

THE KITAKAMI TIMES

Iwate, the International Linear Collider, and You

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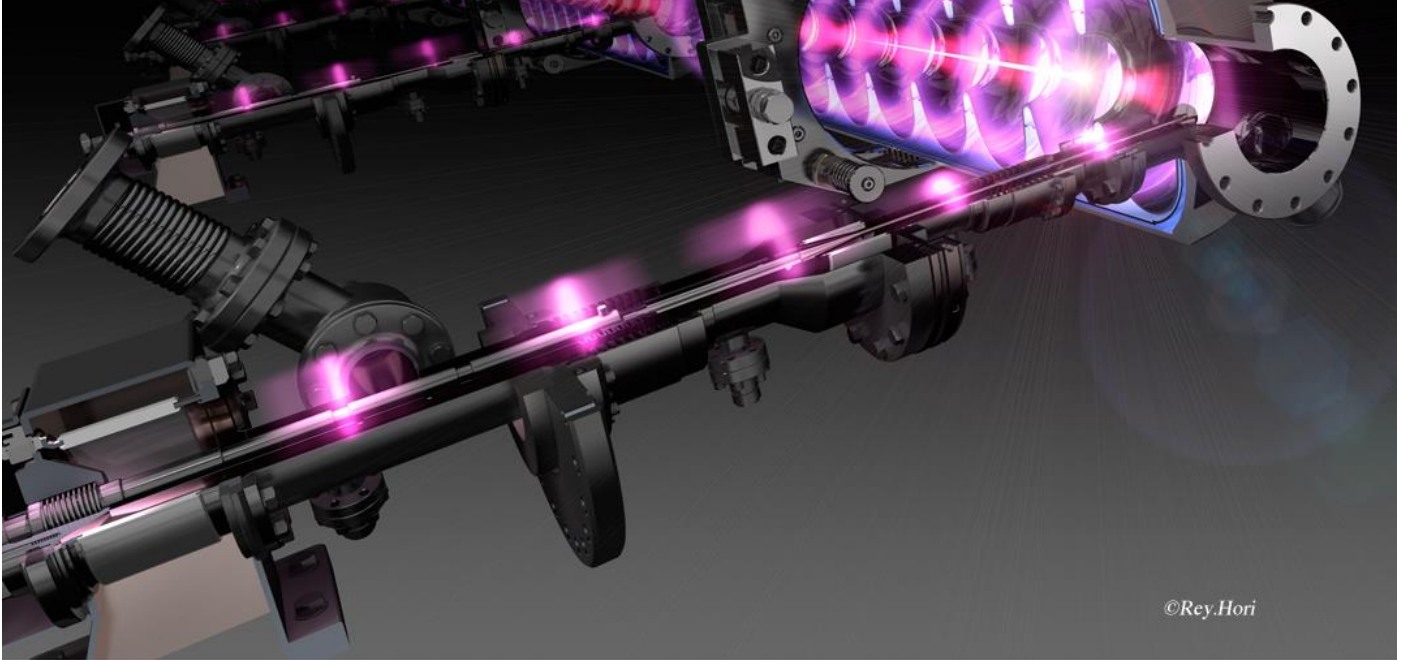
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Ichinoseki City International
Coordinator Nathan Hill shows off ILC
posters created by school children

IWATE PREFECTURE

Reaching out to the community - Atsuto Suzuki and the ILC Caravan

By Amanda Wayama



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Say you're just a normal person in Iwate. You've got a day job, you've got obligations, and you're busy balancing work, life, family, and friends. But lately, you've noticed all of these signs for something called the "ILC." Everyone seems to be fired up about this thing – this International Linear Collider. You've heard about it a few times on the news, but you're frustrated that nobody takes the time to explain it. Even when they do – an "accelerator" that "collides elementary particles" – your only answer is,

"... Ok, but what does that have to do with me?"

Welcome to the challenge of ILC outreach – and every kind of science outreach. It's easy to stand up in front of a group, use a Powerpoint and explain technical details. It's a lot harder to get residents of the local area excited and, even more important, **get involved** with the project. Dr. Atsuto Suzuki, the new president of Iwate Prefectural University and former director general of KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization in Tsukuba), envisions the ILC as a project that lasts for a century or more, but that can only happen if the local residents take on the project as their own.

According to Dr. Suzuki, there are three main parties involved with bringing about the ILC: Scientists,

government, and local people. Progress is happening with the first two, but the local people of Iwate and Japan remain at arm's length. Awareness of the project is high; local newspapers such as the Iwate Nippo, Iwate Nichinichi, and Tanko Nichinichi report about the ILC almost daily. However, most people aren't really sure how it will affect them.

How, then, do we get them involved? Dr. Suzuki's dream is to create an "ILC Caravan" – a team that travels around the prefecture to encourage dialog between normal people and ILC officials. "We don't want to stand in front of everyone and give a lecture. We want to get into small groups so we can debate plans for the ILC and related community development."

Part of that means reaching out to foreign residents. Those who have lived here for years are in



Dr. Atsuto Suzuki



↑ ISC Member Mark
Mino-Thompson chats
with festival-goers
→
An informational
booth on the ILC at a
local festival



the best position to help other foreign residents get acclimated to the rural nature of Iwate. For the past two years, the ILC Support Committee has worked with a focus on southern Iwate to bring awareness to the challenges facing foreign residents, as well as lend their expertise and advice to local governments. Recently they set up a booth at a local fair to talk about the ILC while cooking up some delicious Filipino food and “Linear Co-weiners” (with two different sauces colliding in the middle!). Chairman Bill Lewis definitely sees a need to reach out to the local community, and is planning for more such events in the future.

Dr. Suzuki has also mentioned a desire to team up with the ILC Support Committee to reach out to both Japanese and other foreign residents. “It’s not good to work separately.” The ILC will be a huge project requiring cooperation among local and national government, private businesses, local citizens, and the international community. The ILC is still a ways off, but we have to start teaming up now in order to bring the project to fruition.

Speaking on a personal level, I once had the opportunity to speak about the ILC with a small group of elementary school students. It was the middle of summer break and I only had around 5 students in the class, but that led to an intimate conversation about the ILC and the students’ visions of the future. After a short lecture – which was a pretty monumental task, seeing as I had to do it in Japanese, yikes! – I asked the students to draw their ideas of what the ILC would look like, and how it would change Iwate. Among their visions of the future

were ideas for smoothing communication between Japanese and foreign residents (translator devices ala Star Trek, here we come!). Even young children have ideas about how to make a better community for all of us, and keeping the event small allowed them to feel comfortable giving their opinion.

On that note, thank you for joining us at The Kitakami Times. This will be our theme: outreach about the International Linear Collider. Outreach to the scientific community abroad, to foreign residents, and to the entire world. We’d be honored if you took the journey with us.

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Iwate Prefecture (English)

[Iwate Prefecture’s Facebook](#)

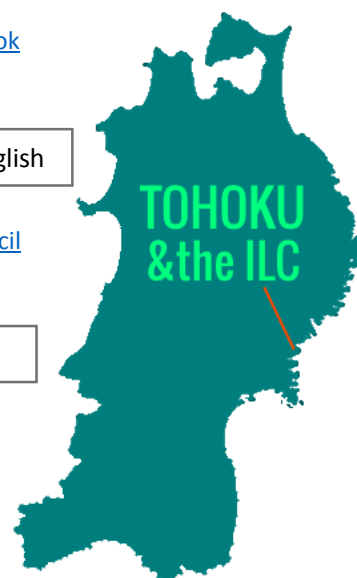
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Rock on Iwate PR in English

[Iwate ILC Promotion Council](#)

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ILC Iwate Council



A photograph showing a man in a light blue shirt and glasses hanging a bell from a green metal structure at Mizusawa Station. The structure is covered with green vines and many colorful paper tags (blue, pink, white) are hanging from it. Another person is visible in the background. The scene is outdoors, with a train and station platform visible in the background.

Staff from the Oshu City ILC Promotion Office hang up cast-iron bells at Mizusawa Station

OSHU CITY

Mission: ILC BELLS

By Anna Thomas

Greetings from Oshu City! You may remember that Oshu City is the northernmost city with the ILC candidate site running through it. (From north to south, we are Oshu, Ichinoseki, and Kesenuma.) I'm looking forward to giving you the monthly scoop on local ILC happenings along with our neighbors to the south!

Recently we've had a lot of ILC news centered on local Mizusawa station. First off are the bells. Every summer, Oshu puts up 1,000 Nanbu cast-iron bells at Mizusawa Station, as well as 500 at the Mizusawa-Esashi bullet train station, and more at city hall. This tradition has gone on for over 40 years. According to locals, the jingling of the bells is supposed to make you feel cool. Hmm. There's only so much the bells can do above 30°, but they are very pretty.

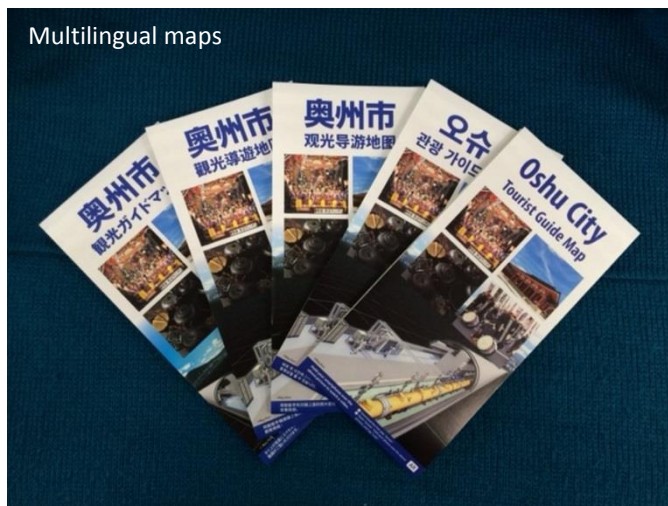
At the Oshu ILC Promotion Division, we decided to use some of the bells to raise awareness of the ILC. First, we printed tags for the bells adapted from messages from ILC-themed “karuta” cards made by KEK. Then, on July 9th, we embarked on Mission: ILC Bells, braving the heat, the pain of craned necks, and the difficulty of choosing the perfect color tag for each bell.

The next big event was the opening of the renewed tourist information area at Mizusawa Station, located to the left of the ticket gate. Thanks to the Oshu City and Oshu Sightseeing and Products Association, this spots has free WiFi service. Often “free WiFi” in Japan means only for a certain cell phone provider, or with a really awkward signing up procedure, but I checked it personally. Look at the English explanation panels on the right wall and follow the instructions. Just join the network, put in the password provided, and go!

On the left side, you can find tourist maps, including English maps. Actually, these English maps were made by my division! Besides English, we printed maps in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. They serve two main purposes: one, to provide information about tourism in Oshu, and two, introduce Oshu as part of the ILC candidate site. There's a medium-size map showing the candidate site for the ILC, and a short article summarizing the ILC project. We gathered sample maps from the US and Europe to make sure our maps were clear and easy to understand as well as easy on the eyes. These maps are or will be available in places besides Mizusawa Station such as City Hall, local hotels, and more. We printed out lots and want you to use them! Please take one, or five.

At first I was worried about the bells and the maps: what if no one noticed? What if our maps collected dust, sad and lonely? Fortunately, I commute to work through Mizusawa Station and I know for a fact that people are noticing. So far, I've seen three people looking through the new maps, and barely managed to repress the urge to take photos of them. Not only that, but when I was waiting for the train last week, a man with a suitcase noticed the bells and started to explain the ILC to his coworkers. Naturally, it wasn't a detailed textbook explanation, more like "there's a scientific dealie that might come here and it's a big deal," but of course any awareness counts as success.

So the news from Oshu City is that, little by little, we're making progress, building awareness of the ILC and making our city even more of a convenient place to visit! Please drop me a line if you're passing by.



Multilingual maps

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[Oshu City ILC Promotion Division Homepage](#)

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Oshu City ILC

[Oshu City's ILC Facebook](#)

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Oshu ILC Promotion Division

The new multilingual space (with free WiFi) at Mizusawa Station



ICHINOSEKI CITY

Ichinoseki's Science Cafés

By Nathan Hill



A reporter from the Iwate Nippo interviewing two students

Hi there! Nathan Hill from Australia here. I've been working as the Internationalization Coordinator for Ichinoseki City since April, as part of the city's ILC Promotion Division. I'm looking forward to sharing with you some of what Ichinoseki is doing to bring the ILC to fruition. In this first piece, I'm going to talk about the "Ichinoseki Science Cafés."

The "Ichinoseki Science Cafés" are a series of casual ILC seminars presented by researchers. Hosted by Ichinoseki City and its Board of Education, they began last year and are held four times a year at the city library.



Ms. Yuki Akimoto with a few of the students

Last fiscal year (April to March in Japan), they were presented by Ms. Rika Takahashi, Communicator at KEK's Planning Office for the ILC; Associate Professor Tomoyuki Sanuki of the Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science at Tohoku University; Mr. Takuya Uruno of Uruno Creative Office; and Dr. Masakazu Yoshioka, Visiting Professor at Tohoku University and Iwate University and Professor Emeritus at KEK.

The first session for 2015 was held recently on August 2nd, and was presented by Ms. Yuki Akimoto, Research Fellow at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Science. Titled "Elementary particles and the universe seen through the ILC," Ms. Akimoto spoke about particle science and the significance of the ILC in front of some 20 people, including elementary, junior high and high school students.

A news article about the seminar was on the front page the next day of one of the leading papers in Iwate Prefecture, the "Iwate Nichinichi," and an article was also in the prefecture's biggest newspaper, the "Iwate Nippo". Staff from Ichinoseki's local cable TV network

ICN were also at the seminar, as was a writer from the city's Public Relations and Communications Division.

Flyers for the seminars have been sent to all schools in the city, and there is also notice of them in a publication which is sent to all schools. The first issue of this new monthly publication, issued by the Board of Education, features introductions of the Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) who teach English at the city's schools, and can be seen [here](#).

Posters of the seminars are also around town in various places, including convenience stores, the city gym, the tourist information office outside the main train station and so on, all of which are helping out with spreading the word about the seminars and raising the profile of the ILC generally.

The second, third and fourth Science Cafes for fiscal 2015 will be held as follows:

Saturday, September 12th

Using the ILC to unravel the mysteries of the beginning of the universe

Speaker: Associate Professor Junpei Fujimoto, Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies at KEK

Sunday, November 15th

The ILC and the Kitakami Site

Speaker: Associate Professor Tomoyuki Sanuki, Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

Saturday, January 16th

Town Planning and the ILC

Speaker: Ms. Tokiko Onuki, Campus Designer, Campus Planning Office, Tohoku University

Below is Ichinoseki's ILC website. In addition to general information about the ILC, there are mini-English lessons for Japanese residents based on ILC topics and everyday situations, and photos of the city's international residents enjoying various festivals and other events in the city.

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[Ichinoseki City's ILC Promotion Division](#)

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Ichinoseki City ILC News Web

[Ichinoseki City's ILC Facebook](#)

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Ichinoseki and the ILC



Science Café flyers



A poster in the window of a convenience store



Article about the café in the Iwate Nichinichi



People attending Ms. Akimoto's talk

From left to right: Kenneth Davis, Assemblyman Hiroshi Gokon, Governor Takuya Tasso, Dean Ruetzler, Governor staff, Chiharu Watanabe, Vice-chair Perly Endo, Chairman Bill Lewis, Peggy Ishikawa-Belle, (not pictured) Daigo Fujinami

ILC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The ILC Support Committee's Meeting with the Governor of Iwate

By Dean Ruetzler

On the evening of July 18th, 2015 the ILC Support Committee convened for an impromptu gathering to meet and discuss issues with the prefectural Governor of Iwate the honorable Gov. Takuya Tasso, and Oshu City's representative in the Prefectural Assembly, Assemblyman Hiroshi Gokon.

Neither of those esteemed gentleman is a complete stranger to the committee. Assemblyman Gokon is probably our largest political benefactor, and we have met with him on repeated occasions, both formally and informally. Additionally, the Committee met with the governor in 2013 to submit a list of suggestions on "internationalizing" Iwate.

That meeting with the governor was a great photo opportunity and put our Committee on the map, but was too short to really discuss our suggestions with Governor Tasso. So when some time cleared up on the calendar of his visit to Oshu, we jumped at the opportunity to hash over some of those points in depth.

Even if we had three hours with the governor we would not have been able to fully cover what needs to be expressed about our lives as foreigners here. With a little over a half hour, we knew we had to hustle to hit upon the main points. First and foremost, we decided that addressing English education was of paramount

importance and would tie into many other ILC challenges. The governor seemed most interested in the declining birthrate in Japan, and the concurrent population migration away from rural areas and towards more urban settings and jobs. We tried to emphasize that "internationalizing" Iwate in preparation for the ILC will create a younger generation that will be better able to cope with the presence of an influx of resident foreigners, both in employment and societal settings.

We also read him a letter from Oshu City ILC Internationalization Coordinator Anna Thomas, who was not able to attend due to prior commitments. Her suggestions were succinct, to the point, and should be easily put into action. They are as follows:

- 1) Raise awareness of the recently enacted multilingual call center for stores and tourist facilities. It exists, but needs much more publicity.
- 2) Bus and train companies should have the names of stations, stops, etc. in Roman letters, with perhaps some prefectural financial support for this undertaking.
- 3) Encourage municipalities to hand out multilingual information sheets to new residents instructing them where they can get information and help.

These suggestions were well-received by both the committee and the politicians present.

Of course, conscientious advising about life in Japan as a foreign resident will have to include bringing up topics that are somewhat unpleasant. We brought up two points:

First, there was a report of a hotel in southern Iwate that refused foreign customers citing “inability to communicate in Japanese” as the reason. Refusing foreigners is a rare occurrence among Iwate businesses, but this does highlight the need to develop more comprehensive communication strategies. Communication is a two-way street; ideally, tourism facilities would be able to use simple English, Chinese, and Korean with their customers, and resident foreigners would be able to use Japanese to live their daily lives. Language classes and seminars for both sides do exist, but need to be grown in scale.

Another issue is the subject of the occasional police stop of foreign residents for I.D. verification purposes, which can be quite a stressful event. Recently a practicing Muslim member of the committee was stopped and questioned. The police do have a job to do, but additional training is necessary to communicate with foreign residents. As Iwate is preparing to triple its foreign population, these types of incidents must be made known to those in charge. The good news was that the governor and assemblyman seemed to take this information well and responded in kind as best they could.

All in all, the meeting seemed to go well. We really didn't know what to expect, but looking at the big picture, I think it was productive for both the politicians and the committee. They now have some concrete suggestions about where to put their efforts, and we have strengthened our ties with the prefecture. We made it clear to the governor that we are here and willing to take part in the construction of Iwate's future in any way. Assemblyman Gokon seemed genuinely pleased by how the meeting went.

What happens next? One possibility that was discussed after the meeting was the committee leading a large-scale ILC informational symposium for resident foreigners, which seems like a good place to start.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISC

[The ILC Support Committee Facebook](#)

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The ILC Support Committee

The ILC Support Committee is a group of volunteer foreign residents who are helping local governments create a more international Tohoku.

Chairman Bill Lewis **Vice-chair** Perly Endo

Supported by The Oshu International Relations Association



The author with the Governor



IN THE NEWS

July
2nd

[Various Thoughts on MEXT ILC Panel of Experts Suggestions](#)

Tanko Nichinichi: Related parties are regarding the suggestions given by the ILC panel of experts to MEXT on June 25th in various ways.

July
6th

[An ILC City: 30 City Residents Exchange Opinions \(Mizusawa\)](#)

Tanko Nichinichi: A town planning workshop held by Oshu City was held in the auditorium of Mizusawa Minami Community Center on July 5th to gather opinions about issues like promoting industry and living with international residents.

July
26th

[Towards Hosting the ILC: Mayors of Five Towns and Cities Discuss Future Vision at Mizusawa, Oshu Symposium](#)

Iwate Nippo: A symposium on bringing the ILC to Japan hosted by Iwate ILC Accelerator Science Promotion Council, was held on July 25th at Z Hall in Mizusawa, Oshu City for around 400 participants.

August
6th

[Japan's expert panel for the ILC has published its summary report](#)

LC Newline: Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has released on 5 August its summary report of the discussions by the expert panel (ILC Advisory Panel) to investigate various issues regarding the ILC.

August
28th

[Approx. 1 trillion yen set aside for ILC costs in MEXT's FY2016 budget proposal](#)

Iwate Nippo: The MEXT 2016 fiscal year proposed budget estimate is moving forward to set aside approximately 1 trillion yen for ILC-related costs, according to sources on August 25th.

CONTRIBUTORS



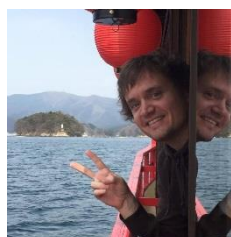
Amanda Wayama, International Communications Officer, Iwate Prefecture

In Iwate since 2009, Amanda is just about used to the cold Iwate winters. She likes spending her free time knitting (again, cold winters) and sampling craft beer from the region.



Anna Thomas, ILC Internationalization Coordinator, Oshu City

Anna's been in Iwate since May 2010. Here are some of the things she enjoys about life here: squeaky snow during snowshoe walks, weird antisocial squirrels with long ears, the singing baked yam truck, local superheroes, affordable national health care, tip-free excellent customer service, and an environment so safe people leave the keys in their cars. Also sake.



Nathan Hill, ILC Internationalization Coordinator, Ichinoseki City

Nathan has lived in Ichinoseki since 2013, working for two years as an English teacher before beginning work in the city's ILC Promotion Division in 2015. From Perth in Western Australia, where he worked at the Consulate-General of Japan, he likes early morning jogs through the countryside, photography, the shinkansen and other trains.



Dean Ruetzler, ILC Support Committee, Morioka City

Dean is an English teacher and aspiring pundit. When in his element, he will be active and can be found skiing, sumo wrestling, and playing cricket on occasion.

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with Oshu City, Ichinoseki City, and the ILC Support Committee

We're working on a web version of the Kitakami Times that should be up shortly. Our next issue is scheduled for October.

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions!