

In Higashi-Chichibumura the use of vacant house makes a topic. At present there are 150 vacant houses. If vacant houses are left as they are, it may lead to troubles as house collapse, landscape deterioration and illegal entry, etc. Because of this the village has been engaged in various arrangement to countermeasure vacant houses, as vacant house arrangement and subsidy, etc.

Being such the case, we interviewed “Yamaya” , “Makibi Shokudo Ajate” and “Miraizu” . This interview brought to contact with local people, who told us their gratitude.

## 01 Yamaya

**We were able to open our shops in the village. We are happy and are grateful to you fully.**

We the three classmates opened recycling shop and Italian restaurant in Okusawa region. Mr. Yamaguchi, the owner of the shops, Mr. Ikeda, the chef, and Mr. Otsuka, cultivator of the vegetable to use in the shop. Together with the people in Okusawa region we established and opened our shop from the beginning.

We opened our shop in Higashi-Chichibumura because we found by happen a good vacant house there. Although we found a property, we did not have enough money. So we started making our shop by so-called “bake from scratch”

We were struggling with the necessary jobs as we were non-professionals. Our neighbors talked to us, and by the cooperation of many people, when we noticed, our shop was made up including interior and equipment arrangement.

( 1 /4)

Especially in wood processing we received a maximum help from the neighbors, who saw up almost all the wooden equipment of our shop. Looking back, without our neighbors help, this shop might not have been realized. The people in the region accepted us foreigners warmheartedly and helped us to

continue this shop. We express our hearty gratitude to you all. In the name of our shop “Yamaya” our wish is contained – to spread out our wish like an open fan. Recalling always the kindness you have favored us, we will continue our efforts to keep our everlasting shop solid.

## **02 Bonfire restaurant -Ajate-**

Ajate has the connection with the regional people.

In Okusawa region Mr. John Imaeda and Mrs. Nyori opened Bar & Restaurant. They walked a long way ahead upto their opening of the shop, hand in hand with the regional people. They handle their shop always with smile.

It was 8 years ago when I first visited Higashi-Chichibumura. Since then there were twists and turns, but I happened to wish to open a shop in the village since I am here. I opened my bonfire restaurant Ajate. As the restaurant building I lent a vacant house which has main building and annex. I started using the annex as my shop.

The shop was originally Japanese style, but I changed the shop in full western style. As we did not have enough experience even how to destruct the prior building, so our neighbors have helped us in almost all the rebuilding.

When we completed the remodeling, we invited our neighbors to tasting of our menu. To the neighbors we invited our menu was offered. Listening to our neighbors comments, “Very delicious”, “it is better to change in this way”, we refined our menu to offer to meet their requirements.

From the remodeling of the house to refining our menu, we considered together with our neighbors the part of menu. We really thank you for their help extended to us.

(2/4)

Bonfire restaurant Ajate, Bar & Restaurant  
to offer fish as our main dish  
The owner chef John Imaeda offers  
Fish cuisine. The guests may enjoy

the cuisine of his native home Aichi  
Prefecture.

In this special edition we interviewed the people who came from outside the village, remodeled a vacant house and opened their shop. Up to our interviewing our plan was “why they choose the village” “the charms of a vacant house”.

Upon interviewing, we found that they did not choose the village as they did feel attached to the village, but because they by happen found a good property. Indeed we had been panicked. But a common thing to all the persons was that they were so kind to help us until the shop was opened, thereafter our relationship was maintained. Our love to the village was increased. The most impressive thing was that we heard “The charm of the village is more persons than flowers”.

Through the interviewing we touched the village residents’ warm heart rather than detesting of the visitors. We also made ourselves more lover of the village.

**Through our business we hope to transfer to the world the number one charm of our village Higashi-Chichibumura.**

Mr. Ido, the owner of the shop “Future Blueprint Miracles” to buy and rebuild second hand goods in Sakamoto region, I was very lucky, as I opened my shop in the village charmed by the residents’ kindness and frankness.

My encounters with the village was, when I was doing image search of vacant house renovation to expand the image of a business launching, I happened to see a housing information in Higashi-Chichibumura. Then I visited the village for the first time.

Upon starting my job to open a shop, I found the building was too old, so I

(3/4)

needed to repair it. The villagers took the initiative so that I may start my business, to find out the necessary professionals, for example. When we were working by ourselves where we could do, like the painting of the walls, we could receive many helps from the people, as the babysitters, the persons who

gave us care packages without telling us their names, and the persons who gifted us equipment for office use. Our shop Future Blueprint Miracles consists thanks to such people.

We believe the most important charm of this village is “persons.” We attend in our shop our neighbors who share something with us, and the children who stop by. There is no such rich and warm place like this. We really think we are lucky to have started our shop in Higashi-Chichibumura.

### **03 Future Blueprint Miracles**

Come and find the merit of the village

Warm hearted people to find as we stayed

So we think “We enjoy staying in the village”