

Crowdfunding issues for Japanese railway

Vocabulary Match

involved ● launched ● operator ● transfer ● affected ● recover ●

● get back ● company ● move ● started ● connected ● influenced

Article

Nagaragawa Railway in Gifu Prefecture recently became involved in a crowdfunding problem that surprised many supporters. The railway launched a campaign to raise money for locomotive repairs and future projects. Many people donated because they wanted to help the local railway and receive special rewards, such as tickets and railway goods.

However, the crowdfunding operator Ubugoe failed to transfer most of the money it collected. More than 5,000 supporters across Japan were affected, with unpaid funds believed to exceed 65 million yen. Nagaragawa Railway apologised that supporters' goodwill had not reached its destination and is now trying to recover the missing money.

Quiz

1. What was the purpose of the crowdfunding campaign?
2. Who failed to transfer the collected money?
3. How many supporters were affected by the issue?
4. What is the railway trying to do now?

Conversation

A: Can you believe this problem with the crowdfunding?

B: I know. I wanted the commemorative tickets, but I also wanted to support Nagaragawa Railway.

A: Same here. Local railways are important for the community.

B: Do you think they'll get the missing money back?

A: I hope so. They need the money to keep running and support future projects.

B: Me too. I really want my tickets, but I don't want the railway to disappear.

Discussion

1. Have you ever donated to a crowdfunding campaign?
2. What would you do if your donation didn't reach the people who needed it?
3. Why do you think some people love trains so much?
4. What's the most interesting thing you've ever collected?