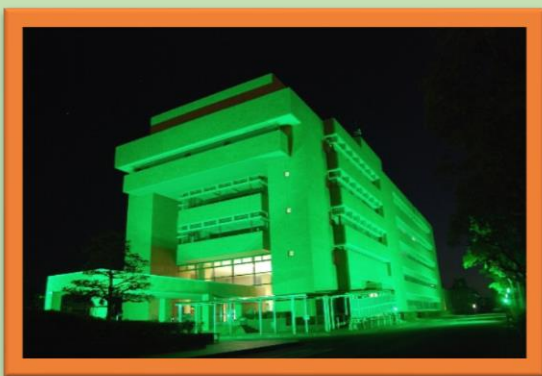
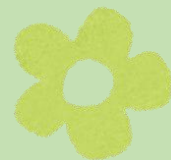




Rachael's March CIR Report: Saint Patrick's Day 2021



As the 17th of March is Saint Patrick's Day, Ireland's national holiday, we were very busy here in the International Affairs Section!



At Fukuroi City Hall, we held a "Greening" event. A "Greening" event is where buildings, monuments and historical landmarks are lit up with green lights to get everyone in the spirit! In Ireland, famous places like Dublin Castle, the Hill of Tara, Trinity College and Belfast City Hall are all lit up in green. Through the "Global Greening Initiative", cities all around the world light up their most famous landmarks to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Some of the most famous places that light up green are the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Cibeles



Fountain in Madrid and the London Eye in England. Every year here in Japan, the Ise Shrine and the Yokohama Marine Tower become green too.

We also held an "Online Ireland Festival in Fukuroi" on Youtube! Amazing musicians and dancers performed traditional Irish songs and dances for a virtual audience. Many of the performers had visited Fukuroi before, and shared some of their favourite memories of performing here. Fuppy seemed to be very popular amongst them! We were also very lucky to receive a video message from the ambassador for Ireland to Japan, Paul Kavanagh. I also got to appear in the video as a sort of MC. I introduced the performers and talked about some of Ireland's points of charm. I also translated some subtitles so that any Irish people watching could understand.

Because there are lots of Irish people and people with Irish roots living all over the world, these kind of events help them to feel connected to home. I feel very proud that Fukuroi City could join in celebrating Ireland's national day.

