

It's been 2 years since my first visit to Iwakuni. The reclamation work on the tideland off the U.S. military base has been advanced so much even though ecology and environmental issues are a world concern. Right now the situation here in Iwakuni is going against it.

The reclamation work originally started as a solution for local residents who suffer noise pollution caused by fighter jets which fly right above them as well as risk of crash. The plan was to make a new runway off-shore and push the military base off to the newly reclaimed land. However, it turned out to be that the local natural hill (Atagoyama-hill) was dug and even dynamited to supply rocks and soil for reclamation, and a plan to build military housing on the leveled hill was newly raised. It seems that a problem is causing a new problem, and Iwakuni is caught in layers of troubles... Every single issue directly affects local residents' daily life. People in Iwakuni perseveringly face up to those issues.

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