

July 19, 2007

**Message from the Director of the Niigata Prefecture Tourism Promotion Division**

Thank you for your continued interest in Niigata Prefecture as a tourist destination.

The situations in the affected areas after the Niigata Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake on July 16 reported by the media must make many of you worried.

Damage from the earthquake is concentrated in the city of Kashiwazaki and surrounding areas, causing some accommodation facilities to suspend their operations. Affected hotels are now working hard towards recovery at the earliest date possible in cooperation with the prefectural government and local residents.

Areas affected by the earthquake are limited, and hotels and tourist facilities in other areas including Senami, Tsukioka, Iwamuro, Yuzawa, Myoko, and Sado are intact and are in normal operation. Please rest assured that guests from abroad will have no problem in visiting these places within Niigata prefecture. We sincerely welcome your visit.

As for access to Niigata prefecture, the Joetsu Shinkansen bullet train that connects Tokyo and Niigata is in normal operation. Expressways within the prefecture are also accessible as of July 19<sup>th</sup>.

For further information, please see the following websites of Niigata Prefecture.

- Niigata Prefecture Official Websites  
English            <http://www.pref.niigata.jp/seisaku/kokusai/english/>  
Japanese        <http://www.niigata-kankou.or.jp/>
- Tourist Information in English, Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Russian  
<http://www.enjoyniigata.com>

Latest information is posted at these websites. Please also feel free to contact us by telephone or email for information.

Division Director

Koichi Kasatori

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