

10,000 fireworks covered the night sky at the Nagaoka Fireworks Festival Celebration!

One of Niigata's three greatest fireworks shows, the Nagaoka Festival held fireworks shows on August 2 & 3. On each day 10,000 fireworks went off over the course of two hours.

Fireworks have long been an indispensable, exciting part of Japan's many festivals and gatherings, and Niigata is home to some of Japan's most brilliant fireworks festivals. Niigata is often called the "Kingdom of Fireworks".

Within Niigata's fireworks festivals, the dynamic Nagaoka Fireworks Festival is known as the best in all Japan. The festival's biggest attraction was the 90 cm and 300kg *Sho-Sanjyakudama*. When this firework went off, one could see a 650m tall giant explosion blooming in the night sky, and hear the sounds of cheers and applause from the audience.

In the two days, a total of about 8 hundred thousands people came to see the Nagaoka Festival Fireworks Show.



【The *Phoenix* fireworks, in support of the earthquake recovery efforts】