

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 130  
October 2017 Edition

## 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.

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

## Construction of 303 New Public Housing Units for Inland Area Survivors

Inland regions

Iwate Prefecture plans on constructing 303 new public housing units inland, for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. After the disaster, many people resettled inland.

Among those, the Prefecture is responsible for building a total of 251 units: 168 units in Morioka, 34 in

Kitakami, 14 in Oshu, and 35 in Ichinoseki. The municipal governments are responsible for 52 total units: 30 in Hanamaki and 22 in Tono.

The Prefecture has been surveying move-in requests from survivors since January 2016. The survey was used to check move-in requirements, confirm all construction sites within the inland

areas, and then decide the number of homes required to be built.

The construction is currently ongoing and all construction of public housings for the survivors should be completed by December of 2019.

### 【Construction by the Prefecture】

Name of Complex	Location	Number of Units	Projected Completion Date
Bingo Daiichi Apartment	Morioka-shi Tsukigaoka 2-chome area	5	End of 2018 - September 2019
(Tentative) Minami Aoyama Apartments	Morioka-shi Aoyama 1-chome and Minami Aoyama area	118	December 2019
(Tentative) Kurosawajiri Apartments	Kitakamishi-shi Kurosawajiri 4-chome area	34	December 2019
(Tentative) Sakurayashiki Apartments	Oushu-shi Mizusawa-ku Sakurayashiki area	14	September 2019
Komashita Apartments	Ichinoseki-shi Hagisho Komashita area	22	End of 2018
(Tentative) Kamaida Apartments	Ichinoseki-shi Senmayacho Kamaida area	13	September 2019



Ongoing construction at Bingo Daiichi Apartment

### 【Construction by the municipal governments】

Name of Complex	Location	Number of Units	Projected Completion Date
(Tentative) Hanamaki Kamicho Apartments	Hanamaki-shi Kamicho and Nakamachi area	30	End of 2018
Kokucho City-Operated Housing	Tono-shi Kokucho area	16	End of 2019
Inarishita City-Operated Housing	Tono-shi Tonocho area	6	End of 2018



Scheduled construction site of the Tono City-operated Kokucho Housing

## Examining the 11th Reconstruction Survey of Disaster-Affected Businesses

In Iwate Prefecture, a survey was conducted to grasp the status of the restoration and reconstruction progress of municipal area industries (mainly commerce) affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Data from the survey is used to reflect and formulate measures towards reconstruction.

This survey is conducted once a year, targeting Chambers of Commerce (or CoC members) of the twelve municipalities in the coastal areas. It reviews business resumption, restoration progress, employment situation, business performance, market routes, and other aspects.

We will examine data from the 11th survey conducted in August 2017.

### Survey on Resuming Businesses

**"Resumed" or "Partially resumed": 83.8% (Previously: 79.3%)**

Based on survey results from the first and latest surveys, the percentage of businesses that responded as "resumed" or "partially resumed" was 83.8%, exceeding 80% for the first time. Construction scored highest in the proportion of businesses that responded as "resumed" or "partially resumed" at 96.6%, followed by the fisheries processing industry at 88.2%

### Recovery of Business Offices

**"Recovered Close to Pre-Disaster levels": 60.1% (Previously: 55.2%)**

76.6% of businesses answered "more than half recovered" on the survey, a 5.0 point increase from the previous result (71.6%). The fishing processing industry scored highest in the proportion of businesses that answered "more than half restored" at 87.7%. However, the wholesale and retail sector scored the lowest at 70.7%.

### Employment

**"Enough workers" or "Mostly enough": 87.1% (Previously: 84.5%)**

12.9% of businesses answered they had "less than 80%" the necessary amount of workers, a 2.5 decrease from the previous survey. Out of various reasons stated for why businesses were able to secure necessary employees, "continuation of employment since pre-disaster" is the highest at 35.4%. However, the reason chosen for businesses unable to secure employees was "the decrease in population in the area", at over 60%.

For more information

11th Reconstruction Survey

Search

## New Ferry Route – Miyako to Muroran In Operation June 22nd 2018

Miyako

On September 1<sup>st</sup> (Fri), Kawasaki Kinkai Kisen Co., Ltd. (based in Tokyo) announced a new ferry route departing from Miyako harbor to Muroran harbor in Hokkaido. It is scheduled to begin its operation on June 22, 2018.

There will be one journey a day, with travel time of about 10 hours and a total distance of 326 kilometers roundtrip. As for the schedule, the ferry will depart Miyako harbor at 8:00 am, arrive in Muroran at 6:00 pm, depart Muroran at 8:00 pm, and then return to Miyako harbor at 6:00 am the next day.

The ferry, "Silver Queen", weighs 7,005 tons and has a total length of 134 meters. It can accommodate 600 passengers, 69 trucks (equivalent to 12 meters), and 20 regular-sized cars.

The ferry is also equipped with 5 deluxe suite cabins (fits 2 in each room), a first class cabin with 17 Western-style and 5 Japanese-style cabins (fits 4 in each), economy-class beds for 60 pax, economy class cabin for 362 pax, and an 80 pax cabin specifically for (overnight or long distance) drivers.

Iwate Prefecture is currently working on building a ferry terminal with a boarding bridge and a parking lot for passengers at the Fujiwarafuto Miyako harbor, to be finished by March 2018.



"Silver Queen", the ferry for the new route. (Photo: Kawasaki Kinkai Kisen Co., Ltd.)

## Iwaizumi Yogurt's New Factory Completed, Sales Resumed

Iwaizumi

In August last year, Iwaizumi Milk Products Co., Ltd. (in Otomo, Iwaizumi Town) suffered heavy damage from Typhoon #10, which prompted the construction of a new factory. Work finished in October 10 (Sun) this year, and the company began selling its popular Iwaizumi yogurt to the public again.

When the Omoto River overflowed during Typhoon #10, the waters poured into the company's main, second, and even third factories, forcing them to shut down.

The new second factory, which combines the old second and third factories, will make the same amount of yogurt - 10 tons a day - as before the disaster.

Iwaizumi yogurt is made by fermenting fresh local milk for long durations at a low temperature, which results in a rich, fluffy texture and taste. In November, Iwaizumi yogurt will resume its sales nationwide, and the main factory will also begin production of about 12.8 tons of yogurt per day in December. Due to this, the company also plans to start online sales of Iwaizumi yogurt and milk as well.

The restoration of Iwaizumi yogurt was made possible with the support of fans across the nation. There are high expectations for the products to boost recovery of local industries.



Inside the newly built factory (Photo: Iwaizumi Milk Products Co., Ltd.)

Iwaizumi Yogurt back on sale!

## A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in Iwate

2011.3.11

Otsuchi

What happened that day? Let us look back at the disaster in each of the affected coastal areas.



The affected town area (Photo: Otsuchi Town)

- Height of the Tsunami  
19.0m Funakoshi Bay  
15.1m Otsuchi Bay
- Deaths  
803 (Directly related)  
51 (Indirectly related)
- Missing 422
- Destroyed Buildings 4,167

As of September 30, 2017

### Disaster situation of the Machikata district

Many public and commercial facilities were located in the Machikata district, the center of the town, between Otsuchi River and Kozuchi River. In this area, the maximum flooding depth of the tsunami was 10.7 meters. Furthermore, the waves ran up about 3 kilometers of the Otsuchi River and about 2 kilometers of the Oshigawa River. The central area experienced extensive flooding and suffered catastrophic damage.

### The tragedy of the town hall, a base for disaster measures

The town hall located 300 meters straight from the coastline also suffered a direct hit by the tsunami, completely submerging of the two-story building. Everything within the building was swept away. Also, immediately after the earthquake, the tsunami hit the disaster countermeasure headquarters set up in the parking lot in front of the town hall. 40 people, including the town mayor and seven of the executive staff, lost their lives. This temporarily halted the town's administrative function as most of the top executives perished in the tsunami.



The devastated JR Otsuchi Station (Photo: Otsuchi Town)



Otsuchi



The recovered "Horai-jima", a popular tourist spot

## Construction Completed on Housing Estate Foundations

Ofunato

On September 5 (Tue), work was completed on the foundation of a new housing estate in Ofunato. The work was part of efforts to rehouse residents, following the damage suffered in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Construction on the project, which includes 366 housing sites on 21 areas of elevated land within the city, began in March 2013. Residential land development work on 37 of these housing sites (34 in Naka-Akasaki and 3 in Horikawahara) has now been completed, and the process of turning over the land to citizens began in October.

Altogether, the project covers 275,000 square metres of land, including residential space, roads, parks and meeting spaces. It is intended to be a way for the community that was in place before the disaster to be relocated and continued.

In September last year, Ofunato completed work on 801 units in 25 housing complexes. The new housing estate foundations are a new milestone on the road towards residential reconstruction.



The completed land development work at Morikko/Horikawahara  
(Photo: Ofunato City)

## Tsunami Disaster Prevention Workshops Begin

Kuji

On September 12 (Tue), a Tsunami Disaster Prevention Workshop, which teaches people about disaster prevention measures, was held for the first time in Suwashita, in Kuji Harbour.

The project is a collaboration between the Northern Iwate Regional Development Bureau's Department of Public Works, and Taneichi High School in Hirono. 44 children from Osanai Elementary School took part.

First, 7 third-year students from Taneichi High School's Marine Development Department used a water tank to explain how a tsunami works. The children learned the difference between waves and tsunami, and that deeper water causes faster tsunami.

Next, a representative from the prefectural government spoke to the children about tsunami disaster prevention measures, and the importance of evacuation. The children visited a seawall, and tried opening and closing one of its large metal doors.

The Northern Iwate Regional Development Bureau will continue running workshops for children in its jurisdiction (Kuji, Hirono, Noda and Fudai), to deepen their understanding of tsunami and disaster prevention. These children, along with the students from Taneichi High School, will carry these lessons forward to the next generation.



Elementary students learn about tsunami

Opening the seawall doors



Food of the harvest season!

## Sanriku Event Information



**11/3** Harvest Festival & Iwaizumi  
Fri Healthy Food Festival

Venue: Horse Chestnut / Minanogawa Square

There will be stalls selling soba, sausages and other foods that are cheap, local and handmade. Try mochi made with new rice, meat from a Ryusendo black pig hog roast, or take part in a tofu speed eating contest.

**Inquiries** Festival Organizing Committee  
☎ 0194-27-2156

**11/4** "Smile of Autumn" Noda  
Sat Harvest Festival 2017

Venue: JA New Iwate Noda Branch

**11/5**  
Sun  
At the festival, you can stuff yourself full of Noda's delicious, local food. A cultural exhibition will take place at the same time.

**Inquiries** Festival Organizing Committee  
☎ 0194-78-2926

**11/4** Industry Rikuzentakata  
Sat Festival

Venue: Abasse Takata /  
Machinaka Square

**11/5**  
Sun  
A festival bringing together Rikuzentakata's special products, including oysters and scallops from the Hirota Bay, Yonezaki apples, oyaki dumplings from the Hirota Peninsula Farm Association, a new brand of rice called "Takata no Yume", and Kesen miso.

**Inquiries** Festival Organizing Committee (Commerce & Tourism Division, Rikuzentakata City)  
☎ 0192-54-2111

**11/5** Waterwheel Festival Kuji  
Sun  
Venue: Katsura Waterwheel Square

Stalls selling locally-grown vegetables and regional cuisine, a demonstration of waterwheel making, and folk performances, in a venue with a nostalgic, olden day atmosphere. Yamane's specialty, miso-glazed tofu, is particularly popular.

**Inquiries** Yamane Rokugo Research Society (Kuji Station Hotel)  
☎ 0194-53-5281

**11/25** Salmon & Abalone Miyako  
Sat Festival

Venue: Shindo Station, Taro Event Square

**11/26**  
Sun  
Fresh seafood like salmon and abalone will be on sale. There will also be a "grab what you can carry" salmon event (charge applies, limited places), folk performances, free salmon soup, and mochi-throwing.

**Inquiries** Taro Tourism Events Organizing Committee (Taro General Office, Miyako City) ☎ 0193-87-2971

**11/26** Yamada Salmon Yamada  
Sun Festival

Venue: Yamada Fish Market  
Event Space

A varied festival featuring a "grab what you can carry" salmon event in a special fish tank (charge applies, limited places), oyster and scallop scooping, stalls selling aramaki salmon, squid, oysters and scallops, and a raffle.

**Inquiries** Seafood Industry Division, Yamada Town ☎ 0193-82-3111



Oysters grown in Yamada Bay have a firm, rich texture. At the Oyster Shack, staff at each table help you steam fresh oysters until they open their shells.

In February 2009, the Yamada Tourism Association opened the Oyster Shack, to provide a place for tourists to try Yamada's famous food. However, it was destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

In October 2011, in order to encourage tourists to come back to the town, it was resurrected as the "Reconstruction Oyster Shack". It's now known as the "Sanriku Yamada Oyster Shack", and it's a popular spot for people from inside and outside of Iwate.

Address: Funakoshi 9-270, Shimoheigun, Yamada, Iwate

Dates: Nov 3, 2017 (Fri) to Jul 1, 2018 (Sun)

Times: 11:00~ / 12:00~  
13:00~ / 14:00~

\* Length: 40 mins (including 10 mins steaming time)

\* When reserving, tell us your preferred time.

Reservations required

\* Make reservations (by telephone) for 2 people or more, 2 days or more in advance.

\* We may not be able to accommodate your preferred time or number of people.

Closed: Wednesdays & Saturdays (open on holidays)  
Dec 27 – Jan 4

Inquiries: Yamada Tourism Association  
TEL: 0193-65-7901

(9:00 – 17:00; closed on Wednesdays)



Steamed oysters



The busy shack

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 72 introduces Ms. Yumika Abe's efforts.



Second year student  
Kamaishi High School  
**Yumika Abe**



"We can't do much, but we can do something."

Director of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. As the bomb victims grow older, it's important to make sure that their voices are heard. Our young generation must spread their thoughts regarding disarmament throughout the country, via initiatives like the "10,000 high school students' petition" and the "Senso no Tsudo!" (War Gathering)," she said.

### The meaning and value of communication

When she was a 2nd year middle school student, Ms. Abe also worked as a volunteer, following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. "The visit to Switzerland gave Iwate's Peace Ambassadors a chance to discuss the disaster with the ambassadors from other prefectures. It's impossible to predict where and when disaster will strike. People told us that, after speaking to us, they started thinking about natural disasters, so I think it was a valuable thing to do," she said.

Regarding her future, Ms. Abe said, "I want to work in a job where I can continue communicating this information."

With her recent experiences under her belt, we're sure that Ms. Abe will continue to work towards bringing people together.

### The idea of nuclear disarmament brings young people together

Student Peace Ambassadors work to globally promote calls for nuclear disarmament made by victims of the atomic bomb. The movement began with high school students in Nagasaki, and is currently spreading across the whole country. Students in Iwate also take part, with the additional goal of thanking people for their help after the tsunami.

Ms. Abe told us about her work. "My job was to take a list of signatures from across the country, and deliver it to the

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sep 30, 2017

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,672 Missing: 1,121 (related) 464
  - ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,078
- To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:  
[www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

### Thank you for all your support! As of Sep 30, 2017

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.57178 billion (95,095 donations)
  - Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.88341 billion (8,314 donations)
  - Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥9.1200 billion (20,569 donations)
- ※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.



Archive of Iwate Tsunami Disaster ~Hope~  
Over 20,000 articles to read and learn  
<http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp/>



### Web version of News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Watch videos of the latest news and People for Sanriku's Future! The website also has a lot of pictures and video to see so be sure to check it out for more!

