

I was ashamed that I didn't know much about Iwakuni nor tried to know it until visiting there. Mr. Tamura commented, "the issue in Iwakuni is considered to be local, so it's hard to get solidarity from others outside." His comments make me feel helpless and realized the difficulty of making people understand the issue.

What shocked me the most was the bay which used to be full of algae, a kind of plant inhabiting in the sea, has changed completely into flat and dead reclaimed land for the runaway relocation. We can't even imagine what it used to look like. In exchange of sacrificing the sea, Iwakuni people were promised by the authorities that noise pollution would be reduced, the risk of jet fighters' crashing into residential areas would be avoided, and the land would be returned to Iwakuni when the construction was done as well as the Air Force would be pushed off-shore.

However, it turned out to be that the military base is going to be expanded and strengthened. I felt that the government is dishonest and wily.

Starting with thinking about the issue of Iwakuni's runaway relocation in the natural bay and Atagoyama-hill destruction, we come across an avoidable big question; why is the U.S. military here in Japan? Based on what I see and experience in Iwakuni, I want to continue to learn and understand the issue further.

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