

Inside Japan



In The News // 3

Inside Entertainment // 4-5

Talking Travel // 5-6

Top 10 Things To Do In Japan // 7-8



Magazine design by Denmark Designs - info@denmarkdesigns.com

Quake damages 'likely' to exceed \$10 billion

by Alice Denmark

The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that there is a 72 percent likelihood of economic damage exceeding \$10 billion, after destructive earthquakes hit Japan in mid-April.

The Kumamoto area in the south-west Japan was damaged by two earthquakes. According to Reuters, the first quake hit on the 14th April with a magnitude of 6.2 at 9:26pm. The second quake occurred 27 hours later in the early hours of Saturday the 16th April at 1:25am, registering a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale. 263 people were injured with 48 fatalities and thousands made homeless.

Damage to roads, bridges and river structures has been recorded at around 3,500 different locations in Japan. The prefectural government has applied for disaster recovery projects. The highlighted locations will be evaluated by the government, focusing on damage to land, infrastructure and transport. Disaster assessment inspectors will assess each site for damage and repairs.

The most severely damaged areas occurred at bridges and interconnected transport systems, costing roughly \$4.7 billion. Aso Ohashi Bridge in Minami-Aso collapsed due to a landslide, while several other locations were damaged due to misaligned pipework.

Damage to parks was estimated by

government officials at \$3.3 billion. Designated national cultural properties such as Kumamoto Castle being severely damaged costing just over \$3 million.

Cracks found in river dikes increased the risk of flooding, so emergency construction began at some dikes without waiting for the ministry's assessment. However, the assessment process could be delayed due to secondary disasters still affecting communications.

Businesses' have also been heavily affected and this is expected to be heavily significant for Japan's economy. Sony's Kumamoto factory, which predominantly manufactures sensors for digital cameras was forced to close due to ongoing aftershocks. Inspections of the buildings and manufacturing equipment are currently being conducted, but it is not clear when the Kumamoto factory will be up and running again.

In addition, Fujifilm was also forced to shut down, and expects to be back in full production by the end of May. The company said: "Fujifilm Kyusyu is doing its utmost to resume all operations."

In response, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said last week he will create an extra budget to assist with the economic damage caused by deadly earthquakes in Kumamoto.



<http://ss2sonic.deviantart.com>

Inside Entertainment:

ONE PUNCH MAN



<http://articerik.deviantart.com>

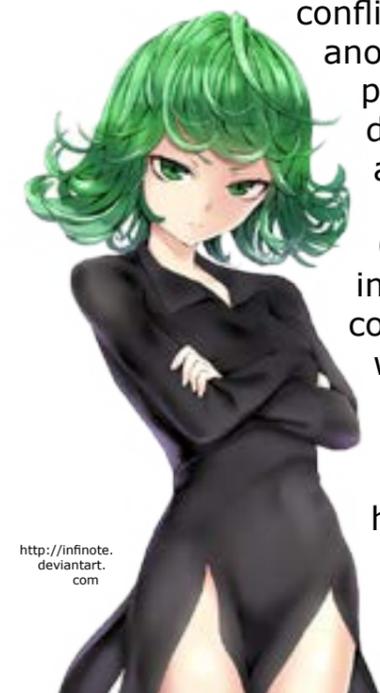
By Alice Denmark

The latest anime to ride the hype train westward One Punch Man was greeted with rave reviews praise it as the best anime to come out of 2015. Based on the ongoing web series and adapted by Madhouse, the superhero parody follows Saitama, whose super name suggests can take out any and all opponents in one punch.

The series sets up a world in which heroes are ranked in ability with the only way to climb the ranks being the completion of heroic deeds, this often puts heroes in conflict with one

another as various perils attempt to destroy the world around them.

Our hero's immense power contrasts greatly with his less than heroic demeanour, bored with heroism and desperate for a worthy opponent who



<http://infinote.deviantart.com>

can match him Saitama's blank looks and blunt attitude only alienates him from other heroes.

Standing in direct contrast to this is Saitama's friend and pupil Genos. Handsome and equipped with a range of techniques and abilities to defeat his opponents he is popular with the public and quickly climbs the ranks of heroes gaining their respect, respect he feels he does not deserve as one of the few characters that understands the true extent of Saitama's power which he hopes to one day gain for himself.

The diverse characters have many different facets and abilities that endear them to the audience, from the overly powerful to the completely useless. In fact one of the most popular characters, Mumen Rider, equipped with only a bicycle, helmet and body protector would be laughed off the show if not for his willing spirit.

The driving force of the story is how Saitama's heroics constantly puts him in conflict with the public and other heroes, who because of his low ranking believe him to be a fraud. He is subjected to abuse but he takes it

in his stride happy in the knowledge that he was able to help. Though this is not to say it doesn't frustrate him, a frustration felt by the audience.

The show relies heavily on its characterisation given the lack of conflict through the series, though I feel it succeeds in building an authentic connection with the audience though its lack of an overarching plot could put people off.

This is a comical and heartfelt series that defies convention and does something new with the overused superhero genre.

Beautifully animated and well written I look forward to the second series as any more time with these characters will be time well spent and I would recommend any who have yet to see it catch up so they can watch it this coming autumn.

Rating



In Summary:

This sci-fi comedy is sure to make you laugh and fall in love with Saitama, our One Punch Man hero!

Talking Travel

with Emily Jackson

Q. Why did you go to Japan?

I went to Japan because it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I went to Japan because I wanted to experience first-hand what it is like to live in a densely populated area.

Q. Why did your college decide to do an exchange program with a school in Japan?

It was part of the Sasakawa foundation, this foundation chose our school to go to Japan as it was apparent that we have had little opportunities compared to other schools in the area.

Q. Where did you stay?

I stayed with a Japanese host family for the majority of my time there. My host family consisted of Hirokazu was a Christian Pastor, Ayumi, a photographer and their children Kana (8), and Akari (3). We also stayed in a traditional Inn. Near the end I spent a night with a Nishi high school student and their family.

Q. What places did you visit?

I went to Nara with my host family. Osaka Castle, Kyoto and Hiroshima. The Social Welfare Institution, Dowan care home where students sang karaoke to the elderly.



Q. What was your favourite place and why?

My favourite place was Nara, because it brings back happy memories. I really enjoyed walking around the city with my host family and petting the wild deer. The scenery was outstanding and I witnessed a traditional Japanese wedding ceremony in the park.

Q. Was there anything you found surprising in Japan?

I was surprised at how popular certain things were in Japan, like Beatrix Potter. My host family loved the author, the books helped her children learn English. People are really friendly too, I was leaving the train station holding my map, within seconds an elderly lady helped me find my way.

'It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I was extremely lucky to be given'



Q. What did you think of the culture and are there any distinct differences you noticed?

Most of the traditional meals which I helped cook with my host mother included fish or a fish related, such as seaweed. I found this extremely difficult to adapt to, as I'm not used to eating fish!

Q. Do you have any highlights of the trip?

We met a survivor of the Hiroshima bombings. We listened to his stories about his childhood and how his life was after the bombing.

Q. Did you bring back any interesting souvenirs?

The most extravagant souvenir I brought back was an authentic kimono. This was given to me by my teenage host as a goodbye gift.

Q. Would you go back to Japan?

I would most certainly go back to Japan. It's so beautiful. I really would recommend others to visit this country.

In conversation with Alice Denmark
Images supplied by Emily Jackson



Top 10 Things To Do In Japan!

1) Cherry Blossom

The best thing about spring time in Japan is the emergence of beautiful cherry blossom. Come early April the trees are vibrant with pale pinks and white blossom petals. I recommend visiting Ueno Park and Kyoto Castle

2) Studio Ghibli Museum

After breaking into the West, visit the famous anime museum and go behind the scenes of how the films were brought to life.

3) Shirakawa-Go

The Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go are Traditional Houses in the Gassho Style. You can walk around the traditional village and follow a steep footpath up to the view point you can overlook the village from up high.

4) Hiroshima Peace Park

The spacious landscaping of the Hiroshima Peace Park is an enlightening experience demonstrating their optimistic forward thinking. The park is covered with sculptures commemorating those who lost their lives in Hiroshima.

5) Kinkakuji Temple

The gold leaf plated Buddhist temple is very popular. The traditional Zen gardens around the temple are ideal for a picturesque stroll.

6) Osaka

There is so much to do in Osaka and walking downtown at night is a colourful sight. Full of life, the urban city scape has never looked so vibrant.

7) Fushimi Inari Shrine

Walk through all 10,000 Tori gates. Cleanse yourself at the shrine and ring the bell to ask the spirits for help

8) Kimonos

Join in with the traditional dress of Japan. Visit kimono silk shops and even buy your own kimono. On a nice day several locals wear their traditional clothes in and around town. There are so many colours and patterns, no kimono is the same!

9) Traditional Markets

An eye-opening experience of a market place is located in Kyoto with a range of food from ginger covered dates to very pricey seafood. Hondori street in Hiroshima is 0.5km long!

10) Cuisine

Japan has a huge variety of interesting food options ranging from more modern dishes to traditional style. The serving of sushi and sashimi is very common, and while it is an acquired taste it is worth a try for the experience.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the Tokyo Tower at dusk. The tower's intricate lattice structure is illuminated from within, casting a warm orange glow. The top section of the tower is brightly lit with a golden light, contrasting with the darkening blue sky. The tower's legs spread out as it rises, creating a strong sense of height and scale.

NEXT ISSUE!

INSIDE FINLAND
Issue 083 // Summer 2016

Facebook.com/InsideMagNews

@InsideMagazine

www.insidemagazine.com

0151 002 4592

info@insidemagazine.com