Tokyo Olympic torch relay starts quietly in Fukushima amid COVID-19 pandemic

１　The torch relay for this summer's Tokyo Olympics started in Fukushima on Thursday(March 25th), in a quiet atmosphere amid public health concerns over the coronavirus. Fukushima is the town that was most affected by the great [earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown](https://www.nbcnews.com/video/flashback-friday-2011-tsunami-and-earthquake-in-japan-21814339943) a decade ago.

２　The opening ceremony of the nationwide relay was held without spectators as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus. The relay was held at the J-Village National Training Center, a symbol of recovery in Fukushima after more than 18,000 people died after the March 11th, 2011 disaster.

３　Soccer players of Nadeshiko Japan were the first torchbearers. About 10,000 torchbearers will run through 859 municipalities in all of Japan's 47 prefectures. The torch relay, with the motto “Hope Lights Our Way,” will last 121 days, through the July 23rd Opening Ceremony. Those who were forced to evacuate their hometowns will also carry the torch. The runners passed through crowds of masked spectators who'd been asked to refrain from ( Q5 ).

４　"For the past year, though the whole world was in a difficult situation, the flame kept burning quietly but powerfully," Seiko Hashimoto, president of the organizing committee, said at the ceremony. "It had been waiting for this day like a cherry blossom bud that is about to bloom. The flame will carry the hopes of the Japanese people and wishes for peace from people around the world."

torch松明・聖火　( 　 )雰囲気　amid～：-の真っ最中に　 concern懸念

( 　 　)10年　　nationwide全国の　( )観客　precaution予防

(　　 )復興　　disaster災害　　torchbearer聖火ランナー・新文明をもたらす人

municipality自治体　be forced to～：余儀なく~する　　( )避難する

refrain from～ing：~するのを控える　flame炎　bud蕾　★覚えた語(　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　)

Q1　Why did the torch relay start in a quiet atmosphere?

Q2 Why did the torch relay start in Fukushima? ※本文を参考に自分の考えを述べましょう。

Q3 Why do you think soccer players of Nadeshiko Japan were chosen as the first torch bearers?

Q4 What is the motto of this torch relay?

Q5 空欄（　　　　）に当てはまる語を自分で考えて書きましょう。

Q6　橋本聖子さんはスピーチの中で、

（１）聖火を何に例えましたか。

（２）聖火は何を運んでくれるだろうと言いましたか。

Q7　In an Olympic torch relay, one runner will run about 200 meters for about two minutes.

If you have any chance, do you want to run in the torch relay?

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| --- | --- |
|  | ★参考ニュース動画（英語・２分）Tokyo 2020 games: Olympic torch relay begins in Fukushima【Al Jazeera News】<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmawsTI8E7g> |

５　But some people say, the torch relay could risk sacrificing public health amid a pandemic. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's government says coronavirus vaccines will arrive for the nation's 36 million seniors by the end of June. So the population will not be fully vaccinated when the Olympics begin. And although Olympic organizers [announced](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tokyo-2020-international-fans-will-be-barred-olympic-games-because-n1261656) that foreign spectators will not be allowed, thousands of athletes, coaches and journalists are not [required to get vaccinated](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tokyo-olympics-hugs-handshakes-high-fives-banned-under-strict-new-n1256568).

６　In addition, many people in Fukushima say, “Fukushima hasn’t fully recovered yet.” A week before the launch of the torch relay, anti-Olympics activists unfurled a banner that read: "[Just Stop It! No Olympics!](https://twitter.com/counterOlympics/status/1372197449499037698)" A protester Toshio Miyazaki said the torch relay was "a political ⑫disguise" which was designed "to conceal the reality that there is no recovery in Fukushima."

７　During a [visit to Tokyo](https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/nov/16/tokyo-olympics-ioc-chief-very-confident-spectators-can-attend-delayed-games) in November, the IOC president Thomas Bach said he and Japan’s prime minister [Yoshihide Suga](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/14/yoshihide-suga-the-farmers-son-set-to-be-japans-next-pm) were “totally aligned in the full determination and confidence” to make the Olympics and Paralympics “a great success”. He added that the events would be ⑬“the light at the end of the tunnel”. However, the Summer Olympics could make the situation ( Q14 ).
８　By the way, some people say a torch relay should be totally extinguished, because the tradition was established by the Nazis. It was invented by the Nazis for the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics as a way to spread Nazi propaganda via the Olympic flame.

risk～ing：危険を覚悟で~する ( )犠牲にする　vaccineワクチン(※発音が２種類ある)

seniorお年寄りの方　be vaccinatedワクチン接種をする　organizer主催者　be required to～：~することを要求する　　in additionその上　launch発射・始まり　anti-～：反～の　unfurl翻す・広げる　banner垂れ幕

protester抗議者　political政治的な　disguise変装・偽り　( c )隠す　reality現実　be aligned提携・団結している　( )決意　 add付け加える　extinguish消す　establish設立する propaganda国家が組識的に行う主義の宣伝・プロパガンダ　★覚えた語(　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　)

Q8 Why are some people opposed to holding the torch relay?

Q9　When will the seniors be able to be get the COVID-19 vaccine in Japan?

Q10 Do foreign athletes, coaches and journalists coming to Japan for the Olympics have a duty to get vaccinated?

Q11 What do many people in Fukushima think about the torch relay?

Q12 下線⑫に最も近い意味を表す語を選びましょう。

1 calculation 2 crisis 3 camouflage 　　4 confrontation

Q13 下線⑬は比喩表現ですが、何を表していますか。具体的に説明しましょう。

Q14 空欄に入る語を選びましょう。

　　　1 much better 2 much safer 3 under control 4 much more critical

Q15　Who invented the tradition of the torch relay? Why did they start it?

Yu Miri’s ‘Tokyo Ueno Station’ wins major U.S. book award November 19, 2020

１　Female novelist Yu Miri(柳美里) won a prestigious U.S. National Book Award for Translated Literature with her novel "Tokyo Ueno Station" last November. “I would like to share such joy with Minami-Soma(南相馬) residents. This prize is for all of you,” Yu gave a shout-out to her adopted hometown in Fukushima Prefecture.

２　Yu Miri was born in [Ibaraki Prefecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibaraki_Prefecture) to Korean parents. She was brought up in Japan and writes novels and essays in [Japanese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_language), which is her native tongue. Japan-born Koreans like her are called “Zainichi”. In 1997, her book “Family Cinema" won the Akutagawa Prize, one of the most prestigious literary awards in Japan.

３　After the [2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_T%C5%8Dhoku_earthquake_and_tsunami), Yu began to travel to the affected areas frequently, and since 2015, she has lived in [Minamisōma city in Fukushima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minamis%C5%8Dma).

４　In “Tokyo Ueno Station,” a man Kazu came to Tokyo from Fukushima Prefecture as a laborer to earn money for his family in 1963, the year prior to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He had lost his family in his hometown and became homeless in Tokyo. He lives in a makeshift shelter around Ueno Park. She wrote the novel based on the conversations she had with homeless people over 10 years.

５　The book was published in Japan in 2014. “I have written people who have no place to fit in,” Yu said in the interview. “I think it may be a theme that can be shared by readers abroad.”

prestigious一流の・名声のある　( )翻訳する　novel小説　　resident住民

adopted hometown=second hometown native ( )母国語　　literary award文学賞　 frequently頻繁に　laborer労働者 makeshiftその場しのぎの　( )避難所・小屋

based on～：~に基づいて　publish翻訳する themeテーマ　　★覚えた語(　　　　　　　　　　　　　　)

Q1 What award did Yu Miri win? What is the title of her book?

Q2 柳さんは受賞の喜びを誰と分かち合いたいと話しましたか。

Q3 Where was Yu Miri born and brought up? What is her mother tongue?

Q4 What is “Zainichi”?

Q5 What award did she win in 1997?

Q6 Since when has she lived in Minamisoma city in Fukushima prefecture?

Q7　小説『JR上野駅』の主人公はどんな人物ですか。

Q8 柳さんはこの小説を書く際、どんな人に取材をしましたか。

Q9 柳さんの小説は、何をテーマとしていますか。

Q10　Why are there so many homeless people in big cities such as Tokyo and Osaka?

 参考資料：<https://www.nippon.com/ja/japan-data/h00794/>

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| --- | --- |
|  | Yu Miri and Morgan Giles accept the 2020 National Book Award for Translated Literature<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxXQGIcpR4E>全米図書賞受賞　柳美里さん・翻訳者Morgan Gilesさんスピーチ（英語） |

★次の文を３回ずつ読んで暗唱しましょう。

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２　Those who were forced to evacuate their hometowns will also carry the torch.

３　Some people say the torch relay could risk sacrificing public health amid a pandemic.

４　A protester said the torch relay was "a political disguise" which was designed "to conceal the reality that there is no recovery in Fukushima."

５　“I have written people who have no place to fit in,” Yu said.

１　福島市は10年前、大地震・津波、そして原発のメルトダウンにより最も多大に影響を受けた市です。

　　★この文中のmostは副詞のため、最上級ですがtheを書く必要がありません。

２　自分の故郷を避難せざるをえなかった人達も、聖火を運ぶ予定です。

　　★those who ～：～の人々

　　★evacuate～：～を避難する

３　聖火リレーは、コロナウィルスのパンデミックの真っ只中で、人々の健康を犠牲にする危険があるのでは、と言う人達もいます。

　　★could～「～する可能性がある」（仮定法の一種）

　　★risk ＋ ～ing：～する危険がある

４　ある反対者は、聖火リレーは「福島は復興などしていないという現実を隠す」ためにデザインされた、

政治的なごまかしだと言いました。

５　「私は、居場所のない人達を書き続けてきました」と、柳さんは言いました。

 ★fit in：なじむ、ぴったり合う、調和する

　　　（例文）★She says it’s hard to fit in at her new school.

★I tried hard to fit in, but other classmates were not welcoming me.