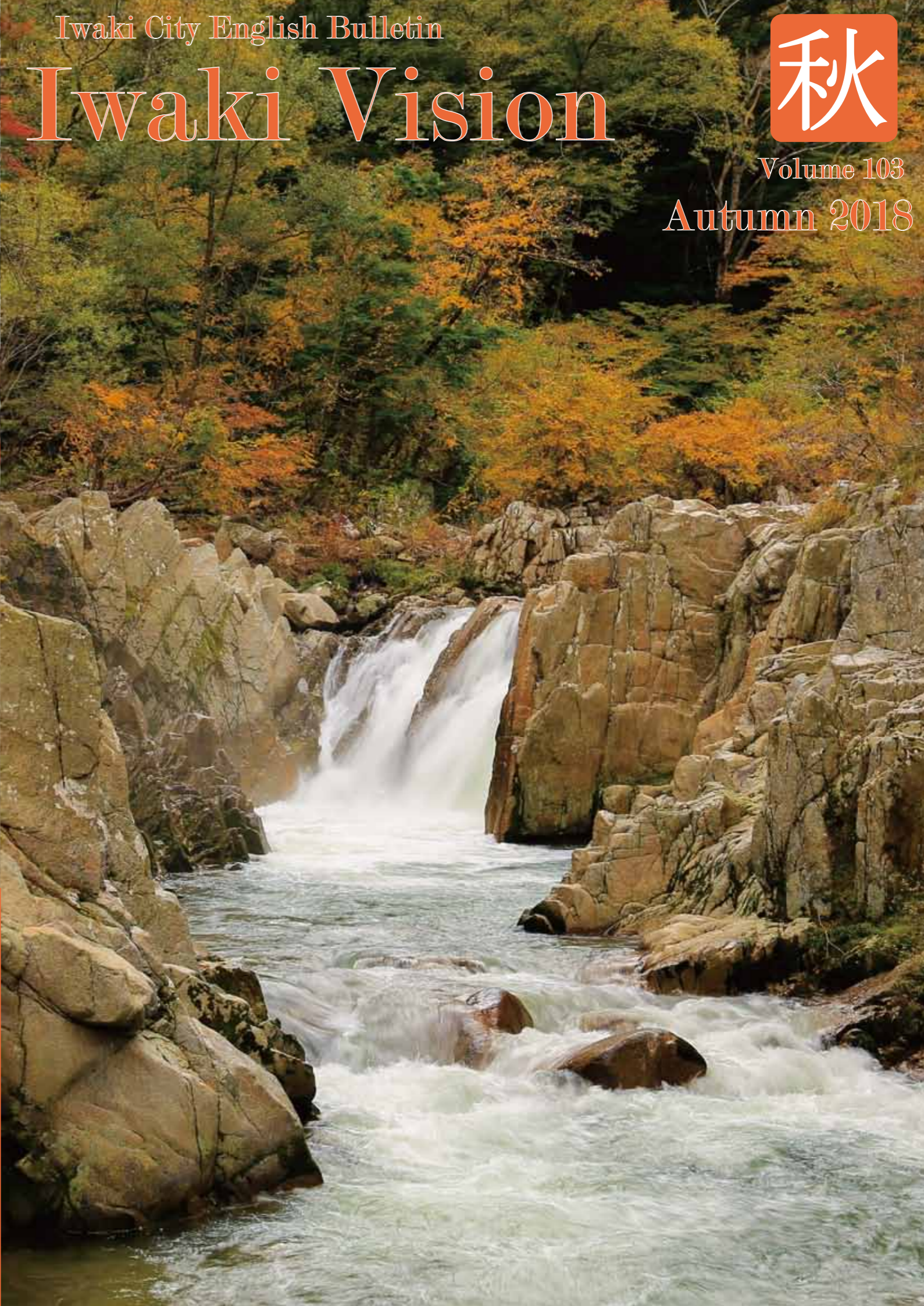
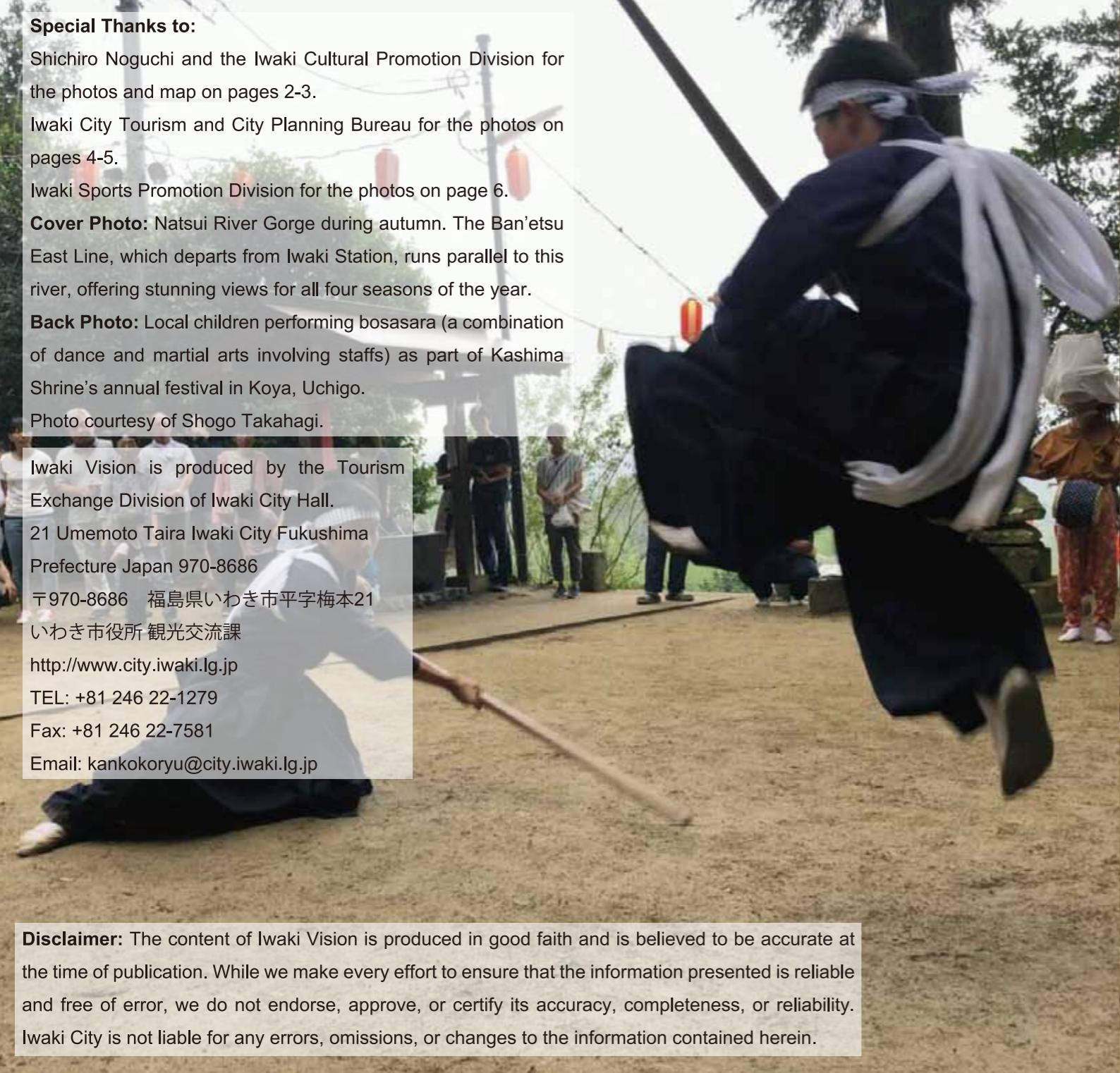


Iwaki Vision



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Cover Photo: Natsui River Gorge during autumn. The Ban'etsu East Line, which departs from Iwaki Station, runs parallel to this river, offering stunning views for all four seasons of the year.

Back Photo: Local children performing bosasara (a combination of dance and martial arts involving staffs) as part of Kashima Shrine's annual festival in Koya, Uchigo.

Photo courtesy of Shogo Takahagi.

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Study Tour of Iwaki and Futaba Region

Long-term residents of Iwaki will likely be aware of the rapid progress of reconstruction that has been taking place within Iwaki and the municipalities of the Futaba Region that surround the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant. However, there is still some progress to be made in regards to countering rumours and misinformation. That is why regular study tours are important as it allows people from outside of the prefecture to be informed about the real situation in Fukushima, including the decontamination process and efforts to revitalise local agricultural and fishing industries.

For one of the recent study tours on 13 October, volunteers from the Iwaki International Association (IIA) provided English interpreting for a number of foreign residents of Iwaki who took part in the tour. The participants visited facilities such as Reprun Fukushima, where visitors are informed about the interim storage of soil removed from decontamination works, the recently reopened J-Village sports training facility, and Hisanohama, the northernmost district of Iwaki that was briefly evacuated in the first few months after the nuclear disaster.



The study tour participants listening to a local guide at Hisanohama Fishing Port

The tour provided participants with a valuable opportunity to increase their awareness about how much progress has been made in the decontamination process and the overall safety of Iwaki and the majority of the prefecture. That is why it is hoped that more foreigners will join in future tours and help in spreading a more accurate image of Iwaki and Fukushima.