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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 national teams of various countries during the 2020 Tokyo Games. Through hosting, each town will express their thanks to those who supported reconstruction efforts.

The Cabinet Secretariat of the Headquarters for the Promotion of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games established the project last September and, as of July 1, had 16 municipalities in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures slated as host towns.

The theme of the project is to promote exchanges during and after the Olympics and Paralympics in 2020 between towns in Tohoku and towns 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.

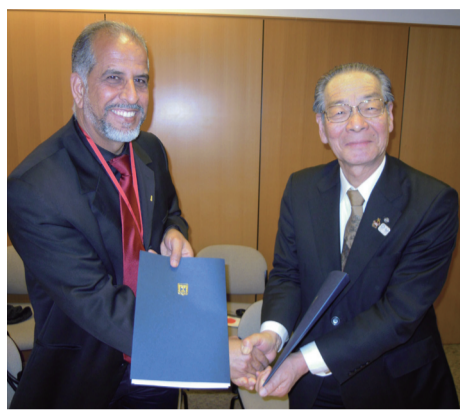
Macedon Ranges, Victoria, began welcoming junior high students from Kamaishi in the 2014 academic year as part of Kamaishi's study abroad experience program.

The town 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 Dunkelmann, chairperson of the nonprofit organization Celia Circle, is a goodwill ambassador of Israel to Japan and sent aid to Watari residents in the wake of the 2011 disaster.

Celia Circle and the Israeli Embassy also conducted workshops together 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



Furthest left: Australian Scott Fardy teaches rugby to students in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture; Center left: Former Watari Mayor Toshio Saito visits Israel in February to sign the agreement of host town; Left: Djibouti Ambassador to Japan Ahmed Arita Ali delivers speech in Minami Soma, Fukushima Prefecture, in April 2012. CABINET SECRETARIAT

ongoing.

As an exchange activity, Watari Mayor Toshio Saito and three town officials visited Israel to thank Israeli government officials, the former Israeli ambassador to Japan, psychiatrists 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.

ations 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 a museum in Israel. 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.

Minamisoma, 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 Minamisoma Mayor Katsunobu Sakurai 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 Arita 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 Minamisoma. Additionally, Taipei invited children unable to play sports out-

"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
	Iitate	Laos
	Minami-Soma	Djibouti, Taiwan, U.S., South Korea
	Motomiya	Britain
	Kita-Shiobara	Taiwan

## Fukushima reduces radiation concerns with stricter regulations

One of the Reconstruction Agency'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 U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization standard is 1,000 becquerels per kilogram for both baby

and general food.

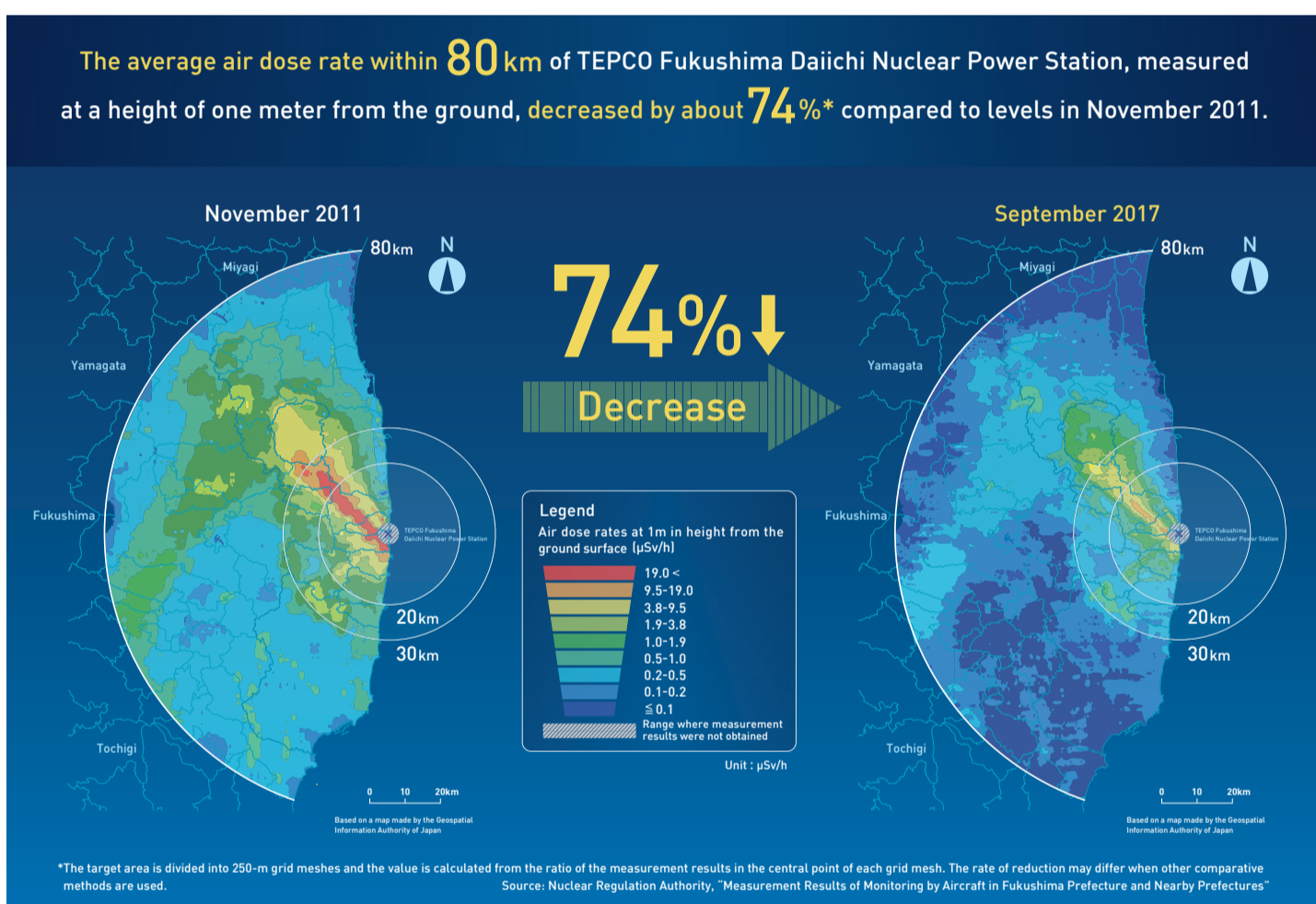
To increase food security of Fukushima's produce, the agency is encouraging Fukushima farmers to acquire Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) recognition.

There are four kinds of GAP certifications they can obtain — Global GAP, Asian GAP, Japan GAP and Fukushima GAP.

Germany's FoodPlus GmbH issues global GAP certifications, while Asia GAP and Japan GAP certifications are issued by the Japan GAP Foundation. Fukushima Prefecture oversees Fukushima GAP.

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

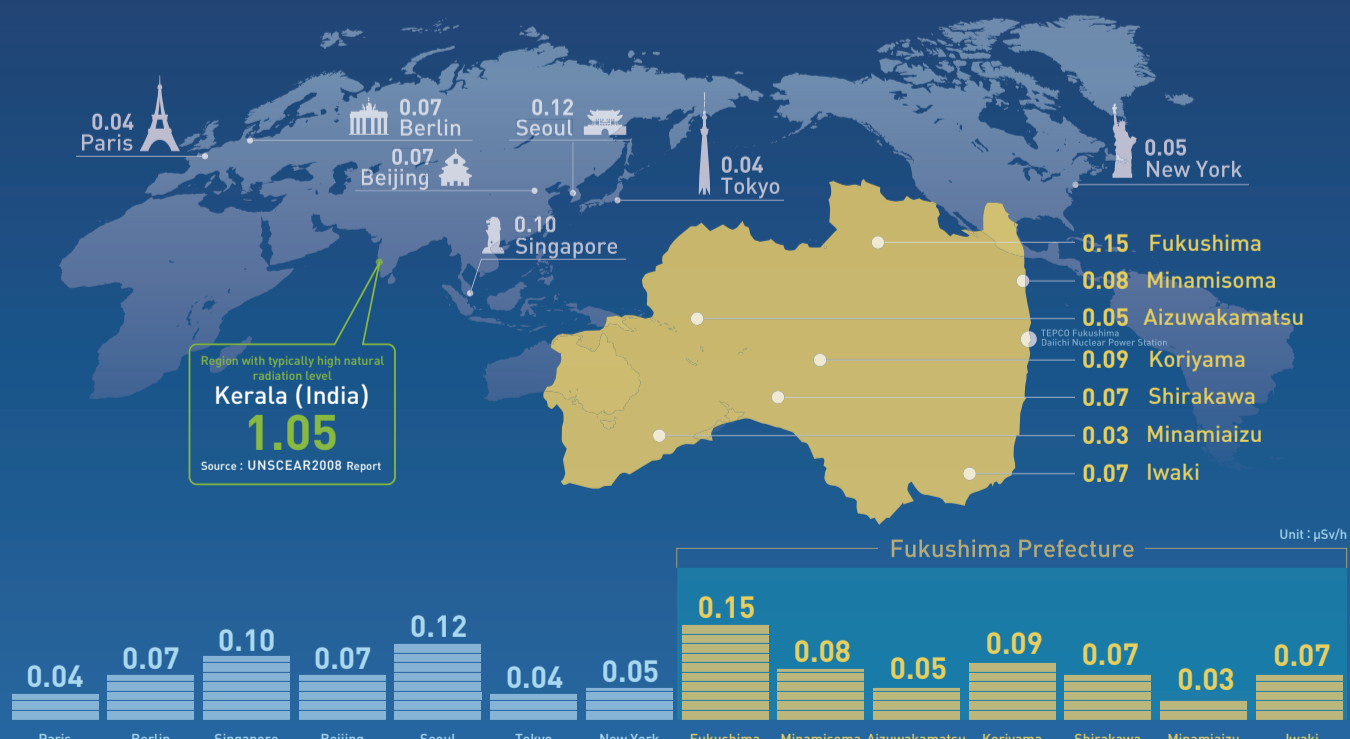
As of June 13, the number of Global GAP certifications issued in Fukushima was 19, Asia GAP had issued four, Japan GAP 48 and Fukushima GAP six. Fukushima Prefecture hopes to increase the number from six to 16 by the fiscal year 2020.



## Reconstruction in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

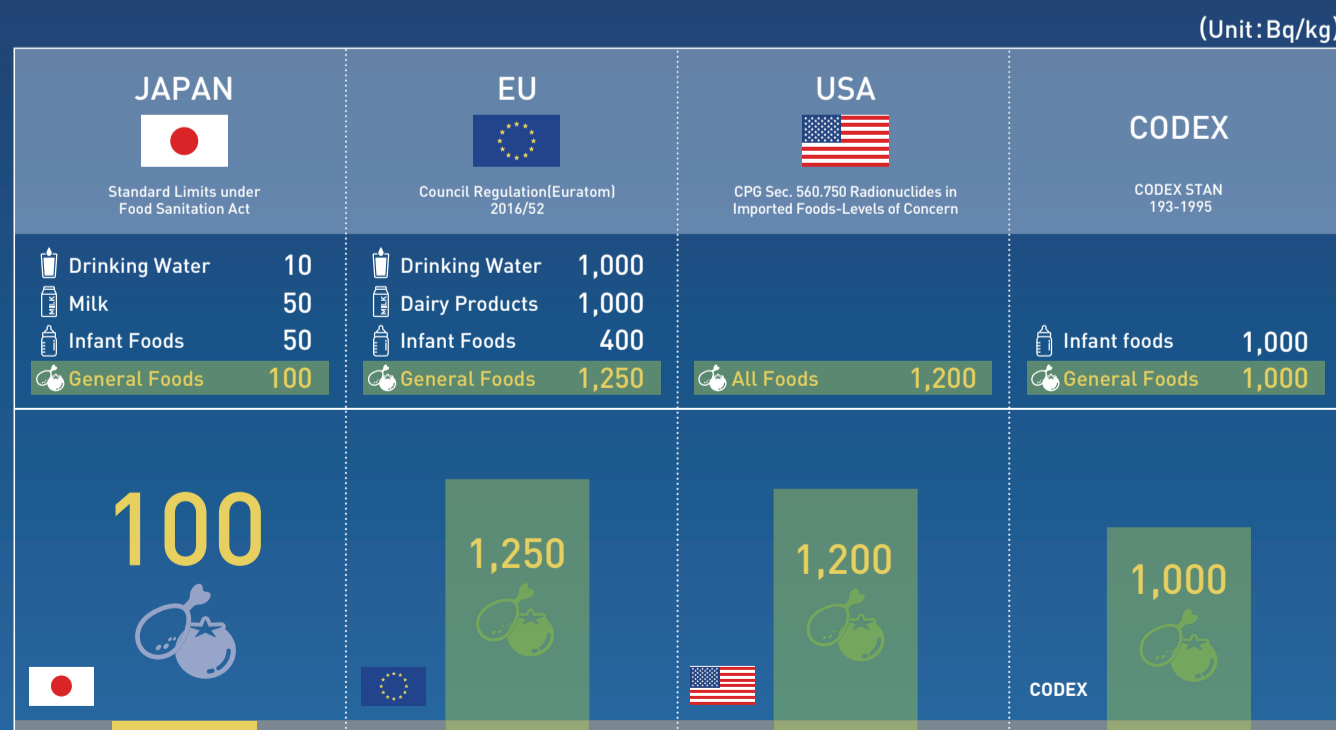


Air dose rates within Fukushima Prefecture are about the same level as other major cities worldwide.



\* 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