

IFERC Newsletter

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International Fusion Energy Research Centre, Rokkasho, Aomori 039-3212, Japan

PT member

Life in Rokkasho-village for five years and five months

I left IFERC this March and returned to the company in Kawasaki near Tokyo which I work for. I was able to have a completely different experience, leaving such a big city in November 2010 and living in Rokkasho up to March 2016. So, I would like to share some of my experiences with you.

1. Blizzard

In winter, blizzard is one of noted features of Rokkasho. When I was driving my car, blizzard completely blocked my sight several times. Cars are buried in snow overnight as shown in the following photograph. However, the blizzard has an advantage: we can concentrate on work since we cannot go anywhere in winter.



2. Great East Japan Earthquake

When the earthquake hit, I was on the Tohoku Shinkansen. After the earthquake, the train made an urgent stop in a tunnel and I was confined for 20 hours in the train. I was afraid that the tunnel might be crashed by the subsequent earthquake. Fortunately, I was able to safely return to Rokkasho after getting off the train. I will never forget this disaster.

3. Fishing paradise

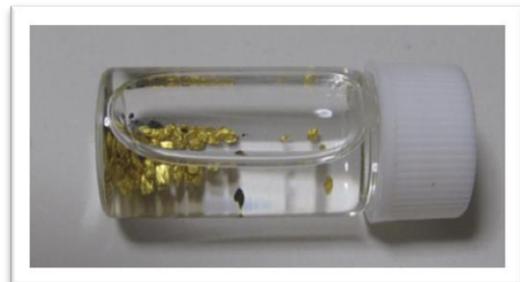
Fishing is one of my hobbies since 1998 and I mainly do fishing by throwing a lure from a shore. The sea around Rokkasho is a paradise for anglers. As shown in the next photograph, I caught a yellowtail 55cm long at the Mutsu-Ogawara port in Rokkasho. We can catch various kinds of fish throughout the year in this sea. For example, flatfish, mackerel, horse mackerel, sardine, sillaginoid, pacific cod, Spanish mackerel, sea bream, tuna, hair crab...It is impossible to list all kinds of fish

which we can catch in the sea.



4. Gold dust

Mining gold dust is the most important and interesting hobby for me. As written in "The Travels of Marco Polo", there are many places where gold can be mined in Japan. I took on a challenge of mining gold dust in Aomori-prefecture and was able to collect some as shown in the next photograph (Of course, the place is secret). If you live in Rokkasho, you may find out some.



Last but not least, I was able to make friends in Europe and Japan while working in the IFERC Project Team and it is the most important result for me. Now, although I left IFERC, I hope to continue to support the fusion society for realization of a fusion reactor as a member of industry, and would like to work together again!



(Haruhiko Takase)