthquakes, and you should take advantage of them.

Door-to-door sales may be subject to a cooling-off period. If you have any problems or concerns, please contact the Prefectural Consumer Affairs Center or the nearest Consumer Affairs Center as soon as possible.