

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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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.

Days frequently dip below freezing temperatures, and snow covers both the mountains and valleys. Winter is truly here.

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

Thanking Europe for its Support and Friendship

A report was held in the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris in France on Friday, November 7 (Saturday, November 8 Japanese time). The event was to inform the people of Europe about our reconstruction progress and to express our thanks for the aid that was provided. The event's name was "Gratitude for Your Friendship: A Report on the Reconstruction Iwate Prefecture from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami".

There were around 250 attendees, including diplomats from various European countries, as well as organizations promoting government and cultural exchange between Japan and France. Governor Tasso's speech emphasized Iwate's resolve to rebuild, and thanked the international community for its assistance.

There were also heartwarming messages from Anne-Laure Béatrix, communications director at the Louvre, and violinist Ivry Gitlis. The Louvre had previously arranged exhibits in Iwate and workshops for high school students, and Mr. Gitlis had given a performance on a violin made from pine trees felled by the tsunami at a memorial ceremony in Rikuzentakata.

Afterwards, students from Iwaizumi High School performed the traditional dance *Nakano Nanazu-mai*, and members of the Ichinoseki Mochi Makers showed the audience how to make *mochi* (sticky rice cake). At the reception, attendees tasted *mochi* and Iwatean saké, and there were displays about the reconstruction and the International Linear Collider.

~A Report on Iwate's Reconstruction in Paris~

Through this information briefing, Iwate and Europe reaffirmed their strong relationship built in the wake of the disaster, and deepened their resolve to continue their exchange going forward.



Governor Tasso's speech

Iwaizumi High School student's *Nakano Nanazu-mai* performance



Making *mochi*

Reception attendees enjoying Iwatean *mochi* and rice wine

The Iwate Youth Culture Festival: Showing off our next generation! "Culture is created by the young."

Morioka

On November 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun), the first ever Iwate Youth Culture Festival was held across 3 venues in Morioka. Over 3,000 people attended to see displays of art and culture.

There was an open call for participants, which led to stage performances, video screenings, booths, and other exhibitions by a total of 96 groups. The event was a spectacle to behold. People with ties to Iwate from showbiz and cultural industries also helped make it an event to remember.

The Iwate Youth Culture Festival showcases our enormous potential: the rising talents of our youth in performing arts, a rise in our standard of living and allure, the success of our reconstruction and the realization of the "Land of Hope, Iwate."

There was also no shortage of people requesting that the event be held again next year.



The closing event

Second Reconstruction Site Learning Tour

Miyako Yamada

On November 17 (Monday) Iwate Prefecture held fiscal 2014's second learning tour of a reconstruction site.

The purpose of the tour was to educate local residents about the reconstruction in the Miyako-Yamada region. Seventeen residents visited five sites in total. Yamada's stops were the Orikasa river fish egg-collecting site, and the reconstruction projects on the Uranohama agricultural/coastal safety facility and prefectural coastal-defense forest. In Miyako, participants visited the Hei River floodgate, the Sawara public housing for survivors, and the municipal loop road in the north of the city.

There was some light rain, and participants took notes while keenly listening to the guides' explanations.



Tour of Hei River Floodgate (Miyako)



Work being done at the Orikasa river fish egg-collecting site



SMILE 130 PROJECT

The Project is bringing smiles to the faces of all 1.30 million Iwateans and it aims to bring joy to the rest of Japan and the world as a thank you for all the aid we received. The Project aims to enliven and encourage Iwate's prefectural employees and citizens to move forward together toward reconstruction.

For more info on Smile 130's activities, please visit the Iwate Prefecture website:
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/seisaku/smile/index.html>



Tohoku Regional Goods Fair in Hong Kong – Support from Asia!

From November 12 (Wed) to 18 (Tues) Aeon Hong Kong was host to a Tohoku Regional Goods Fair in their Cornhill Store. The event was a combined effort between Aeon Super Center (headquartered in Morioka) and Aeon Hong Kong to provide the people of Hong Kong with special goods and sightseeing information about Tohoku, and hopefully encourage a greater interest in the Tohoku region.

Videos and pamphlets showcased all six of Tohoku's prefectures, and rice, fruits and other Tohoku goods were available for purchase. The event truly promoted the great appeal of the Tohoku region.

There was an especially large number of Iwate booths on display, with video and photos of the Sanriku Railway (which fully reopened in April 2014) and related goods on sale. We also had a Chinese tea tasting with Nanbu ironware teapots, free samples of Nanbu Doji saké, and much more.

The Fair fostered a sense of mutual understanding between the people of Hong Kong and Tohoku, as well as showed the support of Aeon Hong Kong for Tohoku's reconstruction. Hopefully, this event will lead to an increased number of visitors from Hong Kong to Tohoku to experience our beautiful natural scenery, rich history and culture, soothing hot springs, and delicious food.



The Tohoku Fair in Hong Kong



The Sanriku Railway Corner



The Nanbu Ironware Corner

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 30 introduces Ms. Kaho Abe's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Otsuchi Town, she is currently a freshman in Otsuchi Senior High School.

Thanks to her father, she took up motocross (a type of motorcycle racing) at the age of five.

Her house was destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, when she was in 6th grade of elementary school. Overcoming the 2011 disaster, and various injuries, she is currently training to be the best female motocross racer in Japan.

Don't give up on your dreams – work to make them a reality!

Abe trains every weekend at motocross. Looking back on losing her house in the 2011 tsunami, she says that at the time she felt like she had lost everything, and was going to give up motocross.

But then in autumn 2012, a year and a half after the disaster, she decided, with the support of her parents, that she definitely would not give up on



Iwate Prefecture
Otsuchi Senior High School
1st Year
Kaho Abe



"I hope to brighten up Otsuchi with motocross!"

her dream of becoming the greatest female motocross rider in Japan, and continued working toward that goal.

Abe joins in races as one of the very few female motocross racers in Tohoku.

"After the disaster, I learned to remember the joys of motocross, and with so many people offering me support and encouragement – even more than before the disaster – I thought that I had to do my very best in order to pay them back," says Abe, talking about her current feelings about her place in the sport. "I hope that I can do well out there, so people in my hometown can have something happy to talk about once again."

I hope Otsuchi becomes a bright and happy town once again

"I don't think Otsuchi has changed that much since the disaster; it's still a flat prairie with nothing around," she says, talking about her hopes for the future of Otsuchi. "I know it's hard work to play a part in the reconstruction, but I hope that Otsuchi and the affected areas will become new, big and bright towns once again."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Oct. 31, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,132
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,716

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 Oct. 31, 2014

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.18762 billion (90,154 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.59661 billion (7,023 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.03655 billion (14,081 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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