

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 90
August 15, 2015

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.

After a fierce summer, there's a cool breeze in the air. Iwate is moving into fall, with its fantastic sights and abundant harvest.

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

The First On-Site Reconstruction Tour of 2015

Iwaizumi
Tanohata

On August 4th (Tue), the Iwate Prefectural Government organized an on-site reconstruction tour. The first tour was started in 2013, and this was the 4th installment.

This time 21 people, mostly parents and their children, took part in the tour. They visited Iwaizumi and Tanohata on the northern coast in order to understand the progress of the reconstruction work there.

The participants saw the Aketo Seawall in Tanohata from within their tour bus. It was destroyed by the tsunami, but a new wall 346.6m long and 12m thick is due to open in March next year.

Next, the participants visited the rebuilt

Tsukuehama Banyagun (fishing village), which is also located in Tanohata. After hearing about the long history of these buildings and their role in the area, they tried their hand at arts and crafts. Everyone decorated a picture frame with seashells.

At Settai Road, which is part of the Taro-Iwaizumi road, work is ongoing at Settai Tunnel 1 (1,355m), Settai Tunnel 2 (1,772m), Settai Main Bridge (234.0m) and Lower Settai Bridge (37.0m). The construction sites are normally off-limits, but the participants were able

to see the work in-progress.

The last stop on the tour was Moshi Fishing Harbor in Iwaizumi, where reconstruction work is progressing on the 40m-long eastern breakwater and the 191.1m-long offshore breakwater. Both are due to reach completion in December this year. There will also be a 16m-high seawall in the same harbor, which should be finished by March.

Several of the participants were university students taking part in an internship. They shared some thoughts about the tour: "By being able to see the worksites in person and hearing from the workers, I could see that the reconstruction is slowly but surely moving forward," one said. "Even after the work is completed, I really want to work in a job where I can help the towns and villages that were damaged."



The construction site in Aketo coast (Tanohata)



The construction site in Settai Tunnel 1

Governor Visits Local German Governments, Expresses Gratitude for Reconstruction Aid

Germany

On July 22nd (Wed), Governor Tasso visited two local German governments that donated aid money to Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. First was the Rhineland-Palatinate state government, and second was the Kaiserslautern City Council.

In the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, which has had friendly relations with Japan since 20 years before the earthquake, the Governor met the Chief Cabinet Secretary, and other prominent members of the local government. After sharing current news from Osawa Nursery (in Yamada), which received aid money from Rhineland-Palatinate, Governor Tasso expressed his gratitude, and confirmed that friendly relations would continue in the future.

The Governor also met the deputy mayor of Kaiserslautern. He delivered a personal message from the mayor of Kamaishi, which also received aid money. Both cities expressed that they would continue to support the disaster stricken areas.

An informal gathering at the State Government Reception Hall was attended by the Frankfurt Consul General, the state's German-Japanese exchange association, and representatives from Japanese companies operating nearby. After exchanging gifts, each attendee received a commemorative metal wind chime, which was sent as a gift of gratitude from Osawa Nursery.



Governor Tasso gives a speech in Kaiserslautern



Governor Tasso greets the Rhineland-Palatinate

Saury Season on the Iwate Coast

News from Sanriku

9/6

Sun

Meguro Saury Festival

Tokyo

In front of Meguro Station

6,000 charcoal-grilled saury and fresh, raw saury will be given out for free.

9/23

Wed

Sanriku & Ofunato Saury Festival at Tokyo Tower

Tokyo

At a special site outside Tokyo Tower

3,333 charcoal-grilled saury will be given out for free.

10/4

Sun

Wharf Festival Ofunato Saury Festival

Osaka

Namba Betsuin (Minami-mido)

Local volunteers will give out grilled, fresh saury from Ofunato.



The 22nd Kamaishi Hamayuri International Triathlon

Kamaishi

On August 2, 2015 (Sun), the 22nd Kamaishi Hamayuri International Triathlon was held at Nebama Beach in Unosumai, Kamaishi.

Triathlons are intense endurance races that involve transition from swimming, cycling, and running in immediate succession. Kamaishi will be one of the venues for the official games in the National Athletic Meet that will be held in Iwate next year.

The triathlon was cancelled in 2011 due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. However in 2012, the swimming section was revived, with both swimming and running being reinstated in 2013. Cycling was added back in 2014 to complete the triathlon trio.



The triathlon race (photo courtesy of Kamaishi Hamayuri International Triathlon Planning Committee)

The triathlon had over 230 athletes from all over the country participate as it was held as a sort of rehearsal for the Iwate National Athletic Meet. People showed their support and cheered from the streets for the athletes.

Takata Ugoku Tanabata and Kesen Kenka Tanabata

Rikuzentakata

On August 7, 2015 (Fri), Rikuzentakata held its traditional summer festivals, Takata Ugoku (Moving) Tanabata and Kesen Kenka (Fighting) Tanabata.

In Ugoku Tanabata, 11 of the 12 festival floats used in the festival before the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami participated this year. The floats, which were decorated with a colorful Japanese paper pattern called Azafu, paraded around town along to the tune of the flutes and taiko drums.

The Kenka (Fighting) Tanabata has a history dating back over 900 years, but three out of four of the floats were washed away in the tsunami. In 2012, a brand new float was built as a replacement

Cedar tree logs 15m in length are attached to the festively decorated floats.

The most exciting part of the festival is when two of the floats ram into each other as if they were fighting. The air was filled with the excited shouts of the spectators.



Floats ramming into each other during Kenka Tanabata

Big Fall Events

9/11

FRI

Hanamaki Festival

Hanamaki

All over Hanamaki

Features beautiful, elegant floats, 140 majestic mikoshi (portable shrines), traditional local performing arts handed down from ancient times, such as the Shishi Deer Dance, Kagura Gongen Dance, Hanamaki-bayashi Dance, and so on.
Contact■Hanamaki Industry and Tourist Division: 0198-24-2111

9/13

SUN

Morioka Autumn Festival of Hachimangu Shrine

Morioka

Morioka Hachimangu Shrine (Morioka)

An annual festival with 300 years of tradition, leading back to Morioka's history as a castle town.
On Sept. 14, a parade starts from the shrine. On Sept. 15, there is a float parade from the castle park. Yabusame can be viewed on Sept. 16 (horseback archery).
Contact■Morioka Tourism & Convention Association: 019-604-3305

9/14

MON

9/16

WED

9/18

FRI

Kuji Autumn Festival

Kuji

From Aramachi to Honcho (Kuji)

With over 600 years of history and tradition, this is the biggest festival in northern Iwate.
The highlights of the festival are the floats and mikoshi.
Contact■Planning Committee: 0194-66-9200

9/20

SUN

9/19

SAT

Yamada Ganbappeshi Festival

Yamada

Plaza in front of Yamada Town Hall (Yamada)

Held along with the annually held festivals at Yamada Hachimangu Shrine and Osugi Shrine. There are stage events including local traditional performing arts as well.
Contact■Yamada Promotion Executive Committee: 0193-82-2515

9/21

MON

9/22

TUE

Tohoku Reconstruction Festival in Miyako

Miyako

Suehirocho and Chuodori (Miyako)

Three of Tohoku's big festivals (Sendai Suzume Odori, Yamagata Hanagasa Odori, Morioka Sansa Odori) will gather in Miyako.
Contact■Junior Chamber International Rikuchu Miyako: 0193-62-8458

9/23

WED

9/27

SUN

Odense Begokko Festa 2015

Iwaizumi

Ryusendo Cave Parking Lot 3 (Iwaizumi)

A cow festival where you can purchase many of Iwaizumi's local goods, such as Iwaizumi short-horn beef. There are also many unique and fun events like the Mooing Competition.
Contact■Planning Committee: 0194-22-2111

10/16

FRI

Kamaishi Matsuri

Kamaishi

From Sea Plaza Yu to Kamaishi Bay (Kamaishi)

Hikifune Matsuri, in which mikoshi are paraded around, will occur in the middle of the day. On the last day, there will be tiger dancing, kagura, floats, and te-odori (hand dancing) performances on the main street, and the mikoshi will be carried back to their home shrines.
Contact■Planning Committee: 0193-22-2434

10/18

SUN

10/17

SAT

Sanriku-Ofunato Saury Festival

Ofunato

Ofunato Civic Gymnasium (Ofunato)

There are many events that you just can't pass up, like a free taste-testing corner for charcoal-grilled saury fish, and a saury-catching game corner.
Contact■Planning Committee: 0192-21-1922

10/18

SUN

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2015

- ▶Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,164

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 July 31, 2015

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.39363 billion (91,786 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.68701 billion (7,409 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥7.63778 billion (15,924 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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