

## Discussion\_3/11 Disaster and Ichi-F

For this week's response, please answer the following using specific passages from our readings.

In this week's manga, author Kazuto Tatsuta writes frequently about his experiences with locals in Fukushima and the surrounding areas. For example, on page 358 he describes trying a local dish, *mehikari*, partly as way to experience the local flavors. What other examples do you see of Tatsuta trying to learn about the people in the community? When does he spend time with them? Be sure to cite specific pages.

Tatsuta also suggests that fears about Fukushima are sometimes exaggerated. Why does he say this? You can also look at the interview near the end of the book. After watching the Nova documentary on Fukushima, do you think that Tatsuta is right that the situation is more or less "under control?"

Lastly, in order to get full credit for this discussion, ask one question and respond to one of your classmates.

### DISCUSSION FORUM:

*Ichi-F* beyond being a memoir about the Fukushima nuclear plant is about the city and surroundings, to recognize that there is more than radiation, that there are people and places to enjoy. Kazuto Tatsuta, throughout different chapters, emphasizes his experiences with locals but also places to go visit. For example, on page 210, a co-worker's wife invited Tatsuta and his roomies to have "fried pork cutlets" something they couldn't afford at that moment, so she said "it's on me" as a sign of gratitude for being working at F-1 and helping the community. Also, I would like to talk about the hot spring bath which was repeatedly mentioned in different chapters (458, 513, 553) to show that this community had nature to enjoy, and not only think about it as a disastrous place.

People from other cities saw Fukushima as an extremely dangerous place because of radiation, and one great example of this is in chapter 12 "Hero Interview", where Tatsuta was interviewed so many times, and the questions were always the same, regarding his health and how he looked, although, he tried so hard to show the positive things about Fukushima and its surroundings, it did not seem to work at all because of the stereotypes that came up for this place.

I believe that at first when he was about to start working in *Ichi-F* it was understandable to be nervous about entering a place that has led so many people to develop cancer because of the radiation exposure. But throughout the manga, we were able to see how the work that is being made in Fukushima is helping the locals to open again stores, restaurants, and train stations, some places are partially open, but the progress is seen, and how everything is becoming normal again.

Considering all the examples given about the work in *Ichi-F*, do you think the radiation exposure is worth the salary they make?