

Steps Toward Reconstruction

Journalism School
2024, Team #6

Incorporated the efforts
of Reprun Fukushima
and the origin of its
logo into the title.

See, Touch and Learn Conveying Safety, Creating Peace of Mind

~Taking on the Challenge of Reprun Fukushima~

Reprun Fukushima, located in Tomioka Town, was opened on August 24, 2018, with the hope that “the people of Fukushima, as well as people throughout Japan and the world, will learn about the environmental regeneration and revitalization efforts in Fukushima” and “that local residents can live with peace of mind.” The facility allows visitors to “see, touch, and learn” about the disposal of radioactive contaminated waste that is being landfilled near Reprun.

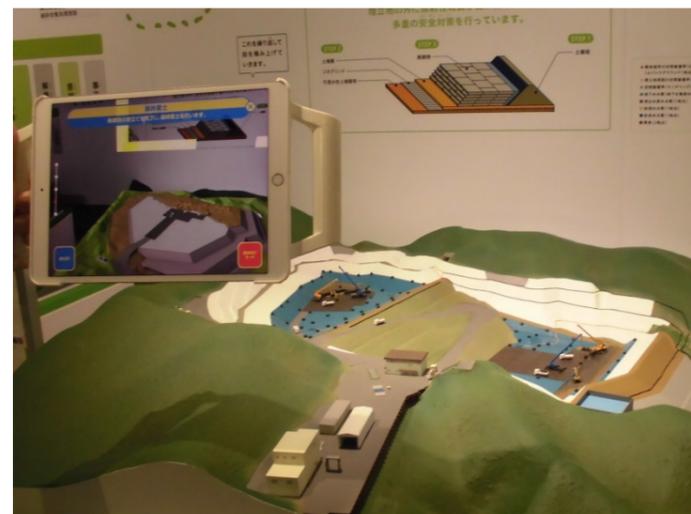
In Zone 1, named “Welcome,” visitors can learn about efforts toward safety and peace of mind while touring the exhibits. In Zone 2, named “How is it processed?,” the reasons for the removal of soil and waste, as well as the process of their treatment, are introduced.

In Zone 3, named “What is Landfill Disposal?,” visitors can learn about the process from transportation to burial, along with safety measures, through models and real objects. There is also an exhibit that uses AR (Augmented Reality), a digital technology that displays virtual objects and information in the real world to

make them appear as if they exist, allowing visitors to view the progress of waste burial at a specified waste landfill facility through a 3D model.

In Zone 4, named “For Safety,” efforts to ensure safety are introduced. Visitors can measure radiation levels using a survey meter (radiation detector). In Zone 5, named “The Future of the Community,” videos show-case efforts toward the revitalization of the neighboring areas.

In the outdoor monitoring field (Observation Plaza), visitors can experience measuring radiation levels using radiation detectors and conduct water quality tests



A model that allows you to view the landfill process using AR

using inspection kits. There are also nature workshops where visitors can learn about plants, as well as technical experience workshops where they can simulate landfill disposal techniques. Additionally, there are tours of the specified waste landfill site.

Thorough Environmental Consideration

The Specified Waste Landfill Project

As a result of the disaster, a large amount of waste was generated, some of which was contaminated with radioactive materials. In order to properly manage this waste, the Ministry of the Environment nationalized the former Fukushima Ecotec Clean Center in April 2016 and converted it into a specific waste landfill disposal facility. The transportation of waste to the facility began in November 2017.

At the disposal site, three types of waste are being put into landfills: 1) Waste from the disaster in areas with high radiation levels where evacuation orders were issued, as well as waste from residents' temporary return visits (waste from the management areas), 2) Waste such as incineration ash and sewage sludge generated within the prefecture that exceeds the national standard of 8,000 becquerels per kilogram (designated waste within Fukushima Prefecture), and 3) Waste generated in households after residents return and resume their lives (household waste from the 8 towns and villages in the Futaba County). The first two categories, “waste from the management areas” and “designated waste within Fukushima Prefecture,” are collectively referred to as “specified waste.”

“Household waste from the 8 towns and villages in the Futaba County” is temporarily being landfilled after the general waste landfill used before the disaster became unusable.

The “waste from the management areas” and “designated waste within Fukushima Prefecture” have been fully landfilled, and the “household waste from the 8 towns and villages in the Futaba County” is scheduled to be completely landfilled by 2027.

To prevent radioactive materials from escaping, waste incineration ash is solidified with cement, sealed within containers, and buried beneath a barrier to block water infiltration. Additionally, nine measures are in place, including constant monitoring of radiation levels and water leakage, to ensure there is no impact on the surrounding environment.



Mr. Izumida explains the waste being landfilled

The name “Reprun Fukushima” was chosen through a public contest from the residents of the prefecture. “Reprun” is a shortened form of “reproduce” (reconstruction), and the word “Reprun” was made more approachable by adding “ン”(n) in a way that resonates with younger people. The logo represents the “footprints” of progress toward reconstruction and the young sprouts symbolizing the beginning of environmental regeneration.



Mr. Komata gives the explanation

Apply the knowledge gained to Fukushima

I spoke with Tomoki Komata and Kenichi Izumida, both of whom are involved with Reprun Fukushima. The two came to Fukushima from outside the prefecture with the desire to use their knowledge of nuclear energy to contribute to the recovery efforts in Fukushima.

Many people feel anxiety and danger regarding radiation. They emphasized that instead of insisting on safety, it is important to present data and approach others with empathy.

When the facility first opened, there were many voices of anxiety and concern. However, now understanding has progressed, and more people are able to make judgments, saying “This is safe, this is not.”

MR. Komata and Mr. Izumida will continue to do what they can, without giving up, to make Fukushima a more livable place.

~Editor's Note~

I was deeply moved by the passionate commitment of Mr. Komata and Mr. Izumida from Reprun Fukushima toward the revitalization of Fukushima. It made me appreciate the efforts of those working for Fukushima, even in ways I am unaware of.

I began to think, “Is there something I can do?” Together with my friends from journalism school, we created a newspaper full of our thoughts, which I believe is a way to pay forward the kindness we have received.

“Thank you for your dedication to the revitalization of Fukushima.” I want to express my deep gratitude. And I will also contribute to Fukushima in my own way. (Mayu Suzuki, team leader)

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