

April 20th, 2024

JMoF Executive Committee



Regarding the Emergency Response at JMoF 2024

The JMoF Executive Committee (hereafter we, us, our) had taken emergency measures at the recently held JMoF 2024 convention, including reporting to authorities, allowing the patrol of police officers in the convention space, conducting baggage checks by our staff, and making changes to certain events, like the performance stage.

Background and Timeline

January 6th (Sat.), 2024:

During the JMoF 2024 convention (2nd day), our staff reported to our convention operations that our official X (formerly Twitter) account and JMoF 2024 convention attendees' personal X accounts had received posts that had implications that the convention venue, Loisir Hotel Toyohashi, would be destroyed by a bomb explosion, or that a subset of convention attendees would be murdered. We had also confirmed several posts of a similar nature made through different accounts which were thought to be impersonations.

We took the aforementioned situation seriously, and immediately shared the information with Loisir Hotel Toyohashi. After deliberations, we reported this matter to the Toyohashi Police Department. Subsequently, the Toyohashi Police Department conducted interviews and venue inspections, and police officers carried out patrols within the venue.

At the end of the 2nd day's programs, we gathered all staff that could perform emergency measures and held a meeting to deliberate on courses of action regarding the convention's 3rd day. As a result, we decided to continue holding the convention after the strengthening of security precautions in accordance with the Toyohashi Police Department's directions (increasing security staff members, ensuring attendees' understanding, and conducting of baggage checks), scaling down certain events, and modifying the videos for the Closing Ceremony and the content of certain acts on the performance stage.

January 7th (Sun.), 2024:

We continued with the 3rd day's programs after implementing the aforementioned emergency measures. Venue patrol by police officers was continued at the request of the Toyohashi Police Department. As a result, no suspicious persons/objects or previously threatened actions were reported.

February 9th (Fri.), 2024:

After conducting a thorough review of the damages and losses incurred by us and our staff, we filed a police report with the Toyohashi Police Department regarding this matter.

March 21st (Thu.), 2024:

We received a report from the Toyohashi Police Department that the suspect in this matter has been apprehended.

Comments from our Chairperson

The furry convention known as JMoF has been held at Loisir Hotel Toyohashi since 2014, gradually building a relationship of trust over these years. Supported by the ceaseless efforts of the JMoF Executive Committee members, collaborators, and all participants, JMoF has become a cherished gathering place where friends can meet and converse once a year. The recent incident, caused by inconsiderate actions, could have destroyed that trust in an instant.

Up until now, numerous furry conventions from all parts of the world have been held, yet many have been unable to continue despite the desire to do so. A commonly cited reason for these discontinuations is that the relationship of trust with the venue and related parties was lost through the actions of individuals that were thought to be part of the same community.

This environment of being able to freely share our diversity and individuality that we take for granted is in reality a delicate and unstable thing. It is only able to continue existing in the first place through constant vigilance in creating and maintaining this foundation of trust. The childish and malicious thoughts that one person might consider as “no big deal” can, though just one foolish action, give rise to serious consequences. Therefore, we’d like to ask all individuals involved in furry conventions, including participants, to reflect on their conduct as a person involved with the furry fandom.

We JMoF Executive Committee are an organization that manages a furry convention, so we naturally have faith in all furies and furry fans; however, the lessons learned due to this incident have been taken to heart, and we intend to apply those lessons in our management from next time onward.

During JMoF 2024, we had caused a great deal of inconvenience and concern to everyone. I'd like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all the cooperating convention attendees despite the sudden measures imposed, to all the Loisir Hotel Toyohashi staff, and to all the related personnel of the Toyohashi Police Department.

Hereafter, we will continue giving our utmost efforts to operate a furry convention that everyone can enjoy with peace of mind, so we kindly ask for your continued support and understanding.

JMoF Executive Committee

Chairperson Satomi

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, that reads "Satomi". The signature is positioned below the printed name "Satomi".