

Iwaki's Sports Exchanges

Sports Exchange with German Youth in Iwaki (30 Jul – 3 Aug)

As part of the Japan Sport Association's exchange program with Germany, eight young members of the Bavarian Sports Youth (BSJ) in the Bavarian Sports Confederation (BLSV), visited Iwaki and spent four nights with a local host family. This program was held in Iwaki for the first time in four years. The visitors took part in indoor sports activities and games with students from Shuei High School after which they held group discussions with them about inclusion in sports. Not only did the BSJ members experience Japanese culture during their time in Iwaki, but they also performed a traditional Bavarian dance for their hosts at the farewell party.

A dodge Frisbee match played between the BSJ members and students from Shuei High School



Group discussions regarding the concept of inclusion in sport in Japan and Germany at Shuei High School



The German visitors performing a Bavarian folk dance at the farewell party



The last few issues of Iwaki Vision have covered some of the programs Iwaki has conducted with Samoa as part of the Host Town initiative. However, Iwaki has also been involved in other sports exchanges with countries apart from Samoa. Two of the main exchanges are introduced in this edition.

Goodwill Baseball Match in Kauai (21-26 Aug)

Iwaki has already conducted several programs with its newest sister city in Hawaii. In July last year, the Kauai Yankees baseball team came to Iwaki for a goodwill match with Iwaki Little League; and in February this year, the Iwaki FC football team visited Kauai to coincide with their participation in the Pacific Rim Cup which was held in Honolulu. This year, Iwaki sent five members of their little league baseball team to Kauai to play a friendly match with their Kauai counterparts. In addition to the match, the children also met the mayor of Kauai, visited a local primary school and experienced a homestay with family members of the Kauai Yankees.

The Iwaki Little League players with their coach in front of the buoy that was swept away by the tsunami and managed to travel all the way from Onahama to Kauai



The Iwaki and Kauai little league baseball players enjoying a Hawaiian-style barbecue



An Iwaki Little League player batters up for a pitch from the Kauai Yankees during their friendly match

