

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

## 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.

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

Volume 141  
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## A Pre-event for the Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project

KAMAISHI

On August 18th (Sat), a pre-event was held in Kamaishi to celebrate the start of the Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project in TETTO (a nickname for the Kamaishi Civic Hall) with around 700 attendees.

The Sanriku Project is being held to show off the progress of the reconstruction of the coastal areas. It also aims to share disaster risk reduction tactics so that such a disaster will never happen again – a way for us to express our gratitude for the outpouring of support from the world over.

From June 1st next year, the prefecture will host this event in all 13 coastal towns for 68 days. At the pre-event, Governor Tasso and several students from Otsuchi High School vowed to contribute to disaster risk reduction by passing on lessons from the disaster to the world and future generations. Afterward, several local performing arts and other entertainment were performed to help reaffirm people's resolve to rebuild.

### 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project

2019.6.1 SAT-8.7 WED

Bringing together the Sanriku coast of Iwate, Japan, and the rest of the world.

Going even further, as one.

■Venue■ The 13 towns of Iwate's coastal region  
Miyako, Ofunato, Kuji, Rikuzentakata, Kamaishi, Sumita, Yamada, Iwaizumi, Tanohata, Fudai, Noda, Hirono

We've published a promotional video on our official website



First

Second

2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project

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<https://sanriku2019.jp/>



Governor Tasso and students make their declaration



Tora-mai performance on the stage

## Opening Day at the Kamaishi-Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium

KAMAISHI

Construction has been completed on the Kamaishi-Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium in Kamaishi, which will be used to host matches for the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

The area has gained attention for being a symbol of disaster risk reduction after students of Unosumai Elementary School and Kamaishi-Higashi Jr. High

School were able to evacuate from the tsunami quickly and safely.

On August 19th (Sun), an opening ceremony of the stadium was held under the name "Libogen Drink Opening DAY" with a kick-off speech from Ms. Rui Doguchi (2nd-year student at Kamaishi High School).

She passionately announced that

"Kamaishi will connect with the world and express appreciation to all the support from across the world.

A memorial match between the Kamaishi Seawaves and Yamaha Júbilo rugby teams was held. With the completion of the stadium, Kamaishi is now ready to kick off into a new era as a rugby-centric city.



The complete Kamaishi-Unosumai



Kick-off Speech by Ms. Rui Doguchi



The memorial rugby match

### 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

Search



A nickname for the facility has been decided for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Memorial Museum undergoing construction in the Takata-Matsubara district in Rikuzentakata City. Out of 893 public proposals, the nickname "Iwate TSUNAMI Memorial (Museum)" was chosen based on a name submitted by Ms. Yuka Sugano (1st-year student at Rikuzentakata High School).

Ms. Sugano originally submitted the name as "Tsunami Memorial Takata Museum" for the future children to reflect on the disaster.

Based on this original proposal, the prefectural government made minor adjustments such as converting the kanji characters for "tsunami" to the alphabet "TSUNAMI" for better recognition from overseas visitors.

The facility will be built within a new michi-no-eki (roadside station) in the Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Memorial Park and aims to open by September next year prior to the start of the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Kamaishi.



Visual art of the Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Memorial

As of July 18 (Wed), construction has finished on new train tracks at the Otsuchi Bridge by the JR East Japan on the JR Yamada Line (55.4 kilometers from Miyako to Kamaishi). The entire rail line is now connected; therefore a trial run was conducted on August 21 (Tue).

This trial run with a diesel-engine train was held to examine the durability of the new rails and bridges.

The tsunami from the 2011 disaster swept away roughly 8.5 kilometers of the original tracks and damaged six bridges and seven stations. Sokei station, Tsugaruishi station, Orikasa station, Namiita-Kaigan station, and Unosumai station are being rebuilt by JR East Japan, and are scheduled to finish reconstruction by the end of September.

Inspections of the completed railway facilities will begin in October, and a final safety and trial run will be conducted in January 2019. The Sanriku Railway will then operate training tests in February of that same year.



Trial run with a diesel-engine train (Photo: JR East Japan - Morioka Branch)

## Messages for the Future

Noda



(Photo: Noda Town Tourism Association)

Noda Town Tourism Association – Director Ms. Haruko Kitada

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami caused severe damage to the Iwate coast. As the reconstruction proceeds, lessons learned from the disaster are being passed along in the coastal communities. There will be a big earthquake again in the future, and natural disasters can strike at any time. In order to prepare for these incidents, we will introduce some of these lessons.

### Keep things well-stocked

Disasters, especially earthquakes, can happen at any time.

Since the disaster, I make sure to have my cellphone fully charged, and also to keep the gasoline of my car full.

In addition, most roads were inaccessible soon after the disaster and it was a hassle to do grocery shopping. Always make an assumption that food will be one of the hardest things to obtain so having a good stock of several days' worth will give you peace of mind.

### Disaster guide tours for visitors information

Noda Town recorded a seismic intensity level of 5-lower during the 2011 disaster. Soon afterward, an 18-meter maximum height tsunami struck the area, destroyed a third of the town's neighborhood, and left extensive damage to the fishery and commerce industries.

The Noda Town Tourism Association provides disaster guide tours for visitors to reflect on the disaster as much as possible, learn the threat of a massive tsunami, and also see the progress of the reconstruction.

Available times: 8:30 - 16:00 (Consult in advance)  
\*Due to events in August, please consult in advance if you'd like a tour in this month  
Number of people: Approx. 40 (1 tour bus worth)  
Duration: Around 1 hour  
Price: 3000 yen per hour per guide

#### ■Contact Us■

Noda Town Tourism Association  
TEL: 0194-78-2012 (within the Noda Town Chamber of Commerce)

### Be prepared for situations after the disaster

I evacuated with my children and instinctively thought we won't be able to return home for at least two days. Because we might have to spend a few days in evacuation shelters, I also brought a few toys for my children as we evacuated.

Fortunately, we had 40 minutes to prepare prior to the tsunami, but I think it's best always to be prepared and able to at least have a minimum amount of supplies ready to bring with you in case you have to live in a shelter.



Tsunami monument of observatory (Tofugaura coast) (Photo: Noda Town Tourism Association)

## Tasty Iwate! Grand Prix 2018

MORIOKA

August 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat) - The Iwate Prefecture "Tasty Iwate! Grand Prix 2018" was held on at Aeon Mall Morioka, in Morioka City.

The purpose of the event is to promote the development of vertical integration in Iwate (the co-operation between agriculture, commerce, and industry). Three new special awards were created for this year's event with the aim of expanding demand for agricultural and fishery products from Iwate Prefecture. These awards were given to those who used products of Iwate to create something that capitalized on the special characteristics of Iwate products, in addition to receiving exceptional public recognition.

31 organizations exhibited 32 products, and beginning with the grand prize winner, Fujiyu Jozu's (Ltd.) "5 Grain Ama-koji", the organizations from the disaster-affected coast won many prizes. You could really feel the rebirth of the coast that day.

[Coastal region main prize winners]

Grand prize winner	5 Grain Ama-Koji, Fujiyu Jozu (Kamaishi City)
Sobacchi Special Award	"Rice flour pasta snack set" Hikoroichi Farm (Rikuzentakata City)
2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project special award · Excellence award	"Northernmost Yuzu and Moromi dressing" Yagisawa Store (Rikuzentakata City)
Santetsu Special Award · Merit Award	"Toma San Sauce" Katatsumuri General Incorporated Association (Ofunato City)



Grand prize winner  
"5 Grain Ama Koji"



Group photo of the contestants

Young people from Tanohata perform

traditional entertainment on the national stage! TOKYO

20<sup>th</sup> of August (Mon) - "Our Japan Festival 2018" (Sponsor: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Traditional Performing Arts Association) was held at the Nippon Seinen-kan Hall in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

As part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics culture program, eight groups of children across the nation have taken up the work of passing down our traditional entertainment.

From Iwate Prefecture, the Omiya Kagura dance troupe from Tanohata Village were able to participate in the Reconstruction Support category. The Omiya Kagura dance has been designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Asset of Iwate, unique in its high tempo, dynamic dance and 3-beat rhythm. At the event, eight children from the Omiya Kagura Preservation Society skillfully performed the "Aya Asobi" musical dance to pray for the prosperity of their descendants.

Groups from Hokkaido, Saitama, Aichi, Shimane, Nagasaki, and Kumamoto also participated. In addition, an overseas group living in Tokyo also performed classical Indian dance, communicating the charm of their home town.



Performing Omiya Kagura

(Photo source: NPO Japan Folk Performing Arts Association)

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

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Iwate Disaster Archive website. At the top, there are search filters for 'Foreign Language', 'Text Size', and 'Input'. Below that, there are search buttons for 'Full-text search', 'Search by theme', 'Search by location', and 'Search by date'. The main banner features a train and the text '忘れられない、あの震災津波 岩手から未来へつなぐ記憶と教訓' (I will never forget, that earthquake and tsunami. Connecting memories and lessons from Iwate to the future). Below the banner, there are six thematic categories: 'そなえ' (Preparation), '結いの力' (The power of connection), '支援助から絆へ' (From disaster aid to friendship), '配慮が必要な人へ' (For those who need special care), '前例なき対応' (Response to an unprecedented event), and 'ふるさといわて三陸' (Hometown Iwate-Sanriku).

(<http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp>)

- 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

