

November 28th 2014

Dear Travelers, Travel and Tourism Agencies who organized plans to visit Hakuba in 2014 and 2015,

First of all, on behalf of all the residents of Hakuba Village, I sincerely thank you all for your heartfelt words of comfort and support.

The earthquake known as "Nagano-ken Kamishiro Fault Quake", hit at approximately 10:08 p.m. on 22nd November 2014, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2.

Since the incidence, we have received many inquiries about damage caused by the quake from people who had planned or are planning to visit this winter season.

In Hakuba, damages were limited to the East side of Hakuba Station in the village which is located on the opposing side of the mountains and its five ski resorts. Part of the East side area was severely damaged with many collapsed houses, cracked roads and some residents have suffered serious and minor injuries. Fortunately, no lives have been lost. Those without homes have been temporarily set up by currently vacant hotels as well as Hakuba Village Town Hall.

All ski areas have checked their facilities including the pylons and emergency brakes in case any equipment sustained damage in the quake. Resort Staff began examining the lifts since Sunday, a day after the tremor struck, and judged them safe to operate. The Hakuba Village authority confirmed the safety of facilities in all five ski resorts in the village. The numbers of aftershocks are much less day by day as people begin slowly but surely returning to regular life in what for some may seem a chaotic period. With the snow season fast approaching the local support groups and government aids have and continue to make enormous efforts to clean up and repair damaged areas as effectively as possible.

The Village Government of Hakuba will continue to investigate and report news for everyone's safety. Unfortunately untruthful reports, rumors and media hysteria we feel has created a negative impression for the entire village, ski resorts and facilities.

We are positive in our outlook, with the coming snowfall to open up our resorts this week for skiing, snowboarding and sightseeing. As always our open hearts welcome you all and we hope your continued support in this difficult time will not perish nor burden the image of Hakuba regarding your visit this winter season.

Yours Sincerely


Mayor Masatake Shimokawa