

Sharing the Current Situation of Futaba County



Participants and alumni of the Journalism School with special guest lecturer Mr. Akira Ikegami (fifth from the left in the front row)

Elementary, Junior High, and High School Students Create a Newspaper

The “Journalism School,” a program where elementary to high school students in Fukushima Prefecture interview local people and write newspapers about the region 14 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake and TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, was held over four days — August 7, 10, 11, and 16, 2025 — in Futaba County and Koriyama City. A total of 39 participants, from fifth graders to second-year high school

Journalism School

August 7, 10, 11 & 16, 2025

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum
Koriyama Youth Center, Koriyama Citizens’ Exchange Plaza “Big Eye”

students, interviewed organizations and facilities involved in the region’s revitalization. They created newspapers that conveyed the progress and future of the affected areas, crafting their own articles, layouts, and headlines.

Reporting on Revitalization Efforts

The opening ceremony took place on August 7 at the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum in Futaba Town. Afterward, the students visited several sites, including the *Futaba Project* (Futaba Town), the *Interim Storage Facility Information Center* (Okuma Town), *JAEA ANALYSIS LAB.* (also in Okuma), the *Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field* (Namie Town), the *Historical Archive Museum of Tomioka* (Tomioka Town), and the *Tomioka Winery* (also in Tomioka). They toured the facilities, actively asked questions to staff, and took notes and photographs.

On August 10 and 11, the participants gathered at the Koriyama Youth Center to write their articles in teams. Under the leadership of high school team captains, they discussed and organized the layout and headlines.

Guidance was provided by Mr. Yoshiaki Takeuchi, Executive Committee Chair and teacher at Soma High School, who has long instructed school newspaper projects, along with reporters from The Fukushima Minpo and The Fukushima Minyu Shimibun, as well

as former participants of the Journalism School.

The presentation was held on August 16 at the Koriyama Citizens’ Exchange Plaza on the 7th floor of Big-i. The students presented the results of their reporting and their newspapers to the special guest lecturer journalist Mr. Akira Ikegami and others. They reflected, saying, “The actual facilities were very different from the image I had beforehand,” and “It was difficult deciding which parts of the information we gathered to include in the newspaper.” The master of ceremonies was Ms. Mayu Suzuki, an alumna of the program.

This was the 13th Journalism School, organized by Fukushima Prefecture’s “Fukushi-ma-no-manabi” committee, supported by the Koriyama City Board of Education, the Fukushima Prefectural Board of Education, the Prefectural Elementary and Junior High School Principals’ Associations, and the Prefectural PTA Federation, and with special cooperation from The Fukushima Minpo and The Fukushima Minyu Shimibun.

Special Lecturer: Mr. Akira Ikegami “Spreading the message widely to other prefectures and overseas.”



Mr. Akira Ikegami answering students’ questions and sharing his thoughts on the mindset of a journalist

Special guest lecturer Mr. Akira Ikegami gave comments on the newspapers and presentations produced by the six groups during the final day’s presentation session. Before the presentations, there was also a social gathering where he had lunch and talked with the participants. In his individual feedback, he asked the young reporters questions about the wording and meaning of their articles. He offered advice such as, “Why not include the parts you talked about orally in your newspaper?” and “Even if you understand something yourself, the readers might not. It’s important to write down even the basic information in your article.”

In his overall remarks, he praised the students, saying, “Not only were the newspapers well made, but the presentations that reflected your experiences and impressions were very engaging.” He encouraged them, adding, “Treasure the new insights you’ve gained from this experience,” and “Share what Fukushima is like today with people outside the prefecture and overseas.”

Drawing on his own experiences as a journalist—even now at the age of 75, after working as a reporter for NHK—Mr. Ikegami shared his thoughts with the participants. He said, “In terms of education, daily life, and safety, Japanese children are among the most fortunate in the world. What seems ordinary to us is not necessarily ordinary elsewhere. I want you to understand how vast and diverse the world truly is.”

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