After their opening ceremonies, these Kamaishi South IC (to Kamaishi city), Yoshihama IC (from Ofunato city) to Yoshihama a 5km extension along the Sanriku coastal highway.

Karakuwa Rikuzentakata Osabe IC and opened on July 28 Democratic Governance and Innovation) Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center Prefecture’s points of view.

Experiences from Kamaishi City and from the years, the Governor and Mayor shared their situation has been dealt with over the last 7 Earthquake and Tsunami”. Detailing how the earthquake 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.

July 17th (Tue) – The first “Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow” seminar of 2018 was held in Morioka City. Hosted by “Iwate Tomorrow Design”, a collaborative industrial-governmental-academic group, this year marks the event’s fourth consecutive year. This event was open to the public as part of the program for the Iwate Meeting on International Disaster Risk Reduction and Crisis Management research, which took place between the 17th to the 20th.

The first half of the event saw Governor Tasso and Kamaishi Mayor Noda give keynote speeches under the theme of “Restoration and Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami”. Detailing how the situation has been dealt with over the last 7 years, the Governor and Mayor shared their experiences from Kamaishi City and from the Prefecture’s points of view.

To follow, Arnold Howitt (Senior advisor at Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation) gave a presentation on ways to implement the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake”, Shuzo Koshino (Iwate University Regional Disaster Prevention Research Center, visiting professor), Masahiko Mochizuki (Former CEO of Sanriku Railway), and Mio Kamitani (Chief of Secretariat at Oraga Otsuchi Yumehiroba) gave accounts of their experiences during the disaster.

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.

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.

The first "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018

A 6.5km road extension was officially opened on July 28th (Sat) between Rikuzentakata Osabe IC and Rikuzentakata IC along the Karakuwa-Takata highway stretch of the Sanriku coastal highway.

August 11th (Sat) saw the opening of a 5km extension along the Yoshihama-Kamaishi highway between Yoshihama IC (from Ofunato city) to Kamaishi South IC (to Kamaishi city). After their opening ceremonies, these roads were available for use.

The opening of these two lengths of track brings the connected area between Rikuzentakata and Kamaishi to 40.2km, which will lead to more efficient transport of marine products from the Sanriku area. These improvements are also expected to promote the fishing industry, make tourism more widely accessible, and further increase tourism in general.

A further 3.5km extension along the Karakuwa-Takata highway (between Karakuwa North IC and Rikuzentakata Osabe IC) and a 9km extension along the Yoshihama-Kamaishi highway (between Kamaishi South IC and Kamaishi Junction) are planned to be opened within the current fiscal year.

Governor Tasso gives a keynote speech

Commemorative photo with attendees

Governor Tasso gives a keynote speech

Commemorative photo with attendees

The first "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018
The Tokyo University Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute’s International Coastal Research Center (Otsuchi-cho, Akahama) suffered devastating damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. However, on the 20th of July (Fri), a commemorative ceremony was held to celebrate the reconstruction of the facility at a location nearby, on higher ground.

Originally built in 1973 along the Otsuchi bay, the research facility didn’t stand a chance against the tsunami as it reached its top floor (3F), washing away research equipment, valuable stored data, as well as three of their oceanographic ships. The third floor was repaired after the disaster and research resumed.

The newly constructed facility is three floors of reinforced concrete. The research and experiments building has been provided with facilities and equipment to support ocean research, in addition to accommodation for researchers, among other things. As a joint-use center facilitating collaborative research projects, the center will accept researchers from both inside and outside the country to study the effects of earthquakes and tsunami, marine ecosystems, and more.

Current plans are to convert the former research center into an experimental breeding facility, though it will also have an “ocean study room” that will be open to the public. The plan is for it to not only be something that attracts national and international researchers, but to make it a place where people can come together.

Messages for the Future

Be brave enough to run away

When an earthquake has occurred, or disaster of any kind is expected, it is important to be brave enough to run away. It may be the first thing you would think to do, but depending on how fast you move, even the smallest difference of time can cost you your life.

Speaking from experience, it is very easy to think “it’s probably safe here”, and I believe there are people out there who don’t want to bother with evacuating. However, we must call out to each other and make the decision to run.

Do not determine the safety of the situation by yourself

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, it took approximately 30 minutes for the tsunami to reach our shores. For that reason, people who already evacuated thought “I might still make it (if I go back)”, and returned to their homes for their possessions, ultimately sacrificing themselves. Even after evacuating, do not make your own judgement regarding the safety of the situation. It is of utmost importance that you wait for the rescinding of the alarms before anything.

Recovering Town & Food Samples Walking Tour Information

An earthquake storyteller guide from the shopping center will walk with you around the Rikuchu-Yamada Station area that was once a bustling town center, and now still recovering.

We will prepare three food activities unique to Yamada to enjoy along the way. After the activity, please enjoy some food samples.

*The content will change depending on the season and day.
*Yamada specialty “Yamada Sembei” frying activity
*Oyster and scallop shelling
*Morning harvest shabu-shabu
*Flattening squid

Operating period: Year-round
Minimum number of participants: 4 people
Necessary time: About 1 hour and a half
Fee: ¥1,300 per person

Inquiries/Applications
Shinsei Yamada Shopping Center Cooperative Association Office
Tel: 019-377-3732
From July 28 (Sat) to 29 (Sun), an event called the "Summer 2018 – Fun Activities at Nebama Beach (hosted by Nebama MIND Co.)" was held at the Nebama Beach and in the nearby park area of the Unosumai District of Kamaishi City.

The beach lost most of its sand from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, therefore while it is not open to the public as a beach yet, event organizers were able to obtain swimming permission for this special day. After declaring the importance of beach safety, children thoroughly enjoyed swimming and the many activities held at the event.

Participants were able to try out stand-up paddleboarding, hop on a rescue boat, or enjoy snorkeling at the beach. Also, workshops such as picture-frame making out of various beach objects and paint-your-own daruma were available by the beach. It’s been eight years since the beach was last open to the public, so participants were delighted to spend time at the Nebama beach. In 2017, the Prefectural Government contemplated whether it was technically possible to restore the lost sand of the beach. After observing that constructing a fixed, artificial sand was possible, construction of a new artificial beach began in 2018.

- **Fun Activities at Nebama Beach**
  - Participants enjoy stand-up paddle boarding
  - Children make their own original picture frame
  - Railcars from both companies pass by each other at the Taro station (run by Sanriku Railways)
  - A Sanriku railcar crosses the bridge on the JR Yamada Line

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**~Hope~ An archive of the earthquake and tsunami in Iwate**

- Over 240,000 written materials and pictures related to the disaster
- A record of steps taken during disaster by each organization in chronological order
- Archive of local newspaper articles moments after the disaster

Resources are organized in six categories:

1. Preparation
2. The power of connection
3. Disaster aid that turned to friendship (kizuna)
4. For those who need special care
5. Response to an unprecedented event
6. Hometown (Furusato) Iwate- Sanriku

(http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp)
Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. This section “People for Sanriku’s Future” introduces these young people and their powerful feelings every month. For Part 85, we will introduce Ms. Kanae Chiba’s efforts.

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**People for SANRIKU in Iwate**

**Association of Iwaizumi Tour Guide - Staff**

Ms. Kanae Chiba

Our guides will promote the best parts of the region and the progress of the reconstruction!

But many affected areas still need work. It will be a while to recover completely in regards to daily life." She continues to look forward to the future restoration of the town.

**Sharing the charm of Iwaizumi with our own words**

As the town continues to recover from the typhoon, Ms. Chiba actively promotes the appeals of Iwaizumi as a staff of the Association of Iwaizumi Tour Guide.

"In Iwaizumi, we have the Ryusendo, which is considered one of the three biggest limestone caves in Japan. Then we have the beautiful nature such as the ocean and the mountains. At the association, we work in five different groups such as the Ryusendo Cave group, the "Machinaka group" (to help promote interaction between townspeople), and the Ocean group to retell stories of the 2011 tragedy but at the same time the beauties of the ocean. In each group, we have expert guides who can passionately talk about Iwaizumi.

There are many ways to promote the town, but I feel that hearing the raw voices of the tour guides and learning from it is one of them." She diligently works to support tourism for Iwaizumi, not just by increasing numbers, but by having tourists leave the town with a good impression.

**Casualties & Damage in Iwate**

**As of July 31, 2018**

- Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,673  Missing: 1,115  (related) 467
- Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,079

To make a donation to aid in Iwate’s reconstruction:

**Thank you for all your support!**

**As of July 31, 2018**

- Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.64815 billion (95,996 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.93828 billion (8,657 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.52739 billion (22,024 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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**Check out the Iwate Earthquake and Tsunami Archive “Hope~”**

Over 20,000 articles to read
http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp/

**News from Iwate’s Reconstruction Web**

Watch videos on the news and People for Sanriku’s Future!
Check out our website for more!

**News from Iwate’s Reconstruction, Volume 140. August 25 2018.**

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