

# 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.

Nary a day goes by that the temperature does not drop below freezing, and snow continues to dot the roads.

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

**Ganbaro, Iwate!**  
**Let's stick together, Iwate!**  
**三陸復興**

Volume 77  
December 15, 2014

## Otsuchi Salmon Festival: Much Merriment Made Snagging Salmon Otsuchi

On December 7 (Sunday) many families attended the Otsuchi Salmon Festival in Otsuchi, a town known as the birthplace of the Nanbu Aramaki Salmon.

The festival is a winter tradition in Otsuchi, and is held every year at this time. It was briefly cancelled following the 2011 tsunami, but was revived in 2013.

Only the first 100 people are allowed to participate in the highlight of the festival, which is grabbing salmon out of the water by hand. A huge line formed early in the morning, and registration closed incredibly quickly.

Participants break into 10 groups and, borrowing cotton work gloves and long boots, wade into the prepared fish pen in the shallows of the Otsuchi River to try their hands at catching the fish. There is a 5-minute time limit, and if a child

manages to catch one of the slippery fish swimming around the pen, a great cheer goes up from the crowd and smiles are brought to the faces of those in attendance.

There were also tents set up on the banks of the river where locally produced salmon *aramaki* and roe were sold to visitors.

The majority of the autumn salmon that returned to Otsuchi River this season are four-year-olds, so there was a concern that as a result of the disaster there would be a shortage of the fish, but the autumn salmon catch (made by stationary nets) has returned to roughly last year's levels, and so this event brought hope for not only the recovery of a local seasonal tradition but also for the recovery of the local fisheries industry.



A parent and child catching a salmon



A participant smiling while holding the fish she caught



Salmon market tent serving delighted customers

## Examining the data in Vol. 12 of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report

The Iwate Reconstruction Index Report is published periodically and serves to make it easier to understand the current state of affairs and recent trends in Iwate's reconstruction efforts, particularly in the 12 affected coastal municipalities. Below are outlined the main points from volume 12 of the report (as of November 21, 2014).

**Regenerating Industries** **Fisheries Catch**  
(April~September, 2014)

**Market catch in producing areas (current total for the fiscal year): 46,476 metric tons (70.1% of 3-year average)**

The total market catch for producing areas is at 70.1% of the average catch between 2008 and 2010, and there has been a 2.0% drop from the same period last year.

While saury caught by dip net poles have recovered from last year's low, it is believed that the present drop has been caused by such factors as a dramatic decrease in the haul of mackerel caught through stationary nets this year.

**Ensuring Safety** **Progress Rate on Construction Works**  
(as of September 30, 2014)

**Number of Projects Completed: 389      Completion Rate: 5%**  
**(end of December 2013: 96 projects [1%] completed)**

The number of residential construction projects completed is 389, which marks a 5% completion rate on the total planned number of projects, 8,231.

**Rebuilding Lives** **Progress Rate on Public Housing for Survivors**  
(as of September 30, 2014)

**899 (290 prefectural, 609 municipal) units; 15% progress rate**  
**(end of December 2013: 323 [5%])**

The number of public housing units completed is 899 (290 prefectural, 609 municipal), which marks a 15% (prefectural 10%, municipal 21%) completion rate on the total planned number of units, 5,946 (3,011 prefectural, 2,935 municipal).

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

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



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.

For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Iwate Ooendan

Search

**Free to Register!**

## Support from the Inland Region: JR Kamaishi Line SL *Ginga Tetsudo* and horses race alongside each other

Tono

On November 22 (Saturday) an event was held near JR Iwate-Futsukamachi Station in Tono in which Tono's riding horses ran alongside the JR East steam trains *Ginga Tetsudo*.

Tono is one of the few places in Japan famous for horse-breeding. The present event was organized by the Tono City Riding Horse Breeding Association, the Tono-kyo Umakko Okoku Riding Club, and others, with many photography hobbyists and tourists visiting to observe the event.

Riders carried large streamers as they road their four horses along an 800-meter stretch of country road alongside the train, in order to show their support for the coastal region in the upcoming new year.

The SL and riding horses have raced twice this year, in order to send a message of support from the inland region to the coast.



The SL *Ginga Tetsudo* running alongside the horses

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 31 introduces Mr. Kotaro Okumura's efforts.

### Profile:

Originally from Ageo City, Saitama Prefecture.

As an undergraduate, he became interested in *sake* brewing and decided to become a brewer.

He encountered the Kamaishi local *sake*, Hamachidori, while visiting storehouses in Iwate, the birthplace of "Nambu-toji" brewing.

After graduating college, he joined Hamachidori in 2003, and currently lives in Kamaishi working as a brewer in the company.

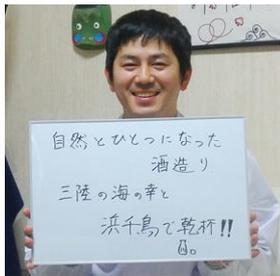
### Thank you for all the aid following 3/11

Hamachidori is the representative *sake* of Iwate's coastal region, and is famous for its smooth texture and sweet aftertaste.

Okumura works as a *toji*, a type of manager of a group of *sake* brewers in the company. He told us about his experiences just after the disaster, when there was insufficient electricity and fuel to even press the *sake*.

## People for SANRIKU'S Future

Hamachidori Co.  
Brewing Department  
Director, *Sake* Brewer  
Kotaro Okumura



"Naturally brewed *sake*:  
Hamachidori and Sanriku seafood -  
Kanpai!"

## Reconstructed Edo-period Ship Sets out on Maiden Voyage from Ofunato

Ofunato

The *sengoku-bune* were small sailing ships that sailed the sea and canals in the Edo period (1603-1867). The "Kesen-maru" is a replica of one of these boats that was built just over 20 years ago by the Kesen region shipbuilder's group Kesen Senshokai. Since it survived the tsunami without damage, in July 2013, the Ofunato Chamber of Commerce, Kesen Senshokai, the Ofunato City Yacht Association and others set up a project to sail it as a symbol of the reconstruction. On Sunday, November 23, the first test run set out from Ofunato Harbor.

The ship sailed roughly 3.6 kilometers of Ofunato Bay at a maximum speed of 6 knots (6 nautical miles per hour) and with the wind in its sail, it gave new hope to the people of Ofunato as a new symbol of the reconstruction.



Kesen-maru test run (photo courtesy of Moriko, residing in Ofunato)

"Since Hamachidori is located slightly inland there was no direct damage," says Okumura, "but our big customers – bars and off-licenses downtown – were hit by the tsunami, so we were uncertain about the future. But with all the aid coming in from around Japan, we were able to resume normal operations after just a month."

### Local goods accelerate the reconstruction

"I don't live near the coast, so I haven't actually had much direct experience of the tsunami's effects, but I think there's still a ways to go before the reconstruction is complete. I think young people in the area working to revitalize Kamaishi will be the big push that the rebuilding process needs."

Okumura hopes that coastal products and tourism will give a boost to the reconstruction effort, as he had this to say: "Given that I'm a local *sake* brewer, I hope that people both within and outside the prefecture will drink and enjoy Hamachidori *sake*, and I hope people who come here to support the reconstruction will also try our *sake* when they get here."

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Nov. 30, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,130
- ▶ 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](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

### Thank you for all your support!

As of Nov. 30, 2014

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.19584 billion (90,312 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.6944 billion (7,086 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥7.06619 billion (14,290 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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For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

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