

July 20, 2007



## Niigata Welcomes the World!

On July 16, 2007, three years after the Chuetsu Earthquake, another powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 hit the Niigata coast. Although it caused enormous damage in Kashiwazaki City and Kariwa Village, we are putting forth all of our effort to make the most of our experiences following the last earthquake.

The damages are limited to the area around the hypocenter. Besides that area, tourist facilities in Niigata Prefecture are on business as usual, and can provide you with comfortable and relaxing services at many attractive locations. We would like to especially recommend our wonderful hot spring resorts such as Echigo-Yuzawa, Tsukioka and Senami. Or, you can experience distinguished indigenous culture and art on Sado Island.

Transportation access to these tourist attractions via the JR Joetsu Shinkansen and Expressways are currently under normal service.

Niigata is known for delicious food, such as rice from its fertile soil or seafood from its rich sea, and abundant hot springs which relax us and make us happy. Additionally, In 2009, the G8 Labor Ministers' Meeting will be held in Niigata City.

We would be pleased to welcome you to this beautiful country Niigata.

Governor, Niigata Prefecture

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "H. Izumida".

IZUMIDA Hirohiko

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