

# 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.

The cherry blossom season has come to Iwate, with the beautiful flowers of pink and white bringing joy to the hearts of Iwate's citizens. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

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

Volume 62  
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Iwate Prefecture

## Completion Ceremony for the New Ofunato Fish Market

A Symbol of the Revitalization of the Fisheries Industry! Ofunato

On Wednesday, April 23, a completion ceremony for the construction of the new fish market was held in Ofunato.

It was in 2009 that construction on a new fish market began. The previous building was very old and needed a replacement. In 2011, however, the construction site was damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, putting the project on hold for a year. Construction was needed to raise the ground that had sunken due to the wave, and as a result the project took a total of five years.

There were about 300 people attending the ceremony, including Governor Tasso and Mayor Toda, along with those involved in the fisheries industry and the construction of the market.

"The revived fish market will be a symbol of the reconstruction of Ofunato," said Mayor Toda in his speech. "I believe this will increase our fish haul and promote our product branding efforts."

Following this, there was a ribbon-cutting that took place in front of a fishing boat with colorful fishing flags raised, and the new market was officially opened.



The new fish market completed

The 4-story reinforced concrete structure has a total floor area of around 16,500 square meters. The new fish market has high freshness and sanitation standards, and there is also a facility that produces thinly shaved ice for packing fish. There is an exhibition area, a viewing deck and an observation deck that the whole family can enjoy. With facilities such as these it is hoped that in addition to facilitating commerce the fish market will become a hub for the tourism industry.



The completion ceremony



The ribbon-cutting



The completion ceremony



Exhibition area

## "Cover the Town in Cherry Trees" Event Held in Yamada

On Sunday, April 20, the "Cover the Town in Cherry Trees" event took place in the Autocamp Funakoshi Family Travel Park in Yamada. The event was organized by the Yamada municipal government and BG Ura-no-Hama Group.

Participants in the event included local Yamada residents and volunteers from around the country. They planted around 200 cherry saplings on the slopes of hills in the area.

The goal of this project is to create popular flower-viewing sites above the line where the tsunami hit in 2011, and since last year the project has seen some 530 cherry trees planted.

At the planting ceremony, the Mayor Shinitsu Sato gave an address in which he stated that it had been a terrible loss that so many of the

town's carefully grown cherry trees had been lost in the disaster. He also expressed his hope that with the planting of new cherry trees they could honor the memory of those who died in the tsunami.



Planting the saplings



Participants of the event



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• Android OS4.0 and newer, iOS6.0 and newer

For more information:

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# White Base Otsuchi Business Hotel Opens

## A cozy hotel on the coast, good for long-term visits

Otsuchi

On Thursday, April 17, the White Base Otsuchi business hotel opened in the Kirikiri area of Otsuchi.

The facility was built to fill the need for accommodation facilities, which are lacking in the town. It will be open for a 5-year period, and is run by the company Reconstruction Community Development Otsuchi.

All rooms in the facility are single rooms. It consists of four two-story buildings, of which three (52 rooms) are intended for long-term, principally male, visitors, and the remaining building (25 rooms) is intended for tourists and those on short trips home, and includes a bath and toilet in each room. A total of 77 people can be accommodated at any one time.

The hotel has a cafeteria supplying local foods, as well as a booth selling regional goods. There is also a communal bath for long-term guests, which heats the water using the same wood-burning stove that was used in the Kirikiri evacuation shelter after the tsunami.

"I hope people will make use of this facility as a place to relax and also to engage in various activities," says Mitsuru Ishii, assistant manager of the Management & Planning Division of Reconstruction Community Development Otsuchi. "We will be using it to organize events and using every opportunity to interact with the local people. I hope that this hotel will make people who stay here want to come back to Otsuchi again."



White Base Otsuchi viewed from the outside



One of the guest rooms



The spacious cafeteria

Address: 1-197 Kirikiri, Otsuchi Town, Kamihei District, Iwate Prefecture (postal code 028-1101) Telephone: 0193-55-6651 FAX: 0193-55-6668 URL: <http://wb-otsuchi.com/>

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 16 introduces Ms. Yuino Terashima's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Okirai, Ofunato.

In May 2013, she was designated the 15<sup>th</sup> Ofunato Camellia Princess for a period of one year.

She participates in events in Iwate as well as in Tokyo and other places promoting Ofunato.

From this May she will join the Sanriku Tourism Center and continue to promote tourism in her hometown.

***I want people to love Ofunato like I do!***

As the Camellia Princess, Yuino Terashima took part in various events both within and outside Iwate promoting Ofunato.

Looking back on the events she took part in, she fondly recalls how people would always cheer her on, and tell her how much they enjoy eating Ofunato's saury and other marine goods.

People for  
SANRIKU'S  
Future

Sanriku Tourism Center  
Ofunato City Tourism  
Association  
Yuino Terashima



"I hope everyone will be able to enjoy Ofunato's delicious food products."

"Ofunato lost so much in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami," says Terashima, "but there's still a lot of good left. The city is blessed with a rich natural environment and lots of delicious seafood. But the best thing about Ofunato is its warm and friendly people. I hope lots of people will come here and get to know them! I'm going to keep working to promote Ofunato as much as I can!"

***I'm so happy that the railway reopened***

Regarding Ofunato's reconstruction, she told us that while some people had said it was moving forward too slowly, others were pleased that so much had been accomplished in just three years.

"I'm very happy the Sanriku Railway has reopened," said Terashima, who used to commute to high school on the Sanriku Railway. "I'm so unbelievably thankful for that," she continued, with a big smile on her face.

The reopening of the Sanriku Railway is a symbol of the reconstruction, and it will be a huge boost to the lives of the people living in the coastal region and continue to aid in the reconstruction.

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of March 31, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,132
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,706

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation, go to the Iwate Disaster Information Portal:

Iwate Pref Bousai

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### Thank you for all your support!

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.95467 billion (88,247 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥18.69077 billion (6,612 donations)

As of February 28, 2014

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.55300 billion (13,000 donations)

As of March 31, 2014

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

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