

This was my first time to visit Iwakuni. Until now it had been Okinawa and/or Atsugi which came up to my mind when people talked about U.S. military, but by knowing about Iwakuni and its reality my perception changed dramatically.

Being the first time visitor, I didn't know how Atagoyama-hill and the bay with full of sea plants looked like before the construction, but by looking at the flattened land where it used to be Atagoyama-hill and the reclaimed ground from which I couldn't even imagine the original figure of the bay, I became sure that the nature Iwakuni lost was so enormous and Iwakuni never could get it back.

The shrewd trick and arbitrary decision of the authority made me so mad. Building U.S. military housings on the flattened former Atagoyama-hill was in plan, and rocks and soil from Atagoyama-hill were bought purposefully even though the price was high, then the rocks and soil were used for reclamation. I strongly respect Iwakuni locals who don't let the authority's arbitrarily act and their guts to fight for protecting their own community.

Then, what can I do as an individual who don't have much power? Well, I have already put a first step forward to know Iwakuni. Now I continue learning about it and tell my friends about the facts, then break through my own fear and put the second and the third steps to move forward.

College student (Freshman)