

An. : Announcer

Nar. : narration

Com. : commentator

Announcer : Next is the follow-up of the issue we took up at “Funman Honpo” before. Takatsuki City, Osaka Prefecture, had been inviting Assistant English Teachers (AETs) from Toowoomba City close to Brisbane in Australia for more than 20 years.

However, Takatsuki City cancelled this program itself last year due to the trouble about the accommodations for the AETs.

Today, labor unions AETs belong made representations to Takaki City urging the restart of this program after about a year from the cancellation.

Nar : These are photos of the apartments Tim and other AETs lived before. Leaks, peeling wallpaper. In the agreement between Toowoomba and Takatsuki, it was stated that AETs should live in the apartments Takatsuki City designated. However, the apartments became so deteriorated that these were filled with problems.....

Tim W: This is a video I took before moving out. You can see the ventilating fans move without electricity supply, but by the wind. This happened many times. The wind came into the room and it was so cold.

Nar : AETs including Tim repeatedly requested Takatsuki City to improve the problems. There were also many problems such as security, sanitation and earthquake safety. However, nothing was fixed, they claim. So, they had no option but moving to other apartments. Then, the program itself was cancelled by both cities at the end of March last year.

Tim W : So, they broke the contract. It was so upsetting because it is wrong

Nar : About a year has passed....

“May I come in? We have come to make representations to the Mayor.”

Today, labor unions AETs belong made representations to Takaki City urging the restart of this program. These union also file the case to the Osaka Prefectural Labo Relations Commission asking for the continuation of the employment.

Toshiaki Asari (Assistant General Secretary, General Union) : “Children were very much enjoying the English lessons by AETs,” we have been told by parents. And, AETs have been telling the union, “Let us keep working together till the day when we reach the goal.” We are being encouraged by them.

Nar : Takatsuki City told us , MBS, that they do not respond to interview because the case is under the discussion at the Osaka Prefectural Labor Relations Commission.

The prospects for the restart of the program cannot be seen yet now...

An. : Cancellation due to trouble.... Do they think of the children? I doubt.

Com. : It's a shame.

An. : Let us keep our eyes on the development of this issue.