



新緑がまぶしい季節がやってきましたね。

今月、21日早朝、日本の広範囲にわたって金環日食が観測されました。日本の広範囲で同日食が観測されるのは、なんと932年ぶりとのこと。この日は、日本中が日食に湧きました。石川県内では残念ながら、金環とはなりませんでしたが、約9割が欠ける部分日食が観測され、晴天も相まって、多くの人がこの天体ショーを楽しみました。

また22日からは、谷本知事を団長とした県訪問団が欧州を訪れました。訪問先の一つであるオランダでは、4月から石川動物園で人気者となっているコヒトカバの提供先の動物園を訪問しました。同国アムステルダム市では、「いしかわ観光のつどい」を開催し、現地の旅行関係者や石川県ゆかりの方々に観光親善大使を委嘱するなど、震災で落ち込んだ欧州からの集客回復に向け様々な活動を展開しました。

石川県からのお知らせをお読みのみなさまにも、これまでも、さまざまな形で石川県に貢献いただいておりますが、引き続き本県のPRにご協力いただきますようお願いいたします。

The green season has arrived in Ishikawa once again.

On the morning of May 21 people all over Japan were treated to an annular solar eclipse. Since this was the first time in 932 years that such an eclipse could be observed over such a wide stretch of Japan, the natural phenomenon brought about a great deal of excitement throughout the country. While a perfect annular eclipse and its "ring of fire" were not observable from Ishikawa, thanks to the clear weather residents were able to watch as 90% of the sun's light was blotted out by the moon.

On May 22, Ishikawa Governor Masanori Tanimoto traveled to Europe. Among his stops was the Netherlands' Zoo Parc Overloon, which has provided Ishikawa Zoo with one of its main attractions, a pygmy hippopotamus. In Amsterdam, Netherlands, an event was held to promote Ishikawa tourism, which has seen a sharp decline since last year's Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Festivities included recruitment of Tourism Goodwill Ambassadors to assist with Ishikawa promotional events abroad.

Ishikawa Prefecture would like to thank all of you for your many contributions to Ishikawa Prefecture thus far. We would also like to thank you for your interest in the happenings of Ishikawa Prefecture and we sincerely hope that you will continue to support the prefecture and lend us your assistance in promoting Ishikawa.

Recent News

- (1) Employees at the Prefectural Office showed up to their workplaces with no neckties as Ishikawa's "Cool Biz" campaign kicked off two weeks earlier than last year. As part of measures to conserve energy, air conditioning will be set to 28 degrees Celsius and will only be used on days where the temperature reaches that threshold. Cool Biz this year will run from May until September.
- (2) With clear skies above, Ishikawa residents took to the streets to observe the annular solar eclipse on May 21. Numerous policemen were dispatched to help maintain order while many schools altered class schedules to allow for viewing of the natural phenomenon. Shiho Fijitani from Yayoi Elementary School said that she thought the sun resembled a croissant and is looking forward to seeing Japan's next total solar eclipse in 2035.
- (3) Kanazawa's Umi Mirai Library was included in the Internet service site "Flavorpill's" list of the world's 25 most beautiful libraries. Also among the top 25 were the 640-year-old National Library of France and Egypt's Library of Alexandria, which was restored after 1500 years. Distinguishing features of the Umi Mirai Library include the roughly 6000 small windows allowing for natural light to flow into the building and its open space connecting the second and third floors.

- (4) A delegation of representatives from the Chubu Hokuriku region and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport traveled to Beijing on May 6 to conduct a series of tourist attraction events. Promoting this year's "Rising Dragon Tourism Course", they advertised travel destinations such as the Noto Peninsula. The delegation also visited Tientsin and Guangzhou before returning to Japan on May 10.
- (5) More than 100 people gathered at the Japanese Culture Hall in Rome, Italy to watch the film "Bushino Kakeibo" featuring scenery from Ishikawa. Governor Tanimoto, who was also in attendance, encouraged the crowd to come and visit the prefecture in person. Audience members were left impressed by the beauty of the castles and kimonos and were moved by the Japanese family relationships depicted in the film.

※次回は6月末にお届けする予定です。
* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of June.

詳しい情報のアクセス先 For more information, please access the following links:

- (1) 財団法人石川県国際交流協会 IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange) <http://www.ifie.or.jp/index.php>
- (2) ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>
- (3) 石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website <http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>
- (4) 首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/>

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