

Fukushima Dreams - a quarterly publication of Fukushima City — July 2016

Thanks for picking up this "Fukushima Dreams - a quarterly publication of Fukushima City." Through this issue, we hope that you will learn more about, and be moved by the various charms that Fukushima city has to offer. Fukushima is a city of around 280,000 people, surrounded by the beauty of nature. Due to its location, the city has a characteristic basin climate, and is famous as a fruit-producing area, producing many varieties throughout the seasons, including cherries, peaches, Asian pears, grapes, and apples. We hope that through this edition, you'll come to appreciate even a little what Fukushima City has to offer.



P. 2, 3 Fukushima Tourism

① The source of Fukushima City's tap water is provided by the Surikamigawa Dam, which lies in the Moniwa district of Iizaka. There are no residences or factories upstream from the dam enabling a safe and high-quality water supply. The lake created by the dam is fondly known as "Lake Moniwakko," and it is surrounded by magnificent natural scenery. In particular, Moniwa Hirose Park, located downstream from the dam, is equipped with hot spring facilities, a farmer's market, a children's play area, and campgrounds. Why not take a trip to see the beautiful nature of Moniwa this summer?

② Within Fukushima City, bottled tap water is manufactured and sold as "Fukushima no Mizu (Fukushima Water)." "Fukushima no Mizu" won the gold award in the Monde Selection two years running. A portion of its sales go to aiding water source preservation activities.



P. 4, 5 Fukushima Talent-interview No.11

① Mogi-style: pushing steadily forward

I want to involve the whole of Fukushima in our matches

J-League, Hiroto Mogi, who hails from Fukushima City began receiving attention in his teens for his speed and breakthrough force. The skill he has shown in major competitions, including the U-17 World Championships, U-20 World Youth, and J-1 have earned him the admiration of local fans who call him "Fukushima's Treasure." After completing his contract with VISSEL KOBE, where he played for eight years, he transferred back to his hometown team Fukushima United FC in 2015 amid offers from various J1 and J2 teams. We asked Mogi, who has a strong commitment to winning as he boldly leads the young team in its aim for future J2 promotion, about his childhood and his role on the team.

② Fukushima United FC FW

Hiroto Mogi

Born in Fukushima City in 1984 he graduated from Seikogakuin High School. From U-15 through U-21 he was selected each year to play on the Japanese national team. In 2002 he began playing for Sanfrece Hiroshima.F.C. moving to VISSEL KOBE in 2006 and Fukushima United in 2015. He's a versatile player capable of playing forward and full back. He is also one of the founding members of the volunteer organization "The Tohokujin Spirit" established by Japanese professional soccer players with ties to the Tohoku region in May 2011.



③ The youngest of three very active brothers

Mogi, who has enjoyed being physically active since he was a child, was born as the youngest of three brothers. He talks about how the youth soccer team he played on with his older brothers was so much fun it brought him to where he is today. In high school he began to consider making soccer a career. "It was when J-League scouts and university soccer coaches began approaching me and I thought 'people are really paying attention to me.'"

The shocking realization of the gap in playing ability on the global level experienced in U-15

At the time, Mogi says he was struggling to improve his endurance, technique, and psychological state. "I was inspired in my first year in high school when I played U-15 and had the chance to see world-level soccer. I was stunned by the difference in ability. I was inferior in every aspect." Upon his return to Japan, he decided to start again from the basics, practicing twice as hard as everyone else.

After graduating from high school he entered the J-League with the desire to develop his skills as a soccer player even further. He took an active role playing defense with the advantage of his inherent athletic ability and intuitive offense. "I can still remember very clearly my debut match with Sanfrece Hiroshima.F.C. the 2006 match when VISSEL KOBE was promoted from J2 to J1, and the 2010 match when we won the right to remain in J1. We couldn't risk losing any of those matches."

Part of my role is to bring the hidden talents of Fukushima United to the surface.

Currently, Mogi is playing with Fukushima United (hereafter referred to as "Fukushima U") since his complete transfer in 2015. Turning down multiple other offers, he made the decision to transfer to his hometown soccer club entirely on his own without even consulting his family. "All I was thinking about was Fukushima on its way to recovery and Fukushima U striving for J2." Entering his second year and now accustomed to his new environment, Mogi is further improving his speed and breakthrough force, said to be among the best in the league. "Coach Kurihara and I worked together when I was at VISSEL KOBE. Last year I

played offense, but this year I think I'll be appearing on the defensive line again. Each position has its own role, so during games I focus only on fulfilling my given role."

Mogi also explains how uncovering the hidden potential within the young Fukushima U is also part of his role. "This year Fukushima U needs to try even harder to inspire those people who have come to cheer for us through our games. The best way to do that is to win." Mogi's style is to push steadily forward toward his goal once that goal has been defined. We're looking forward to games that will stir all of Fukushima into a frenzy of excitement.

P 6, 7 The Culture of Fukushima

① Experience the love and romance of Jomon period at "Jomopia"

Jomopia Miyahata historical ruins park (hereafter referred to as "Jomopia") will celebrate its first anniversary in August 2016. Since its doors opened last year, more than 50,000 guests have visited, reflecting on the gifts of nature the people of the Jomon period enjoyed through the replica exhibit and the various experiences offered. In this edition, we asked Akemi Terashima, who won the grand prize in the "Miyahata Mystery Competition," which sought novel and manga (comic) entries based on the theme "The Two Mysteries" left behind by the people of Miyahata Jomon, about the appeal of the Miyahata ruins.



② I wrote "Miyahata! Timeslip" for my son and for Fukushima

Akemi Terashima, who received the grand prize award in the "Miyahata Mystery Competition" for her novel, "Miyahata Timeslip," a work of science fiction that travels freely among the 23 centuries from the Jomon period to the present, is also the mother of a one-year old boy. When we asked Ms. Terashima, who wrote the entire novel during her maternity leave, her motivation behind entering, she replied: "I wanted to write it for my son, who was still inside of me at the time, as a present for him to read in the future." She also wanted to let as many people as possible know about Fukushima City through her writing.

Reflecting on 4000 years of Jomon mystery

Ms. Terashima created her story of two mysteries by first setting forth a theory and then unraveling the answer in her story. From the very beginning, she intended to make the first mystery, "the stilted buildings," an altar or place of prayer for the people of the Jomon era who felt life within the transience of nature and believed that all things were inhabited by a god. For the second "burned houses" mystery, she interweaved the Ainu ritual of sending off the dead with a home so that when someone died and went to heaven they would never be at a loss for a home. "As I researched, I could really empathize with the grave of the child discovered outside the stilted building. The mother was probably wishing her darling child would once again return to her womb, and therefore buried the child close to the family. Holding your children dear is a concept that I, alive today, can understand. The ruins also teach us the origin of these concepts."

Experience Jomon culture even more intimately in a hands-on program

Ms. Terashima says that the more she researched the Miyahata ruins, the more she was reminded that we have been cultivated by a truly long history.

If you want to experience more of the Jomon culture, she recommends taking part in one of the lectures, workshops, or various other hands-on programs offered. "When my son is a little older I want to come with him and let him experience a variety of the hands-on programs."

③ Mystery 1

The giant pillar with a 90 cm diameter

In an age when there were no machines, how and why was a building with 3-ton, 90cm-thick giant pillars built?

④ Mystery 2

47.82% of houses are burned

Among the 46 pit dwellings with flame-resistant earthen roofs, 22 were burned. Why were half the homes burned?

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① Summer Festival in Fukushima

② The 38th Annual Fukushima Fireworks Festival

③ The 47th Annual Fukushima Waraji Matsuri (Straw Sandal Festival)

④ Fukushima Tanabata Matsuri (Star Festival) and Flower Market

⑤ Fukushima Toro Nagashi (Release of Floating Lanterns)

⑥ The view from Surikamigawa Dam

Cover photo:

There is a paved path along the highest portion of the dam (levee crown) allowing a 360 degree panoramic view. On the dam's lake side (Lake Moniwakko) you can see the beautiful lake surface and a range of mountains; downstream from the dam, there are the Hirose Park and the village of Moniwa spreading before you, offering a truly superb view.

