

# Supporting Samoa after the Training Camp

The people of Iwaki showed their support for Samoa over the course of the 2019 Rugby World Cup tournament. On 24 September, a bus tour was organised for 50 Iwaki residents to travel down to Kumagaya Stadium and cheer for Samoa during their opening match against Russia. In addition, Iwaki held a live public screening of Samoa's match against Japan on 5 October.



Iwaki residents cheering for Samoa during their match against Russia at Kumagaya Stadium



Public viewing of the Samoa vs. Japan match inside AEON Mall Iwaki-Onahama

Although they unfortunately bowed out of the pool stage of the tournament, Manu Samoa displayed a great level of performance in the tournament, which Iwaki residents were able to see first-hand in their victory against Russia and their incredible match against Japan.

# Iwaki High School Students' Samoa Visit

In the lead up to the Manu Samoa preliminary training camp, four students from Yumoto High School (Natsuki and Asuna from the calligraphy club and Yuka and Nagisa from the choir club respectively), accompanied by their teacher, visited Samoa from 5-9 August to take part in a cultural exchange program. During their four night stay, the students visited Avele College, Samoan Cultural Village and areas of the coast that were devastated by a tsunami in 2009. The students also stayed two nights with a Samoan family.



One of the students tries out a traditional Samoan dance



The choir club students, Yuka (left) and Nagisa (right), wearing traditional lavalava with their Samoan host family



The calligraphy club students conduct a special performance for the students of Avele College



The calligraphy club students, Natsuki (left) and Asuna (right), interacting with their peers at Avele College

The students were not only able to introduce Iwaki and share some aspects of Japanese culture with the local high school students and their host families, but also gained a first-hand experience of Samoan culture. Although quite reserved and shy at first, the students gradually opened up to the locals and gained more confidence – especially in communicating in English – as a result of this exchange program.