News from Iwate’s Reconstruction

Ganbaro, Iwate!
Let’s stick together, Iwate!

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Opening of the Iwate Inland Survivor Support Center

On May 20th, 2016 (Fri), the Iwate Inland Survivor Support Center opened its doors in Zaimoku-cho, Morioka. The center was built to support the reconstruction of homes for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami who have taken refuge inland or to other prefectures.

The center will contact disaster survivors who have evacuated to temporary living arrangements or left the prefecture, both by telephone and in person, in order to ascertain their future plans. By providing consultation services, it aims to further encourage the reconstruction of residential homes.

There are 7 staff members stationed at the center who are certified mental health welfare professionals, social workers, or consumers’ affairs consultants. In addition to providing telephone and in-person services, they can also explain the procedures for building a home, or assist people in finding their own property.

Takuya Kimura, the director of the Bureau of Reconstruction, made an address at the opening ceremony. "We want to do our very best to evaluate the living conditions of the survivors, and proceed as quickly as possible with the rebuilding process."

At the end of April 2016, there were a total of 4,728 evacuees, of which 1,409 were living in temporary housing arrangements.

It is hoped that the rebuilding process will go smoothly from here on, and that the victims will be provided with support in their everyday lives.

Address: Morioka-shi, Zaimoku-cho 3-5
Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Closed on Sundays and holidays)
Contact: 019-601-7640

What can you get with 100 yen? The 100-yen Market!

On April 30th, 2016 (Sat), a 100-yen market event was held at the temporary shopping area "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" in Ofunato. The event was bustling with bargain-shoppers looking to grab a deal.

The 100-yen market is an event where all of the stalls in "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" sell their products to customers for 100 yen. This is the 5th time it has been held.

The stalls were selling many kinds of things, from seafood products, snacks, daily necessities, and fresh food... all for 100 yen! At one point, 2-in-1 packs of fresh scallops and strawberries went on sale for a limited time - for 100 yen.

The "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" is a temporary shopping area "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" in Ofunato.

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished.

We will now bring you the news from Iwate’s reconstruction.

Spreading the joy. Giving thanks. 
The Land of Hope National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

Event ▶ Ground golf Dates ▶ September 24th (Sat) – 25th (Sun) Venue ▶ Sakarigawa Riverside Park
Demonstration sport ▶ Marathon: August 7th (Sun) / Walking: October 2nd (Sun)
Contact ☎ 0192-27-3111 (Ofunato)

Ofunato INFORMATION

Ofunato is a city located in the southern coast of Iwate Prefecture with a population of approximately 38,000 people. Its main industry is the fishing industry, as it is located right by the Sanriku fishing grounds, one of three of the world’s leading fishing areas. In addition to an abundance of freshly caught pacific saury, mackerel, squid, and salmon, this geographically unique, serene bay also cultivates oysters, scallops, wakame seaweed, and sea squirts.

Also in town is the Anatoshiiso, a unique rock formation that was eroded away by ocean water, leaving three large, gaping holes in its wake.
Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section “People for Sanriku’s Future” introduces these young people and their powerful feelings.

Part 56 introduces Ms. Seika Utsunomiya’s efforts.

Originally from Miyako.

She wanted to work in the railway industry, so after she graduated high school, she joined a private railway company in the Kanto region as a station attendant.

She had been feeling an urge to return to her hometown, so she applied for the Sanriku Railway. She was accepted and has been employed at Sanriku Railway since April 2016. Currently, she is working at the ticket counter and store in Miyako Station, and working on operations for trips to Kujū. Since May, she has been training to become a train conductor on the Ozashiki Train.

"Even while I was working in the Kanto region, I’d come back home to Miyako once a month, so I was watching the city change. New buildings have appeared, and I feel like reconstruction is well on its way," says Ms. Utsunomiya, who returned to Miyako after 3 years of living away from the city.

"I'll do my best to reach my dream"

Ms. Utsunomiya’s dream is to be a train conductor. "If I achieve my dream, I’ll become the 2nd woman train conductor in Sanriku Railway. I hope I can do everyone proud, and I’ll work hard to make my dream come true," she says, talking fondly of her hometown.

Special train services are being planned in preparation for summer vacation, indicating a busy and exciting tourism season for the coast.

"People for Sanriku's Future"

The Sanriku Railway
North Rias Line Operations
Train Conductor Cadet
Seika Utsunomiya

"The Sanriku Railway is packed with loads of fun! Come join us!"

Thank you for all your support!

As of April 30, 2016

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18,4922 billion (93,339 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19,77035 billion (7,742 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.38756 billion (17,722 donations)

※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.