

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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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.

The National Sports Festival
Finished!

7 Days

until the
National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities



Iwate on Display at the 2016 National Sports Festival

All across Iwate, for 11 days between October 1st (Sat) and 11th (Tue), athletes competed fiercely in the 71st National Sports Festival of Japan, known as the "Land of Hope Iwate National Sports Festival".

This was the first time the competition had been hosted in Iwate since 1970, and the first time the disaster region has held the games since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. It was a chance for the prefecture to show its appreciation for all the support it has received, and to show off its charms as it moves towards reconstruction. The competition's slogan was "Spreading the joy. Giving thanks."

On October 1st (Sat), their majesties the

Emperor and Empress came to Kitakami Stadium to witness the opening ceremony. It began with a series of introductory performances, entitled "Thank You from the Land of Hope". First, the actor Hiroaki Murakami (originally from Rikuzentakata) told the tale of Iwate's triumph over disaster, and its journey towards reconstruction. Next, a group of children read "Strong in the Rain", a poem by Kenji Miyazawa. Kamaishi's tiger dancers competed with Kitakami's demon's sword dancers. A song and dance group, featuring members from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, gave a performance entitled "New Relationships in Tohoku". Finally, a group of 700 Sansa

Odori dancers dynamically expressed Iwate's journey towards a glittering future, while also giving thanks for the help the prefecture has received.

Joy and thanks! The Opening Ceremony

At the official opening ceremony, starting with Okinawa, teams from all 47 prefectures entered the arena. The athletes and fans then observed a minute's silence out of respect for those who lost their lives in the disaster.



700 Sansa Odori dancers



Iwate's team entering the stadium



Eiki Takahashi (left) and Misaki Ozawa (right) make a speech

Governor Tasso gave a greeting. "This is the first time for the disaster area to host this sports festival since 3.11, and I'd like everyone to see how hard we're working towards reconstruction. At the same time, I offer my sincere thanks for everyone's support."

Torches from 33 locations across Iwate were transported by relay to a central flame. The audience of 12,000 people burst into applause as the fire was lit. Iwate's representative athletes, Eiki Takahashi and Misaki Ozawa, gave a speech expressing their commitment to fair play, and the National Sports Festival officially began.

23,000 athletes from all 47 of Japan's prefectures (including

swimmers, whose events had already taken place) took part in the competition. 36 official events and a special high school baseball competition were held across 24 different locations.

Exceeding expectations and giving thanks

The closing ceremony on October 11th (Tue) was attended by 16,000 people, including the athletes, festival staff and spectators. The special guest was Prince Akishino.

Iwate's target before the competition was to finish within the top 8, with a total of at least 1,550 points. In the end they scored 1,924 points, across both this competition and the winter event. They finished second in the combined

male and female rankings (The Emperor's Cup), and second in the female rankings (The Empress' Cup) with 981 points. They fully exceeded expectations, to the delight of everyone in the prefecture.

The National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

Continuing on from the National Sports Festival is the "Land of Hope" 16th National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities, which takes place over three days between October 22nd (Sat) and 24th (Mon). 3,300 athletes will compete in 13 solo and group events.

Volunteer in the Typhoon #10 Disaster Areas

Typhoon #10 caused enormous damage. We're seeking volunteers to help in Kuji, Iwaizumi and Miyako, which suffered the most.

Kuji

• Kuji Disaster Volunteer Center ☎ 0194-53-3380

Iwaizumi

• Iwaizumi Disaster Volunteer Center ☎ 090-7079-6035
• Kogawa Satellite ☎ 090-2270-0244
• Omoto Satellite ☎ 090-2270-0246

Miyako

We are operating a bus service to take volunteers from Miyako to Iwaizumi (weekdays only).

• Miyako City Council of Social Welfare

☎ 0193-64-5050



Otsuchi Gakuen Starts Classes in New Building

Otsuchi

Construction on Otsuchi Gakuen, the first school in Iwate that teaches all compulsory education grades in one building, has been completed. On September 26th, 2016 (Mon), classes were held for the first time in the new school building.

It's been approximately 5 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Since then, students at Otsuchi Elementary School and Otsuchi Middle School have been attending classes in a temporary school building. In April 2016, the two schools combined to form Otsuchi Gakuen (Principal Atsushi Omori, 637 students enrolled). In September, the construction on the long-awaited new school building was completed.

The new building is located where Otsuchi High School used to be, on elevated ground. It is a two-story wooden structure built with reinforced concrete.

The wood is taken from Japanese cedar and larch trees in the town. The school also has an indoor exercise room, an indoor pool, library, and a cafeteria. It has been designated as an evacuation site during times of disaster.



Children attending class in the new school building
(Photo: Otsuchi)

Setting a New Guinness World Record Lining Up 1,260 Pacific Saury

Ofunato

On October 9th, 2016 (Sun), an event was held at a fish market in Ofunato to break the Guinness World Record for the "longest line of edible fish".

This was a collaborative effort of the residents between Ofunato and the government, to promote Ofunato as a city with delicious fish.

About 361 locals and tourists attended the event. The participants worked diligently to line up and make sure the heads and tails stayed on the fish as they aimed for the world record.

The participants were able to line up 1,260 pacific saury, beating the former world record of 1,000 dried Japanese seabream in Toba, Mie Prefecture. The venue was filled with loud applause and cheers.

"I hope Ofunato will become widely known as a place with delicious pacific saury," said the mayor of Ofunato, Kimiaki Toda, as he accepted the certificate.



Participants as they work hard to line up pacific saury

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 62 introduces Ms. Mizuki Fukushi's efforts.

People for SANRIKU'S Future

Yamada Specialty Products Market Co-Op
Floor Staff

Mizuki Fukushi



"Please come to eat delicious food in Yamada!"

Ms. Fukushi, who had lived in Akita City briefly, reflected on her return to her hometown. "Shopping is really convenient in the city, but in Yamada, you're really close to everyone. It's easy to talk to people in the neighborhood, and I think it's a really comfortable place to live."

Michi no Eki Yamada is one of the more popular rest stops along the coast, and many people come to stop by for a look. Ms. Fukushi greets customers and works at the cash register.

From support for the reconstruction to tourism

"I didn't know this until I started working at the Michi no Eki, but Yamada has a lot of really delicious local foods. We have matsutake mushrooms in fall, shiitake mushrooms and oysters in winter, and sea urchins in summer. Right now we have a lot of tourists coming in to see the reconstruction efforts. I hope that more and more people will fall in love with Yamada after seeing the beautiful scenery and delicious food we have here," she said with a smile. She interacts with customers energetically every day to promote the wonders of Yamada.

Praying for reconstruction in Yamada

Ms. Fukushi was in her third year of junior high when the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit. She recalls that she didn't have a graduation ceremony. "Roads have been built so it's a lot easier getting around, but the seawalls are still being constructed, so I feel a little uneasy thinking that another disaster could occur. There are still a lot of people around me living in temporary housing. I hope that construction on homes will go quicker so that these people can return to their lives."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sept. 30, 2016

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:
www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

Thank you for all your support!

As of Sept. 30, 2016

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.5632 billion (93,854 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.79252 billion (7,877 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥8.55577 billion (18,328 donations)

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

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