The Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site in Kamaishi to be designated as a World Heritage Site

On May 4, 2015 (Mon.), the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” were recommended to be registered as a World Heritage Site by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), the UNESCO advisory panel. These sites also include Kamaishi’s Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site in Iwate Prefecture.

The “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” are related to the heavy industry that contributed to Japan’s industrialization in the mid-to-late 19th century, such as shipbuilding, iron and steel manufacturing, and coal mining industries.

The Sites are composed of 23 spots in 11 cities in 8 prefectures, such as the Yawata Steel Works (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture) and the Hashima Coal Mines (Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture), known as “Battleship Island.”

Hashino’s Iron Mining and Smelting Site is Japan’s oldest extant Western-style blast furnace.

The decision on World Heritage status will be decided at the end of June when the World Heritage Committee meets for its annual session.

In the two days after receiving the nomination, some 2,000 people visited the Hashino Information Center next to the site. There are high hopes that this will prove a boon for the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Shuttle Bus Service Starting in June

Starting on June 7 (Sun.), a shuttle bus will run the 33km distance between JR Kamaishi Station to the Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site.

Displays at the Information Center at Hashino
Hashino Blast Furnace No. 3
Hashino Blast Furnace No. 2

Recruiting for a Full-Fledged 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.

Iwate is bursting with green: plants are blooming in the hills, and the rice is all planted before the rainy season begins in late June.

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

For more information: http://www2.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0741/

*Information available only in Japanese.

General Work

Application period: May 29, 2015 (Fri) - June 19 (Fri)
First exam - July 12, 2015 (Sun)

Public Works/Construction

Application period: May 29, 2015 (Fri) - June 19 (Fri)
First exam - Applicant screening
An Employment Information Session held by Disaster-affected Iwate, Miyagi, & Fukushima
June 6, 2015 (Sat.)
Starts at 12 (doors open at 11:30)
Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building
Metropolitan Assembly Building 1st Floor Citizens’ Hall

Employment term (tentative) - April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2019 (3 years)

Occupation Type | No. of Recruits | Main Place of Employment | Main Job Duties
---|---|---|---
General Work | 47 |
Prefectural hires | A branch office (Regional Development Bureau, etc.) or the main prefectoral office |
Work related to support projects for restoration and reconstruction |
Approvals and licenses, general job duties |
Municipal hires | Miyako City, Rikuzentakata City, Otsuchi Town, or Yamada Town |
Front window services, national health insurance, consultation for those working on rebuilding their lives from the disaster |
Public Works | 38 |
Prefectural hires | Mainly in one of the branch offices in the coastal regions (Regional Development Bureau, etc.) or the main prefectoral office |
Designing, estimating costs, placing orders, supervising, etc. for construction on rebuilding public facilities (seawalls, ports, fishing harbors, fishing grounds, roads, rivers, water services, etc.) |
Municipal hires | Miyako City, Rikuzentakata City, Otsuchi Town, or Tanohata Village |
Designing, estimating costs, placing orders, supervising construction, etc. for rebuilding public facilities (roads, water and sewage, fishing harbors, etc.) |
Construction | 2 |
Municipal hires only | Miyako City or Yamada Town |
Verification of building construction, etc. |
Designing, estimating costs, placing orders, surveillance of public facilities

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

Iwate Ooendan

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

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

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.]

Free to Register!
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 39 introduces Mr. Ryota Anjo’s efforts.

Profile:
Originally from Kawasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture. As a second-year at Kanagawa Prefectural Hiratsuka Agricultural High School, Anjo visited the tsunami-affected region, and met with Yonesaki Apple producers in Rikuzentakata on the southern coast. His training as an apple farmer began through this connection, but a sudden illness brought a halt to his activities. When the other farmers heard about this they sent him apples and get-well e-mails. It was then that Anjo decided to grow Yonesaki Apples. In April 2015, Anjo moved to Rikuzentakata to grow apples.

A door opens through human connection

As a high school student, Anjo traveled the Sanriku coast to see the tsunami-affected region for himself. During his travels, he happened to stop by the Rikuzentakata Hamanasu Fruit Market. Anjo had already been attending an agricultural high school to train as a farmer, so as a result of this meeting, he got the chance to train at a Rikuzentakata apple orchard in May 2013. “The orchard was quiet and peaceful, enough to make me forget I was in a city devastated by the tsunami,” he said of his early days in Rikuzentakata. “The people were kind and friendly, and I realized that I wanted to stay in the city.”

This April, he moved into a temporary housing unit and started his new life in Rikuzentakata.

A reconstruction that keeps the best parts of the past intact

“When I first visited Rikuzentakata, the main part of town was still a barren field,” says Anjo, “but now, thanks to the giant conveyor belt and the land-raising projects, things seem to be slowly looking up.” Anjo has hope for the future. “I think to a certain extent, you can’t change the fact that some people will move away. But I know there are more and more people like me who have fallen in love with this city and want to move to the area,” he told us. “Rikuzentakata has long been a great place to grow delicious apples. I hope people will preserve the good parts of the past as they were, while continuing to move forward toward reconstruction little by little.”

Casualties & Damage in Iwate

As of April 30, 2015

▶Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
▶Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,163

To make a donation to aid in Iwate’s reconstruction:

Thank you for all your support!

As of April 30, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.38074 billion (91,452 donations)
Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.67782 billion (7,305 donations)
Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.31347 billion (15,346 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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