

1

Article :

World Cup: Grateful Qatar Rewards Japanese Fans for Cleaning Up

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

While Japan won over Germany at the World Cup, Japanese supporters also won hearts online when videos of their clean-up efforts **went viral**.

DOHA, Qatar — Japanese supporters at the FIFA World Cup have won praise from around the world for cleaning up the stands after matches.

On November 24, the day after Japan's historic upset over Germany, the World Cup Organizing Committee publicly expressed their gratitude to the Japanese supporters for their cleanup efforts.

Overseas media also gave prominent **coverage** to the behavior of fans from Japan. But this wasn't the first World Cup tournament where Japanese fans have stayed behind to clean up trash. This selfless act is now becoming a quintessentially Japanese "**specialty**."

Videos of the fans busy at work spread like wildfire when they were posted by influencers in the Middle East. On Instagram alone, the videos reached 10,000 comments.

Interest in their cleanup efforts surged following the Germany-Japan match at the Khalifa International Stadium in the suburb of Doha.

Goodwill at the World Cup

FIFA's official World Cup Twitter account uploaded photos of the Japanese volunteers at work. By the morning of November 25, they had garnered more than 120,000 "likes." That is only one example of the global reaction to the fans' **goodwill gesture**.

According to officials from the tournament's organizing committee, the Qatari royal family's response to social media posts after the opening match led to a swift decision to publicly commend a Japanese supporter in one of the videos.

Singled out for praise was Hirokazu Tsunoda, a well-known soccer super-fan who lives in Kashiwa City in Chiba Prefecture. Tsunoda is the head of a group of around 20 fervent soccer fans known as the Chonmage-tai or "Topknot Brigade." The group is actively involved in relief efforts, with one of its best-known activities being its program for bringing children from disaster-stricken areas to soccer matches, including World Cups.

Chonmage-tai members enjoy cosplay by dressing in homemade "samurai armor" when they attend soccer matches. They do not **fool around**, however, when it comes to picking up garbage.

Tsunoda remains modest about the media attention he and his group have received. "Members of our project just happened to be singled out among Japanese fans because we stand out in the videos [due to the costumes]."

[GO TO THE NEXT PAGE]

Cleaning Up is Part of Japanese Culture

According to Tsunoda, the trash collected following the opening Qatar-Ecuador match filled around twenty 45-liter (12-gallon) trash bags. When they had finished cleaning up after the Germany-Japan match and were about to leave the stadium, volunteer staff at the stadium called out to them, "Wait Please!"

Then about 200 of the official event volunteers gathered together and thanked them in Japanese by yelling in unison "Arigato."

Tsunoda recalls, "I've been bringing supporters to these events for 20 years. But it was the first time something like this happened. I was deeply moved."

He goes on to explain, "J-League supporters typically clean up venues and it had also been done at previous World Cups, so we are really only following the examples of those who have gone before."

Tsunoda likes to emphasize that what he and other volunteers are doing is simply carrying on a wonderful tradition established over time by many Japanese fans.

Inspiring Change at the World Cup

In fact, during the last FIFA World Cup held in Russia in 2018, the trash collection activities of Japanese fans following Japan's opening-round victory over Colombia received a lot of global media attention. That encouraged fans from other countries, including Senegal and Uruguay, to emulate them.

During a commendation ceremony in a park in Doha on November 24, Tsunoda's group was presented with a bouquet of roses and World Cup memorabilia. Hiroki Kohata, a 22-year-old university student from Minamisoma in Fukushima Prefecture, was all smiles.

"I never thought we would be honored in this way. Picking up garbage is part of Japanese culture. I hope this inspires people around the world."

Organizing Committee member Bodour Almeer happily said, "I was greatly moved by the videos on social media. Here was this group of people proactively **taking action** to clean up a city that wasn't even theirs. Since the theme of this year's World Cup is sustainability, I am delighted that they are getting this award."

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **go viral** (インターネットなどで情報や映像などが) 給食に拡散する・広まる
 - This sensational story may give my blog the potential to **go viral**.
2. **coverage** (ニュースや話題などの) 報道・放送
 - They produced the live television and digital **coverage** of Olympic and Paralympic games.
3. **specialty** 得意分野、十八番、おはこ、特殊な技能、お家芸、特徴、特産品、名物、自慢の品
 - His **specialty** is tax law.
4. **goodwill gesture** 善意のしるし
 - As a **goodwill gesture**, we agreed to do the work free of charge.
5. **fool around** ふざける、おどける、遊びまわる、ぶらぶらとして時間を費やす、時間を無駄にする、いじくりまわす
 - My kids always start **fooling around** when it's bedtime.
6. **take action** 行動を起こす、取りかかる、措置を講じる、対応策を取る、作用し始める、訴訟を起こす
 - As Japanese yen keeps weakening, many people think the government needs to **take action** to stop it falling further.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What activity Japanese football fans did during the World Cup 2022 impress a lot of people in the world?
2. How did the official event volunteers show their appreciation to those Japanese supporters after they finished cleaning following the opening match?
3. Have you done any volunteer activities?
4. Why do you think people do such activities as goodwill?

4

日本語関連記事：世界が称賛する日本の「お家芸」清掃活動 カタールがサポーター表彰

サッカー・ワールドカップ（W杯）カタール大会でも日本人サポーターによるスタンド清掃が世界から称賛を集めている。ドイツから歴史的な勝利を飾った翌日の11月24日には、大会組織委員会が清掃活動を行った日本人サポーターを表彰し、感謝の気持ちを伝えた。海外メディアは今大会の行動を大きく報じているが、過去のW杯でも、日本人による「ごみ拾い」が脚光を浴びており、今や日本の「お家芸」になりつつある。

20日に行われたカタール対エクアドルの開幕戦。試合終了後、スタンドに散乱するペットボトルや食べ物を、青色のごみ袋に黙々と回収していく日本人サポーターの姿があった。

この様子を中東のインフルエンサーが動画でSNS（交流サイト）に投稿。瞬く間に拡散され、Instagramでは1万件以上のコメントが寄せられた。

さらにドイツ戦の舞台となったドーハ近郊のハリファ国際競技場でも、多くの日本人サポーターが清掃を実施。国際サッカー連盟（FIFA）W杯の公式ツイッターでも、その様子が写真付きでアップされ、25日午前で12万件以上の「いいね」がつくなど、大きな反響を呼んでいる。

大会組織委の担当者らによると、開幕戦でのSNSの投稿にカタール王族が反応したことで、動画に写っていた日本人サポーターへの表彰が急遽決まった。

表彰されたのは、被災地の子供をW杯に招待するプロジェクト「トモにカタールへ」を企画した「ちょんまげ隊長」の愛称で知られる日本代表の名物サポーター、角田寛和さん（60）＝千葉県柏市＝ら約20人。角田さんらはちょんまげのかつらや甲冑のコスプレをしてごみ拾いに参加しており、「動画で目立ったので、たまたまプロジェクトのメンバーが日本人を代表して選ばれただけ」と謙虚に語った。

角田さんによると、開幕戦では45リットルのごみ袋で約20袋分を回収。ドイツ戦後も清掃を行って帰ろうとしたところ、会場のボランティアスタッフから「ちょっと待ってくれ」と声をかけられたという。

すると、約200人の運営ボランティアが集合し、日本語で「ありがとう」と一斉に感謝された。角田さんは「20年サポーターをやってきて初めて。本当に感動した。会場の清掃はJリーグのサポーターもしているし、過去のW杯でも行われており、先輩のまねをしただけ」と、「先人」たちのよき伝統を引き継いできた結果だと振り返る。

次のページへ続く

前回のロシア大会でも1次リーグでコロンビアを破った後の日本人サポーターのごみ拾いに注目が集まり、海外メディアに報道されると、セネガルやウルグアイなど別の国のサポーターにも波及した。

24日はドーハ市内の公園で表彰式が行われ、大会組織委からバラの花やW杯の記念グッズが贈られた。福島県南相馬市の大学4年、木幡裕紀さん（22）は「こういう形で表彰されるとは思わなかった。ごみ拾いは日本の文化。世界にその輪が広がればいいな」と笑顔をみせた。

大会組織委のバドゥール・アルミールさん（38）は「SNSで動画を見てとても感動した。自分たちの街ではないのに、積極的に清掃活動というアクションを起こしてくれた。今大会はサステナブル（持続可能）をテーマにしているので、こういう表彰ができてうれしい」と喜んだ。

出典：世界が称賛する日本の「お家芸」清掃活動 カタールがサポーター表彰
[JAPAN Forward](#)