News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 118 December 1, 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.

In recent days, tiny snowflakes have fallen among the rain, marking the beginning of winter.

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

The Long-Awaited Opening of the Shopping Center "All"

Yamada

On November 10th, 2016 (Thu), a crowd of excited shoppers attended the opening of a new shopping center called "All", in Kawamukai, Yamada. The project is part of a national program to support retail facilities in disaster-hit areas, following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The complex is split into two sections; one contains shops, while the other contains restaurants. There are 10 businesses in total, including a supermarket (the main focus of the center), a sembei rice cracker shop and a dry cleaners. They have all officially opened for business within the complex.

As part of the town's recovery from the tsunami, a 3.1 hectare area around JR Rikuchu-Yamada Station (which closed after the disaster) is being redeveloped. Besides the new shopping complex, the area includes the Yamada Exchange Center, which acts as a

base for community activities, and Hapine, a library and gathering spot for students.

On December 1st (Thu), people started moving into Yamada Central Apartments, a nearby 146-room public housing complex for survivors. The construction of 40 new shops and financial institutions is also planned. The "All" shopping complex marks the start of an phase Yamada's exciting new of reconstruction.



Restaurants inside the complex

The tiger dance performed at the opening ceremony

Ryori Fisheries Association Opens Hanamaki Store to Support the Coast Hanamaki

On November 4th, 2016 (Fri), the Ryori Fisheries Association opened a store called Ryorimaru in Kinkontei, a souvenir and food market in Nishimiyanome, Hanamaki. The Ryori Fisheries Association of Sanriku, Ofunato suffered tremendous damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami.

Ryorimaru was established by the Ryori Fisheries Association, local fishermen, and a group of volunteer divers who cleared the seabed of debris in the wake of the disaster. Their goal was to give people living inland the chance to taste Sanriku's fresh and delicious seafood.

The shop's products include the well-known "Koishihama" brand of scallops, wakame seaweed, and various processed goods. Fresh seafood is served at the Ryorimaru restaurant. The lunchtime specialty is a "beachside bbq" set; at night you can enjoy a seafood rice bowl (as displayed on the shop's sign), as well as Japanese sake made on the coast.

Ryorimaru is drawing attention for its success in both increasing the inland market for coastal seafood, and building new links between fishermen and inland residents.

Ryorimaru (Ryori Fisheries Assoc.) Hours: 11:30 - 14:00 / 17:00 - 23:00 **Closed on Mondays** Inquiries 🏗 0198-29-6381



The store's fresh seafood products



Application deadline: December 13th (Tue)

What are the "New Tohoku" Reconstruction Awards?

The Reconstruction Agency is working to create a "New Tohoku" to act as a model for the rest of the country and the world. For this, they use the skills and know-how of local people to push forth its initiatives. Honoring these citizens for their contributions will promote these efforts more widely, both in and outside of the disaster regions.

Potential candidates: Charities, businesses, universities or private individuals who have contributed towards a "New Tohoku" over the course of the last year.

"All", the shopping complex

Construction of Centralized Government Offices Begins



On November 4th, 2016 (Fri), a ceremony was held to mark the start of construction on a new public space that will host various public offices together, including the City Hall. The ceremony was held at the proposed site on the south side of JR Miyako Station.

The new facility will be 800m further inland than the current City Hall office, and will provide 15,590m2 of floor space. It will be made up of a 6-story City Hall, and a 2-story building housing the Citizen Exchange Center (name subject to change) and the Miyako Insurance Center. Both buildings will be reinforced with steel, and the latter building will be able to support evacuees if necessary. The facility will be connected to the square in front of Miyako Station by a free-use evacuation route.

Masanori Yamamoto, the Mayor of Miyako, said, "Our environment is changing, and this centralized facility will act as a starting line. We have to take care of things properly." The construction of the centralized government building is

due to be completed in July 2018.

The ceremony marking the start of construction

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 64 introduces Ms. Itsuki Chūmae's efforts.

Originally from Kirikiri. Otsuchi. She is a 3rd year student at Kozukata High School, and was a 6th year elementary school student when the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami struck. Having lost their home, she moved with her family to Yahaba. After entering Kozukata High School she joined the Canoe Club. At 2016's "Land of Hope Iwate National Sports Festival", she won the Girls' Canoe Sprint (kayak single) event in both the 200m and 500m categories.

Thanking everyone for their support

After the disaster. Ms. Chumae was reluctant to leave Otsuchi. where she was born and raised. However, she was persuaded by her parents to move to inland Yahaba for middle school.

"I felt that there was a gap between the inland and coastal regions. I wasn't sure if it was alright for me to have such a comfortable life, while people on the coast were forced into such discomfort," she reflected.

After entering Kozukata High School, she joined the canoe

Six Recovering Businesses Collaborate On "Salmon Tasting Set"

Fukkou Machizukuri Otsuchi has created a Salmon Tasting Set, featuring different varieties of Otsuchi's speciality, Aramaki-zake. It went on sale on November 10th, 2016 (Thu).

Aramaki-zake is a traditional way of preparing salmon that dates back to the Edo era. The fish are first salted, then dried. It was developed in Otsuchi, before spreading to Edo.

The Salmon Tasting Set is a collaboration between 6 local seafood businesses that suffered tremendous damage in the disaster. It's intended to promote knowledge of Aramaki-zake, the pride of Otsuchi, across the country.

The preparation method and amount of salt differs between the 6 types, so comparing them is a lot of fun. They're alsc cut slightly thicker than normal - a

defining characteristic.

Takako Okamoto, from Fukkou Machizukuri Otsuchi, said, "I hope people will become fans of Otsuchi after trying Aramakizake."

Inquiries: Fukkou Machizukuri Otsuchi 🛛 0193-55-6650



Kozukata High School 3rd year

Itsuki Chumae



Aim for the Olympics

Becoming an inspiring athlete

Ms. Chumae's first experience of canoeing was in high school. She trained hard, never forgetting the advice of a schoolmate: "Nothing's impossible. Some people might take more time than others, but it's still possible". After graduating, her goal is to continue training, and appear in the Tokyo Olympics.

Ms. Chumae still visits Otsuchi occasionally. "The time I spent in Otsuchi is an important part of who I am. I hope it becomes the sort of town where children smaller than I am can play to their heart's content, and grow," she said.

Through her canoeing, Ms. Chumae has become an inspiration to many. People will be watching her career with interest.

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

Thank you for all your support!

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

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.51520 billion (93,960 donations) Donations for reconstruction projects: 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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The Salmon Tasting Set goes on sale (Photo: Fukkou Machizukuri Otsuchi)

Otsuchi

club, having been attracted by its easy-going atmosphere. Ms. Chumae is grateful for her double-triumph at the National Sport Festival. "Everyone around me was so happy to see me win, which is much more important than winning itself. I'm so grateful to have had the support of so many

people."

News from Iwate's Reconstruction Volume 119 will be published on December 15th.