

[Research Note] The History of Beppu Chūō Market (Beppu Central Market) Established by Repatriates

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After World War II, Beppu, a city spared wartime damage, experienced an influx of repatriates. To address both "employment and housing needs," numerous markets were established. Beppu Chūō Market is one of the few that barely remains today. This research traces its history, primarily using minutes from the Beppu Chūō Market Cooperative Association (1951–1969), aiming to capture the evolving lives of repatriates through their own voices. While comparisons with other towns are necessary, Beppu's unique character as a spa city embracing diversity contributed to the Market's integration into the community, fostering a sense of belonging and confidence.