News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 123

March 15, 2017

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.

Six years have passed since the disaster, and these days you can start to see Iwate's renewed towns and overall reconstruction taking shape.

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

Six Years Since That Day

Memorial Service Held In Kamaishi









The decorated altar

The attendees offer a silent prave

Governor Tasso gives a speech

On March 11th, 2017 (Sat), Iwate Prefecture and Kamaishi City held a joint memorial service in Kamaishi High School's gymnasium, to mark the 6th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Around 750 people attended, including bereaved family members.

Live footage from national government's ceremony at the National Theatre (Chiyoda, Tokyo) was broadcast during the service. At 2:46pm, the time the earthquake occurred, the attendees observed a minute's silence.

Governor Tasso gave a ceremonial address. "We will remember the victims and their hometowns. The terrible spectacle of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, as well as the lessons we learned from it - we will carve the experience onto our hearts, so we can pass it on to the next generation. We must continue the reconstruction. Those of us still alive should combine our power, and work towards protecting lives, while building a home in Sanriku where people can live together with the land and the sea," he said.

Next, there was a speech from a representative of the bereaved families. Yoshio Miura, whose wife died in the Unosumai Disaster Prevention Center. said. "In an instant, the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake snatched away our peaceful lives. It took away the place where we lived, and forced us to live as victims. It was a

forceful reminder of the threat of nature.

Not a day goes by where I don't think of the deep sadness felt by those who lost their beloved families. I strongly hope that we can put disaster prevention measures in place to ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again," he said.

After the speech, the 30 members of the Kamaishi Choir Association sang "Flower of Eternity" and "Stand Alone". Lastly, the Seihahogaku-kai, a Japanese

music performance group, played koto music while attendees left white chrysanthemums on the altar, and offered a prayer to the victims.



In Iwate Prefecture, 5,134 lives were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (4,672 direct deaths and 462 related deaths). 1,122 people remain unaccounted for. (as of February 28th, 2017)

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

Construction Completed on Crypt For Anonymous Tsunami Victims

Otsuch

On February 19th, 2017 (Sun), a ceremony was held to inter the ashes of the unknown victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The ceremony was held at the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Crypt, a new, purpose-built structure in Shiroyama, Otsuchi.

Around 70 people attended the ceremony, including bereaved families. The remains of 70 anonymous victims, the largest amount of any town hit by the disaster, were gently interred by town officials. As priests chanted, the attendees left an offering of flowers, and prayed for the dead.

The crypt is a wooden, single-story structure (10m2) overlooking the town. It was built to give bereaved families a place to feel close to their loved ones. The structure was designed so that the sunlight shines in the windows on March 11th every year, to represent the hope that the victims are close to the places they called home.

Other memorial services will take place here in the future.
The crypt will be a place where people can reflect on their memories of their loved ones.



The completed crypt (Photo: Otsuchi Town)

Construction Begins on Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Memorial Park

Rikuzentakata

On March 5th, 2017 (Sun), a ceremony was held in the Kesen area of Rikuzentakata to mark the start of construction work on Takata-Matsubara Memorial Park.

The national, prefectural, and city governments are collaborating on the project, which will be a memorial to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. It will also help ensure that the memories and lessons of 3.11 are passed on to future generations. Around 100 people attended the ceremony, including Vice-Minister Tanaka of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, as well as Governor Tasso and Rikuzentakata's Mayor Toba. After the ground-breaking ceremony, the Kesen Kenka Tanabata Society gave a lively taiko performance.

Memorial facilities will be built in each of the three disaster-affected prefectures. This one in Rikuzentakata is the first to undergo construction.

The park will measure 130 hectares in total. It is the first nationally-run memorial & prayer facility in the country to be put up after a natural disaster. Iwate Prefecture will also build a disaster and tsunami memorial exhibit, as well as a new "michi no

eki" (rest stop) and exercise facilities. Construction is due to be completed in 2020



The ground-breaking ceremony

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 68 introduces Ms. Riho Buto's efforts.

Originally from Yamada. When Ms. Buto was a 1st year student at Yamada High School, her family home was destroyed in the disaster. She suffered from serious illnesses and other hardships, but never gave up on her dream of becoming a pastry chef. After graduating, she attended a specialist school in Morioka. Upon her return to Yamada, she began preparing to open her own cake shop, which she opened in December 2016. Her shop specializes in cakes low in sugar and calories, and she's doing everything herself, from production to sales.

Achieving your childhood dream in your hometown

Ms. Buto has pursued her dream since childhood, despite numerous hardships. She named her shop, "Hotaka", by taking one character from her own name, and one character from her supportive father.



Patisserie Hotaka

Riho Buto



"Sweet cakes that are good for your health!"

"I've heard that there are lots of people in Yamada with diabetes or other illnesses, and I want those people to be able to eat delicious cakes," she said. She bakes low-sugar, low-calorie cakes by using a natural sweetener instead of sugar.

"Despite being low-sugar and low-calorie, they taste as sweet as a normal cake. People tell me they like being able to eat cake without worrying about sugar or calories," Ms. Buto said with a smile.

Cakes that everyone loves

Ms. Buto gave us her thoughts on Yamada. "Since I came back from Morioka, various shops have been built. They're going to build Rikuchu-Yamada Station soon, and I think things will keep on changing," she said.

She also spoke about her ambitions. "I want to make cakes that people will want to eat throughout their entire lives," she said. The cake shop, with its roots deep in the community, will go on to be a part of Yamada's future.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Feb. 28, 2017

►Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,672 Missing: 1,122 (related) 462

► Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,077

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 Feb. 28, 2017

<u>Donations for survivors:</u> Around ¥18.53108 billion (94,421 donations)

<u>Donations for reconstruction projects:</u> Around ¥19.8957 billion (8,091 donations)

<u>Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:</u> Around ¥8.72105 billion (19,717 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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