## News from Iwate's Reconstruction



Volume 119

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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 the very last weeks of the year, Iwate is busy preparing for Christmas and New Year.

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

# Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum Held in Nagano

On December 3rd, 2016 (Sat), Iwate and Nagano's Prefectural Governments co-hosted the lwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum in Nagano City. The forum was first held in 2012, making this its fifth year. Its aim is to communicate news of lwate's reconstruction to the rest of the country.

After opening greeting, an Nagano's Governor Abe presented Iwate's Governor Tasso with a donation to be put towards recovery from typhoon #10. The event continued with a greeting from Mr. Mutai, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Cabinet Office and Reconstruction Agency. Next came a discussion



Nagano's Governor Abe (left) and Iwate's Governor Tasso (right)

between Governor Tasso. Governor Abe and Mr. Kikuchi, Head of the Shinshu University Disaster Mitigation and Prevention Center, on the theme of "Disaster Recovery in Local Communities". Governor Tasso thanked Governor Abe for the many workers dispatched from Nagano to assist Iwate. He also commented on the reconstruction's progress. "It's progressing, but labor shortage is a constant problem," he said.

discussion with the theme, "Reconstructive Power in Local Communities". The panelists used their different experiences to come to several valuable conclusions. They

Next, there was a 4-person panel

recommended taking lessons from the disaster to shape regional policy, and suggested carrying out evacuation drills. They also spoke about how important it is to pass on information about the disaster by word of mouth in local communities.

Nagano

An exhibit within the venue displayed information about the damage Iwate suffered, and the current state of the reconstruction. There was also a sale of Iwate's local products, which proved to be extremely popular.

The forum was a way of thanking the rest of Japan for the assistance it has given Iwate. It also generated some significant ideas with regard to the future of the reconstruction.



Iwate's products for sale

#### New Drama to Spread Memories of Iwate's Reconstruction Morioka

Iwate Prefecture has commissioned documentary-style "Iwate Reconstruction Dramas", depicting the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, to keep memories of the disaster from fading.

The project was funded by aid money from the Reconstruction Agency. It invited the public to submit their stories, or to apply as actors, with the aim of involving as many people as possible. In the end, 75 stories were submitted, and

202 people applied to perform. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Thu), a ceremony was held at the Iwate Prefectural Government building to officially announce the dramas. The attendees included the author Katsuhiko

Website

who Takahashi, is the project's supervising editor. Miyako native Izuho Ohta and Morioka resident Mayu Kariya, who play lead roles, were also there.

The panel discussion

Two dramas will be created, based on stories submitted by the public: "The Smallest Bookshop in Japan" "Winter Firefly". They feature actors like Hiroaki Murakami, Yumiko Fuiita. Hatsunori Hasegawa and Satoshi Furuya.

The dramas are scheduled to air in March 2017. Besides appearing on 2 commercial TV stations, there will be 6 public screenings within the prefecture. The dramas will also be uploaded to Iwate's official online video channel, so people both inside and outside the prefecture can view them.



"Iwate Reconstruction Dramas" are announced



http://www.iwatefukkoudouga.jp/

Lead actresses Izuho Ohta (left) and Mayu Kariya (right)



"e! Iwate" is a mobile app that sends you news and information about Iwate's Reconstruction (in Japanese). You can then re-post this information on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Downloads available for the following smart phone models: Android OS4.0 and newer, iOS6.0 and newer

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### "World Tsunami Awareness Day" Kuroshio High School Student Summit

Kuroshio, Kochi

On November 25th, 2016 (Fri), the "World Tsunami Awareness Day" High School Student Summit was held in Kuroshio, Kōchi. Students from 30 countries exchanged opinions about tsunami disaster prevention.

The summit was held to celebrate World Tsunami Awareness Day, which was recently created by the UN General Assembly. Its aim was to educate young people who may one day take a leading role in disaster prevention and reduction. 360 high school students from 30 countries attended, including students from Morioka Daiichi, Mizusawa and Miyako Technical High School in Iwate. The three students from Miyako Technical High School introduced a tsunami simulation model, which has been used in 148 disaster prevention education lessons since its creation in 2005.

The summit closed with

the "Kuroshio Declaration", a commitment to protecting precious human life by acknowledging the risk posed by tsunamis, and by passing on knowledge about them down to future generations.



Miyako Technical High School students make their presentation in English.

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 65 introduces Mr. Shunichi Yanashita's efforts.

#### 

After attending elementary and middle school in Rikuzentakata, he enrolled at Tono High School to pursue his hobby, soccer.

He was in his first year of high school when the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami occurred. His family home in Rikuzentakata was destroyed. He decided to stay in Iwate to contribute to the reconstruction. In April 2013, he joined Iwate Kaihatsu Railway.

In November 2015, he became their youngest train operator.

### Staying in Iwate for the reconstruction

Mr. Yanashita, the youngest train operator at Iwate Kaihatsu Railway, transports limestone from the Ofunato inland region and Sumita mines to the cement factories on the coast.

Mr. Yanashita spoke about his hometown. "I've watched Iwate Kaihatsu Railway's trains ever since I was very young. When I was

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Nov. 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

## An Exhibition of Rikuzentakata's Restored Cultural Assets

From November 26th (Sat) to December 5th (Mon), 2016, an exhibition called "Rikuzentakata, Our Hometown Forever – The Treasure in our Hearts" was held at the Community Hall in Takata. It showcased the continuing restoration of Rikuzentakata's cultural assets, following the damage suffered in the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami.

Around 560,000 artifacts, in collections and exhibitions across 4 cultural properties in Rikuzentakata, were engulfed by the tsunami. However, roughly 460,000 were recovered. With help from institutions across the country, such as the Iwate Prefectural Museum and the Tokyo National Museum, the city began removing mud, salt and bacteria from these artifacts. Around 170,000 items have been restored.

The exhibition displayed around 100 items, including fishing tools (registered as national cultural properties) and the Yoshida Family Document (a prefectural cultural asset).

This was the first exhibition of its kind to be held in Rikuzentakata since the disaster. The attendees were moved by the sight of the artifacts, which had arrived back home after 6 years away.

People for

Iwate Kaihatsu Railway

Train Driver

Shunichi Yanashita

"Safe and secure deliveries."

**Future** 



Visitors inspect the artifacts.

considering where to apply for work, I thought about going to Morioka or Sendai. But then the disaster happened. I wanted to stay here and get involved with the reconstruction, so I applied to my current company."

#### *Feeling the call to support the recovery*

Every day, Mr. Yanashita commutes to Ofunato from his home in Rikuzentakata. He gave us his impression of the reconstruction. "I think it's progressing, albeit slowly. The town probably won't turn out to be exactly as it was before, but hopefully it'll become even better."

He also spoke about his personal role. "It's nice to think that the cement made from the limestone I transport is being used in the reconstruction. I'm going to work hard to continue transporting goods safely and securely."

Mr. Yanashita is one of the unsung heroes continuing to contribute to Iwate's reconstruction.

 Thank you for all your support!
 As of Nov. 30, 2016

 Donations for survivors:
 Around ¥18.51705 billion (94,056 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.79621 billion (7,953 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.62724 billion (18,613 donations)

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

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