

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

三陸復興

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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.

Spring is finally just around the corner. The snow has begun to melt, and the greenery of the mountains and fields has begun to show itself. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## Iwate and Noda hold a joint memorial ceremony Noda

March 11, Wednesday, exactly four years after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. A joint-memorial ceremony was held by Iwate Prefecture and Noda Village at the Noda Gymnasium in town. Around 550 people, including relatives of the deceased, were in attendance.

After the names of the 28 Noda victims were read aloud, the national ceremony was broadcast live. At 2:46 p.m., the moment the earthquake struck, all attendees participated in a moment of silence.

Governor Tasso, in his memorial address, expressed his hopes for the reconstruction: "We the people of Iwate will honor the memories of those who lost their lives that day and their hopes for the future of their region, as we continue to work together to achieve a full reconstruction."

Minoru Hironai, a representative of the bereaved families, looked back on the past four years. "I won't tell you not to forget the people who died. I just want people to remember their lives

together every once in a while. The Great East Japan Earthquake is not something in the past. More disasters will happen in the future. I hope we can work on risk reduction to prevent further loss of life when these disasters occur."

After the ceremony, guests including Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Shinjiro Koizumi joined bereaved relatives and many more in attendance as each laid a white chrysanthemum on the dais to commemorate those who lost their lives.

Other commemorative events were held in the disaster-affected coastal municipalities and around Iwate, in order to reaffirm our will to push toward reconstruction and remember that tragic day.

Iwate lost 5,122 lives in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (4,672 as a direct result of the disaster, 450 in related incidents), and even today 1,129 people are still missing. (Information accurate as of February 28, 2015)



The Joint Memorial Ceremony with the crests of Iwate Prefecture (left) and Noda Village (right) visible in the background



Invited guests give flowers and offer prayers at the ceremony



Governor Tasso makes his address



Bereaved relatives give flowers

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



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:

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

**Free to Register!**

Iwate Ooendan

## JR Yamada Line – Restoration begins between Miyako and Kamaishi

Miyako~Kamaishi

On March 7, 2015 (Sat.), restoration work started on the JR Yamada Line between Miyako and Kamaishi stations (55.4 km). This track was put out of commission due to the damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami four years ago.

Saturday saw a ceremony celebrating the start of the construction was held near JR Miyako Station. Around 90 people attended, including the president of JR East, Mr. Tomita Tetsuro, as well as Governor Tasso, the mayors of the cities, and other relevant parties.

In his address at the ceremony, President Tomita said, “We’re working to have this railway line contribute to the area by providing transportation.”

We are working on restoring the railway lines and continuing our progress on reconstruction and rebuilding the towns while closely working with the local governments.



The groundbreaking ceremony



The Yamada Line No.34 Hei River Bridge will be restored

## Kamaishi Selected as Host for 2019 Rugby World Cup

Kamaishi

Kamaishi has been selected as one of the venues that will host matches during the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan.

This was announced in a RWCL board meeting on March 2, 2015 (Mon.). 12 cities will host matches including Kamaishi and Higashiosaka (Osaka Prefecture), which is home to the Hanazono Rugby Stadium.

Kamaishi's Unosumai area suffered devastating damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami but plans to build a new Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium (preliminary name), which will be able to hold around 16,000 people.

The total cost of hosting the event is estimated around 2.9 billion yen, and is expected to be a jumpstart for the reconstruction of Kamaishi.



CGI image of how the stadium will look when it is completed

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 35 introduces Mr. Masataka Kawamura’s efforts.

### Profile:

Originally from Yamada.

After graduating high school he started working at a company, but since 2013 Kawamura has been helping out at his family’s udon shop, Kama’age-ya.

In January 2014 he started up “Geotrail”, a sea kayak-centered sports leisure company, and has been working to promote kayaking and Yamada’s gorgeous seascapes.

### Young people are learning more about community-building

When Kawamura was in high school, he made a model representing the actual height above sea level of the town and the actual depth of the ocean, which could demonstrate how far a tsunami would reach inland when it struck. This “Tsunami Model” won the All-Japan Disaster Risk Reduction Prize.

The area in which he lived was only one or two meters above sea level, and only a few dozen meters from the coast. His family were all able to save themselves thanks

## People for SANRIKU'S Future

Geotrail, Representative  
Director/Instructor  
Masataka Kawamura



“Yamada, Town of Kayaks:  
Experience the real Yamada  
by getting in a kayak!”

to their awareness of tsunami and disaster preparedness.

“It feels like things are getting back to normal now,” says Kawamura. “Young people who lost their hometown in the tsunami are using it as an opportunity to learn more about community-building, which I think is a good thing.”

*Take some of the resources we have in our local region and use them to create new opportunities for people to come and visit*

Kawamura is also a basic instructor recognized by the Japan Safe Canoeing Association. Since setting up Geotrail, he has been pouring his energy into promoting “eco-tours” in the Yamada area. “I think that the idea behind eco-tours is to take some of the resources we have in our local region and use them to create something new. Yamada doesn’t have a whole lot of amenities or famous sightseeing locations, and it kind of has the reputation for just being somewhere you pass through. But one thing we do have is a beautiful ocean, and so I think we can use this to create new opportunities for people to enjoy themselves with sea-kayaking. We’ll make sure you have a good time on your trip to Yamada, so please come and visit us!”

## Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Feb. 28, 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](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

## Thank you for all your support!

As of Feb. 28, 2015

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.22276 billion (90,908 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.63117 billion (7,237 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥7.21844 billion (15,037 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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