

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 have come to the coldest time of the year, and all across Iwate Prefecture the land is covered in white snow.

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

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

三陸復興

Volume 80

February 15, 2015

Fiscal 2014 Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum

On January 15 (Thursday) and 16 (Friday), 2015, the Fiscal 2014 Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum was held in Aiina Hall (Morioka) among other venues.

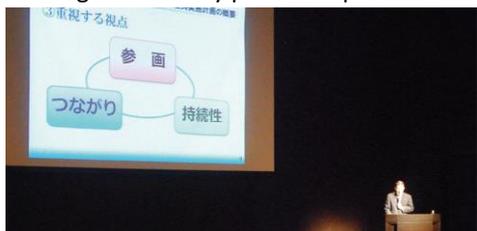
The event is intended to promote the image of Iwate as it is engaged in its full-fledged reconstruction, as well as to provide a venue for people with connections to Iwate to come together and network, in order to strengthen the ties between people in the move toward reconstruction.

At the general meeting on the 15th, Governor Tasso gave the opening address. "Iwate Prefecture has designated the 3-year period starting in 2014 as the 'Full-Fledged Reconstruction Period'. As we move toward reconstruction it's imperative that local people, especially young people and women, play a key role in the planning of these developments, that many diverse bodies join forces and work together in unison, and that the new regional society put an emphasis on sustainability."

Following the address, Tomohide Atsumi, Professor of the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University, gave a lecture on the topic "Relay of the Affected Areas: Toward a Reconstruction of Hearts and Minds Based on Connections". He talked about how survivors of past disasters work on aid efforts following the next disaster, similar to a relay race, in order to contribute to the reconstruction.

There was a panel discussion on the theme "Connect! Keep Going! Reconstruction Action on a Personal Level", involving people connected to the reconstruction in various ways. Opinions were exchanged about how to tell many people, including future generations, about the reconstruction efforts.

The following day, January 16, saw a report briefing at which messages of support from workers and project presentations were shown from local governments around Japan, and there was also an opinion exchange and more.



Governor Tasso describes reconstruction efforts



Professor Atsumi's lecture



The panel discussion

Nationally-Designated Significant Intangible Folk Cultural Asset

Unotori-kagura Northern Path Procession Revived after Four Years

Fudai

On January 12 (Monday) the Unotori-kagura procession that prays for safety on the sea and for bountiful fish catches began in Fudai.

Unotori-kagura is a ritual dance dedicated to the god of Unotori Shrine on Mt. Unetori in Fudai. (*Unotori* is Japanese for "cormorant", and the mountain's name, U-ne-tori, refers to the "rabbit", "rat" and "rooster" of the Chinese zodiac.) The procession starts in Fudai, and there are two courses: a "northern path" bound for Kuji, and a "southern path" for Kamaishi. The procession lasts from January to March, and is held every second year, alternating with Miyako's Kuromori-kagura. They stay at "kagura inns"

along the way and give lively performances.

But most of these kagura inns were damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the ritual was cancelled as a result. But now that the kagura inns have largely recovered, the northern path is following the southern path in reopening this year.

On top of this development, January 16 (Friday) saw the ritual being designated a significant intangible folk cultural asset.

The Unotori-kagura has brought spring to the Sanriku coast just a little bit early this year, it would seem.



The start of the Unotori-kagura dance (photo courtesy of Fudai Village)

NOTICE

Deadline for Application for Solar Panel Installation Subsidy in Disaster Affected Houses
Iwate Prefecture is providing subsidies for households affected (at least partially destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami) to install solar panels in the rebuilt houses (20,000 yen/kW).

The deadline for applying for these subsidies is March 9 (Monday), so those wishing to apply should do so as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact the Iwate Office of Environment and Residential Life Planning TEL: (+81) 019-629-5326

Confirmation of 300 million yen grant to rebuild Uranohama bathing beach

Yamada

The Reconstruction Agency has confirmed a 300 million yen reconstruction grant to rebuild the Uranohama bathing beach in Funakoshi, Yamada, which was severely damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

This is the first sand beach to receive the reconstruction grant in the three affected prefectures, and in addition to restoring the 250-meter stretch of beach toilet and shower facilities will also be reinstalled.

Work is expected to start in fiscal 2015, and the facility will be reopened by in summer 2016.

Along with the reopening of the Aragami bathing beach last year for the first time in four years, it is hoped that the reopening of Uranohama will contribute to the revitalization of Yamada's tourism industry.



Uranohama, which is scheduled to be rebuilt

Governor Tasso holds opinion exchange with dispatch workers from around Japan

Morioka

On February 6 (Friday) and 9 (Monday), Governor Tasso had meetings with dispatch workers who came to the Iwate Prefectural Government from local governments all over Japan, to help with the reconstruction.

The meeting saw 12 representatives of the dispatch workers, from all over Japan, talk with the governor about things like their feelings about Iwate since coming to live here, etc.

They talked about things like the friendliness of Iwate's people, how the cold of Iwate's winter far exceeded their expectations. They also suggested that better transport infrastructure would be needed to allow tourists to travel around Iwate's many famous sightseeing locations, which are spread out across Iwate. (Iwate has the second largest area among the 47 prefectures of Japan.)



Governor Tasso and the dispatch workers

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 34 introduces Ms. Yuko Mukushi's efforts.

Profile:

After graduating high school, she started working at the Otsuchi-based family business Mukushi Shouten's retail store, "Sun Fish Kamaishi Station Market".

In the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, her home, the processing facility and the store house were damaged. Since the disaster, she and her father have been selling goods on the road out of a small truck, going around Iwate and Japan, participating in events, in order to promote Sanriku's produce.

Promoting Sanriku with all-natural lunchboxes

Mukushi Shouten processes and sells seafood, primarily sea urchins. Their transport vehicle was washed away in the tsunami, and as a result they borrowed a small truck from the Otsuchi Chamber of Commerce, and started travelling around the temporary housing facilities to sell their goods.

They also organized a "pickup truck bazaar" on hearing that local farmers were unable to sell their

People for

SA NRIKU'S

Future

Mukushi Shouten
(Sun Fish Kamaishi
Station Market)

Yuko Mukushi



"Why not try a Sansanroku Lunchbox? Sending the delicious foods of Sanriku and Otsuchi to your table!"

vegetables, and stores were unable to sell goods.

As of February, they are selling "Sansanroku Lunchboxes" under the supervision of Masahiro Kasahara, a famous chef at a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo.

They are planning to sell the lunches at an event in the upscale department store Isetan in Tokyo this April, and at other events around Japan.

These lunches, which use fresh seafood from the Sanriku region and don't use any additives, are hoped to help promote the Sanriku region.

Reconstruction across the generations

"The embankments have only begun in Otsuchi, so there really isn't anything to see," says Mukushi. "I hope to attract tourists to come visit the region."

"My father's generation need to work hard too, of course, but from now on the burden will fall more and more on my generation, and so we have to do our best," Mukushi told us, when asked how she feels about the reconstruction. "If we work hard, the generation following us will do the same, and the reconstruction of the coastal region will continue smoothly."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Jan. 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,713

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 Jan. 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.21336 billion (90,765 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.6282 billion (7,213 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.18758 billion (14,912 donations)

※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 80. February 15, 2015.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE