# **News from Iwate's Reconstruction**

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

Volume 137 May 2018 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.

# Taro Rest Station's Grand Opening

Miyako

On April 7 (Sat), the Taro Rest Station, which was built by the Taro branch of the Miyako City Government, held its grand opening.

The Taro Rest Station, which has been under construction since 2015, is seen as a core part of the region's reconstruction. It has been provisionally open since July 2016, but since then construction has been completed on facilities like a free rest space with travel

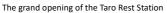
information, and extra parking. This means that the station can finally be used to its full

The rest station includes the "Taro Shiosato Station" tourist information area, and "Sanchoku Toretaro", a shop run by the Tarō Farm-fresh Association, which sells local produce. Other facilities include a cafeteria, a fast food shop, and a mochi rice shop.

Next door, a new dog park called "Dog Run Wantaro" has also opened.

On March 21 this year, the section of road from the Sanriku Coastal Taro Masaki Coast IC to the Iwaizumi Ryusendo IC opened, and in 2020, the Taro South IC is scheduled to open. Taro Rest Station looks likely to be a lively regional hub for many years to come.







The popular "Sanchoku Toretaro" shop



The free rest space, with travel information

# The Ofunato Disaster Prevention & Tourism Exchange Center Now Open

On April 28 (Sat), a ceremony was held to celebrate the third stage of Ofunato's town renewal in the area around Ofunato Station.

The ceremony marks the completion of a local, city-led construction project, which was a key part of the reconstruction from the tsunami. Completed facilities include the Ofunato Disaster Prevention & Tourism Exchange Center, a privately-owned wine distillery, a food manufacturer, and a woodworking factory.

As well as serving as a local landmark, the Tourism Exchange Center will distribute tourism information, and act as a hub for disaster prevention activities.

The building itself is 3 stories tall, and made from reinforced concrete. The first floor is dedicated to tourism and exchange, the second floor has an exhibition about the tsunami and a multipurpose space, while the

third floor has an observation deck. This can also act as a shelter during a tsunami for those who didn't get to high ground in time. Last year, several other facilities in

neighborhood were also completed. including Kyassen Ofunato and Ofunato Yume Shotengai shopping centers in April, and the Saito Confectioners and Kamome Terrace in November. Ofunato's city center is starting to take shape.



Ofunato's third-stage town renewal ceremony



The new Ofunato Disaster Prevention & Tourism Exchange Center

We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater



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

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



Free to

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

## Yamada Police Box Now Open

Yamada

# The 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan

Team Camps Announced, Volunteer Recruitment Underway

On April 23 (Mon), an opening ceremony was held for the Miyako Police Force's Yamada Police Box, which was rebuilt in lioka, Yamada.

The former police box, in the central (Hachimancho) region of Yamada, was destroyed by the tsunami. Afterwards, its role was filled by a temporary building in front of the town hall.

The new police box is located around 1 km south of its original location, on high ground. It's a 2-story, reinforced concrete structure, with 175 square meters of space. It is equipped with solar panels and batteries, so it can operate during power outages. There is also a police car based here.

The 7 police officers based here will continue the police box's community-based work, including patrolling temporary housing districts and public housing complexes.

The Yamada Prefectural Hospital and the Yamada Fire Station are nearby, making this a regional hub for disaster prevention.

Nineteen police stations and police boxes are to be rebuilt, of which 14 have been completed. The remaining 5, including Kamaishi Police Station, are due to be completed within the financial year.





The rebuilt Yamada Police Box

The building's solar panels

On April 20 (Fri), the organizing committee of the 2019 Rugby World Cup announced the locations of the teams' official campsites. There were 59 locations across 22 prefectures, including 4 cities in lwate: Morioka, Miyako, Kitakami, and Kamaishi.

Official volunteer recruitment for the World Cup began on April 23 (Mon). Around 400-800 people will be recruited to work at the Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium (name TBD), which will host two games.

Official volunteers will help with operations around the match venue, guide people at the closest train station and airport, provide customer service at the Fan Zone, and greet tournament guests.

Volunteers are required to be over 18 as of March 31 next year, and they must be available to attend an interview and training session. The recruitment period ends at noon on July 18 (Wed). Applications take place via a form on the official volunteer recruitment website.

For more information

Rugby World Cup Volunteers

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami devastated the Iwate coast. As the reconstruction proceeds, lessons learned from the disaster are being passed along in the coastal communities.

Earthquakes will happen again in the future, and natural disasters can strike at any time. We will

introduce some of the lessons we learned to help others prepare for these incidents,

Search



- **23** 03-4405-6225
- Opening Hours

  Closed weekends &
  holidays

10:00 - 18:00



Construction work on the Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium (name TBD)

# Messages for the Future

Tanohata

Coordinator Tanohata Taiken Network

### Kota Akasaka



#### "I'm sure it won't reach us here."

The Tanohata region has lots of tall cliffs and tall waves, and that geography is one of the causes of what happened. There are lots of tsunami warnings here, so I think a lot of people just thought, "Again?"

People congregated on slightly elevated roads or open spaces, thinking, "I'm sure it won't reach us here." Many of these people lost their lives.

Never underestimate a natural disaster. It's vital to talk to people around you on a daily basis, to

understand where to escape to, and what safety measures to take.

#### Disaster awareness saves lives

The center of Tanohata, including its village hall and gym, is inland, so it avoided damage.

The fire service had long been conducting disaster prevention drills, including the distribution of emergency rations, so they were able to very quickly get a generator to the evacuation centers. People had access to information and warmth. They also received a lot of support from people living inland, and rations were swiftly distributed.

Disasters aren't just a problem for the directly affected areas, so I think that nearby regions should be prepared to support their neighbors.

It's very important to heighten awareness of disaster prevention, and to put regional support measures in place to support the region.

#### Tanohata Tsunami Guide Information

On March 11 2011, the homes we were born and raised in were engulfed by a tsunami. Many tears were shed. The bonds between people in the evacuation shelters and temporary housing were strong, but people couldn't live freely until they moved into reconstructed housing. We talk about the many people we lost, the damage suffered, and the lessons learned through these sad, all-too-real experiences. These are the stories told by the Tsunami Guides in the disaster-hit areas of Tanohata, and the regions of Shimanokoshi and Raga.

Address: Tanohata Tsukue 142-3, Shimohei Iwate Fureai Banchi, Tsukuehama Banchi

Duration: 1 hour

Meeting point: Tanohata Station, Sanriku Railway Bookings: Accepted until 5pm the day before. (Please inquire regarding bookings on the day)

■ Inquiries and Bookings ■

Tanohata Taiken Network

TEL: 0194-37-1211 FAX: 0194-33-3355

# "Sobacchi-Go", Iwate's **Disaster Prevention Bus**

Iwate

On April 19 (Thu), the prefectural government held a ceremony to mark the first journey of "Sobacchi-Go", a new disaster prevention bus which lets people experience a simulated earthquake.

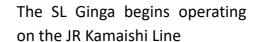
The bus is a renewal of the previous disaster prevention bus, which entered service in 1997 and was showing its age. The new vehicle weighs 3 tons, and is decorated with an image of Sobacchi as a fire fighter. It is equipped with modern features and equipment, including an earthquake simulator, a fire extinguisher training kit and a smoke experience tent.

The earthquake simulator can recreate the earthquakes in Kobe, Tohoku and Kumamoto. It can also replicate any intensity from 2 to 7, and give announcements in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean.

The Sobacchi-Go will visit schools, regional training exercises and disaster prevention events, to improve people's awareness of disasters.







The Coastal JR Kamaishi Line

On April 21 (Sat), the SL Ginga train began operations for the year, on the JR Kamaishi Line.

The SL Ginga is a C58 (C58 239) steam locomotive that was once preserved in Iwate Sports Park, but has now been restored for use. It is intended to support tourism and revitalized the region. The renewed train entered service in April 2014, making this its 5th year.

The SL Ginga makes its outward journey, from Hanamaki to Kamaishi, on Saturdays, and makes the return trip on Sundays. It is scheduled to operate until September 30th.

The steam locomotive pulls 4 passenger carriages, which are decorated with a design from Kenji Miyazawa's "Night on the Galactic Railroad".

The train is expected to make a significant contribution towards coastal tourism.

[Stops / Times]

To Kamaishi: Hanamaki (10:37)  $\rightarrow$  Shin-Hanamaki (10:50)  $\rightarrow$  Kamaishi (15:07) To Hanamaki: Kamaishi (10:55) → Shin-Hanamaki (15:09) → Hanamaki (15:20)

- \* All seating on the SL Ginga is reserved.
- \* Please confirm the operating dates and times before riding.





The Sobacchi-Go's ribbon cutting

Children experiencing a simulated earthquake

The SL Ginga, bound for Kamaishi



Kuii

### Sanriku Event Information



6/3



Hiraniwa Kogen **Rhododendron Festival** 

6/3

Kamaishi Daikannon Fire Festival

Kamaishi

Hirono

6/10

Venue: Kuji-Hiraniwa Natural Park

Hiraniwa Kogen's birch forest is said to have 300,000 trees, making it one of

Japan's largest. The Rhododendrons paint the forest red, and against that background this festival will have stalls, a stage show, and more.

Industry and Construction Dept, Kuji City **7** 0194-72-2111

Executive Committee (Kuzumaki Tourist Association) 2 0195-66-2111

Venue: Kamaishi Daikannon

At the Flame of Prayer, people burn sticks to ask for

blessings. At the Flame of Memory, people pray for their ancestors to grant them peace of mind. Besides these rites, the event will have folk performances, mochi rice throwing and a calligraphy performance. The usual entry fee will be waived on the day of the event.

Kamaishi Daikannon **2** 0193-24-2125

**Opening Ceremony** Venue: Hiratake's summit / Kujihira Shrine

Mt. Kuji-Hiratake's

The sight of the vivid greenery at the opening of Mt. Kuji-Hiratake is a sign that summer has begun. A parade of horses will make their way to Kujihira Shrine, to pray for safety. Mochi rice throwing and folk entertainment will also be at this lively event.

Hirono Event Executive Committee (Hirono Regional Promotion Dept.)

**7** 0194-77-2111



#### Mt. Hayachine's Opening Ceremony

Miyako / Hanamaki / Tono

Venue: Odagoe Trailhead

Mt. Hayachine (1,917m) is the highest peak in the Kitakami range. Its opening ceremony is a busy event that attracts 1,000 hikers from in and out of the prefecture. A performance of the Hayachine Kagura dance will take place at Hayachine Shrine, at the summit of the mountain.

Kawai General Office, Miyako City 

#### Hiraniwa Bullfighting 6/10

Tsutsuji Tournament

It's said that Hiraniwa bullfighting began with Nanbu cows. When they carried salt from Noda to Morioka, they would lock horns to decide who would lead the ranks. The Hiraniwa tournament is the only bullfighting

Venue: Hiraniwa Kogen

event in Tohoku. There are explanations to make it easy for newcomers to understand, and a chance to win special prizes in a raffle.

Iwate Hiraniwa Kogen Bullfighting Tournament (Yamagata Branch, Kuji City Government)

**8** 0194-72-2111

6/17

Kuji

#### Tanohata Milk & **Dairy Fair**

**Tanohata** 

Venue: Tanohata Industrial Development Company, Tanohata Milk Plant

Besides buying milk & dairy products, you can take part in a blind taste challenge, and enjoy a tour of the factory.

Tanohata Industrial **Development Company** 

**3** 0194-34-2080



#### The Hashino Blast Furnace – from the Meiji Industrial Revolution



The third blast furnace at the Hashino Site

The Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site was added to the World Heritage list in 2015, as one of the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution." It includes Japan's oldest remaining western-style blast furnace ruin, the Hashino Blast Furnace. Visitors can enjoy the site via augmented reality (AR), using an app that offers aerial photos, a cross-section of the furnace, and a look at the structure of the equipment.

- Guided bus tours of the Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site A shuttle bus has begun operating between Kamaishi Station and the Hashino site. Participants can tour the ruin while listening to a local tour guide.
- Operating Dates Weekends and holidays, Apr 21 (Sat) Nov 25 (Sun) Daily, August 13 (Mon) - August 16 (Thu)
- \* Tours may be cancelled in the event of bad weather.
- Departure time and location 10:50am, in front of the Kamaishi Tourist Center (outside Kamaishi Station, on the 1st floor of the Folklore Hotel)
- Schedule Depart from Kamaishi Station at 11am / Tour the Hashing site and its information centre (60 mins) / Hashino Donguri Square (Lunch break, from 13:15pm) / Arrive at Kamaishi Station at 2pm
- \* Prior reservations required

■ Inquiries ■ Kamaishi Tourism and Products Association ☎ 0193-22-5835

This series, "People of Sanriku, Iwate", introduces unsung heroes working diligently towards the reconstruction in Sanriku's disaster-hit regions. It follows on from the "People for Sanriku's Future" series. In part 82, we'll meet Mr. Sasaki.

#### 

Manabu Sasaki is originally from Rikuzentakata. After graduating from high school, he wanted to see other places, so he went to study the seafood industry at a specialist school in Osaka. He returned home three and a half years later to get involved with the family business: oyster farming. He's currently working on projects like oyster branding, and seafood industry experiences for tourists.

#### Expressing Rikuzentakata's appeal through oysters

Ever since he was a child, Manabu Sasaki wanted to be involved with the seafood industry. Now, he's contributing to Rikuzentakata's revival by doing just that.

"Oysters are thought of as a winter food, but they actually taste the best in April, and the start of May," Mr. Sasaki explained.

Oyster farmers want people to enjoy oysters from the most







Oyster Farmer, Sasaki Shoten

## Manabu Sasaki



Let's challenge ourselves to have fun while rebuilding the city!

delicious season, so the ones from the spring season were given the brand name, "Thawed Oysters".

"Our branding project began the year after the disaster. We export 'Thawed Oysters' to Tokyo, and elsewhere in Japan. They're known for their size in the shell, and their soft appearance, and we get a lot of praise for their rich texture," Mr. Sasaki said. Through oysters, he's spreading the appeal of Rikuzentakata across the country.

#### Supporting tourism through seafood industry experiences

Another way in which Mr. Sasaki is spreading the word about Rikuzentakata is by setting up the "Hirota Bay Sport Fisheries Cooperatives", which gives tourists the chance to board a fishing boat and see the farms.

"Our region is currently digging up its dormant appeal. I want locals to do the things only they can achieve, but I also want them to work with new residents. That cooperation can give the city back its former vitality," Mr. Sasaki said. He's challenging himself to rebuild Rikuzentakata in a way that makes the most of its strengths.

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate

As of April 30, 2018

►Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,673 Missing: 1,115 (related) 466

▶Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,079 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 April 30, 2018

<u>Donations for survivors:</u> Around ¥18.61960 billion (95,775 donations) **Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.93320 billion (8,584 donations) Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.31951 billion (21,709 donations)

> $\frak{X}$  This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.



For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives:

http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkou nougoki/dayori/news/



News from Iwate's Reconstruction Web Watch videos on the news and People for Sanriku's Future!

Check out our website for more!





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