News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 117

November 15, 2016

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.

The vibrant, autumn leaves have come to an end, and the first snow fell in the open lands of the prefecture 14 days earlier than last year. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Trial Planting Complete, First Step to Recovery of Takatamatsubara Rikuzentakata

On October 25th, 2016 (Tues.), trial planting geared towards recovery of Takatamatsubara occured at Rikuzentakata's Disaster Prevention Forest Development Construction Site in the Takatamatsubara area.

Takatamatsubara, which was one of Rikuzentakata's tourist spots, was completely washed away during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Roughly 70,000 trees were destroyed that day, with only one pine tree left standing. This lone tree, the Miracle Pine Tree, has become a symbol of the reconstruction. The locals look towards it for hope as they pray for the reforestation of Takatamatsubara.



Takatamatsubara before the disaster

The trial planting was carried out to research and gain knowledge on what's needed to ensure the trees would take root and grow. Official planting of the trees is due to begin in 2018.

Approximately 40 workers - employees from the Prefectural Coastal Regional Development Bureau Department Agricultural Administration and Forestry's Agriculture and Forestry Promotions Center Ofunato Branch, and members of the Association for the Preservation Takatamatsubara - attended the event, where a total of 147 Japanese black pine and Japanese red pine were planted using mostly container tree seedlings.



Takatamatsubara after the disaster

The effectiveness of the additional soil and fertilizer used, the growth of the roots, and the soil water content were among some of the factors that were researched at the site.

There is a 3-year plan that will take effect starting next year to plant approximately 40,000 trees on a 4.25m high embankment measuring 1.9km long.

It's estimated that it will take roughly 50 years for the saplings to grow and form a pine forest, but this marks a new step towards bringing back the breathtaking scenery of the pine tree beach.



Trial planting of the pine trees

Kuji

On October 23rd, 2016 (Sun.), Non (real name Rena Nonen), the actress who appeared in the Kuji-based NHK drama Ama-chan, visited Kuji after it suffered damage from Typhoon 10. She cheered on the residents with her bright smile.

Kuji River and Osanai River both overflooded due to the downpour of heavy rain from the typhoon. The city received extensive damage, as it is located between the two rivers.

Non also visited the city earlier this year on September 18th (Sun.) with the actress Eri Watanabe. During the trip, they visited several places such as the Kosode, Ama Center, which was one of the filming locations for the drama, House, which received Ama-chan damage despite having just been remodeled, and Moguranpia, an

underground aquarium and science museum which reopened this April.

Non also participated in the Kuji Local Products Festival that was held in Amber Hall, which is located in Kawasaki, Kuji. On the previous day, Non had a charity talk show at Hirosaki University. She donated the proceedings she



Non (center) shaking hands with Mayor Endo of Kuji (left) and Vice Mayor Nakai of Iwaizumi (right) after donating to the two disaster-affected areas (photo: Kuji)

received from this event to Kuji and Iwaizumi, which had both suffered from Typhoon 10. She interacted with the locals in other events as well, such as the mochi-scattering event, and the transportation of the portable shrine. The participants were all smiles as they were blessed with Non's cheerfulness.



Non scattering mochi into the crowd (photo: Kuji)

We are recruiting members for the Iwate **Reconstruction Supporters Team!**

Know, Buy, Eat, Go - and Help Support Us!

Free to Register!



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area.

(Information only available in Japanese.) For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Iwate Ooendan

Preparation for the 2019 Rugby World Cup Kamaishi Kamaishi and Airbnb Form Partnership

On October 20th, 2016 (Thurs), Kamaishi and Airbnb (San Francisco, California) joined hands to promote tourism in the area. This is the first agreement Airbnb has signed with a local authority in Japan.

Airbnb is a service where you can post up, search, and reserve unique accommodation facilities all over the world through the internet. There are approximately 2,500,000 listings in 191 different countries. Users can look up places that match their own preferences and experience travel by interacting with the local people and culture.

The new partnership brings the opportunity to show the city's local charms to travelers who come to the area for events

like the upcoming 2019 Rugby World Cup. Kamaishi has high hopes bringing in many potential travelers from here on.



Mayor of Kamaishi (left) and Airbnb Co-founder Joe Gebbia (right) after signing the agreement (photo: Airbnb)

Iwaizumi Rest Stop **Temporarily Open**

Iwaizumi

On November 1st, 2017 (Tues.), the rest stop "Iwaizumi", which is located in Otomo, Iwaizumi, temporarily opened after 2 months of being closed due to the damage it took from Typhoon 10.

The rest stop had a special local goods corner, a produce stand, and a restaurant that used ingredients that they grew themselves. When the Omoto River flooded during Typhoon 10, rising to 1.2m above ground level, the employees and volunteers were able to remove products that were covered in mud, clean up the store, and make preparations for its reopening.

Part of the shop temporarily was opened, and a crowd of customers came in to purchase many of the popular local products such Ryusendo water, Ryusendo skin toner, charcoal-grilled meat, and cheap and fresh vegetables.



The temporarily reopened rest stop

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 63 introduces Mr. Daigo Yamazaki's efforts.

He is originally from Kirikiri, Otsuchi. He is currently a

third year student at Otsuchi High School.

He was in the 6th grade when the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit.

After he graduated from middle school, he thought that he would like to work at the Otsuchi Town Hall in the future. At Otsuchi High School, he is a member of the Reconstruction Club.

He's taken up the position of student council president, where his role in the club allows him to become involved in the reconstruction and rebuilding of Otsuchi as a high school student, and to tell people about his experiences.

Rebuilding Otsuchi through the Reconstruction Club

Otsuchi High School's Reconstruction Club, which was started up by the high school students themselves, gets involved in many kinds of activities. It has a town building team, a publicity team, an weather observation team, a kids' station team, a disaster prevention team, a team that reaches out to other schools, and so on.









Otsuchi High School 3rd Year

Daigo Yamazaki



"The reconstruction isn't over."

After the disaster, where nothing was left in town, progress on raising ground levels and building homes and public housing was carried out. "So this is how a town is built," Daigo thought with interest as he watched it all unfold in front of his eyes.

"We travel outside of the prefecture to learn about how other places recovered from disasters, like the Great Hanshin Earthquake and the Niigata Earthquake. We also visit schools that have given us support. We express our thanks, and tell them what we've learned from the disaster and how we've grown from it," said Daigo, who is making an effort to spread information on the situation in Otsuchi by interacting with other schools.

A high schooler's idea of Otsuchi's future

"I felt like people have had less opportunity to communicate with other people after the disaster. I want to build an environment where the locals are able to freely talk with other locals. And, if people from other places visit Otsuchi and talk to the locals here, it will make not only make the locals happy, but also cheer up the visitors, too. I want to make a place that people would have fun living in, and will make people from outside want to come to," he said in relation on rebuilding Otsuchi.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Oct. 31, 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 Oct. 31, 2016

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.51520 billion (93,960 donations)

<u>Donations for reconstruction projects:</u> Around ¥19.79301 billion (7,902 donations) Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.59694 billion (18,444 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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