

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 leaves on the trees have grown ever greener, as the sun's rays beat down upon us. Summer is coming.

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

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

三陸復興

Volume 63
(May 15, 2014)

4/27

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Visit to the Affected Area

On April 27, Prime Minister Abe visited the northern part of Iwate's coastal region in order to examine the reconstruction progress following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. After viewing reconstruction public housing and emergency temporary housing districts in Jonai, Noda, he got on the recently restored Sanriku Railway North Rias Line (from Rikuchu-Noda Station to Fudai Station) and interacted with local passengers, and got a strong sense that the reconstruction is moving along smoothly.

He then visited Tanohata's salmon breeding facility and gave feed to the young fish. It must have been a rare experience for him, and he kept dipping his hand into the bucket until there was no feed left. It is hoped that most of the juvenile salmon released into the Akedogawa River will come back.

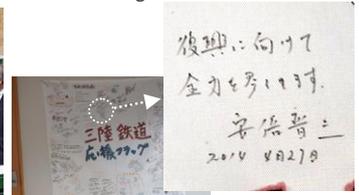
Lastly, after examining the reconstruction projects around the Omoto area of Iwaizumi, he left a message on the "Sanriku Railway Support Flag" in the waiting room at Omoto Station. *I will do everything in my power to achieve a full reconstruction*, he wrote.



Prime Minister Abe (left) receiving information at the Monzen Kouji No. 2 Disaster Reconstruction Public Housing District



PM Abe (second from left) feeding the salmon fry at Tanohata's breeding facility



The Prime Minister's promise at Omoto Station

Kitayamazaki Sightseeing Boat Set to Return in July

Tanohata

On April 30 (Wednesday) a prayer ceremony for the safety of construction of Tanohata's new Kitayamazaki Cliffs sightseeing boat was held in the ship construction site in the Osawa area of Yamada. The ship will operate in Tanohata's Sector 3 (Rikuchu-Tanohata).

The old docking bay suffered significant damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and has not sailed since. The ship had also grown old and unusable, but construction work on a replacement

to be completed at the end of July 2014 is proceeding.

The new ship will be built of an aluminum alloy and be around 22 meters long and 4.1 meters wide. It will weigh 19 metric tons and have a maximum speed of 18 knots, with a capacity of 92 passengers. The name will be selected based on suggestions from Tanohata residents and local elementary and junior high school students, and is due to be decided in early July.

The Kitayamazaki Cliffs are ranked by the Japan Travel Bureau with their highest level (Special A) in their "natural resources and coastal" category, with the 200-meter cliffs being a local highlight.

The new ship will allow tourists to once again appreciate the beautiful Kitayamazaki and Unosu cliffs.

This summer will also see the reopening of the Shimanokoshi Station building on the Sanriku Railway North Rias Line, and so it is hoped that we will see an increase in visitors to the Kitayamazaki Cliffs.



A rendition of what the completed ship will look like



The rebuilt docking bay

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

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

Free to Register!



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.

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

Iwate Ooendan

Search

For this issue we talked to Iwate Reconstruction Support Team members Shin'ichi Sugimoto from Nagasaki Prefecture and Emi Kakimoto from Osaka Prefecture. The Iwate Reconstruction Support Team is a group of people from around Japan who came to work in Iwate to support our reconstruction efforts after the disaster.

Sugimoto will be working in the "Sanriku Geopark Promotion Conference" (Miyako) and Kakimoto as an FM radio personality for the NPO "Aid TAKATA" (Rikuzentakata). Upon arrival they paid a visit to Governor Tasso, during which the governor offered these words of encouragement: "In order to achieve a full reconstruction the local people must do their best, but working with people from outside Iwate is also critical. I am very glad you will be working with us."

Sugimoto previously worked in the municipal government of Shimabara, Nagasaki, and Kakimoto was a radio personality on stations like FM Aichi. We would like to heartily support the work of these two highly experienced individuals.



Courtesy call on Governor Tasso



Showing their determined resolve

Shin'ichi Sugimoto's remarks

"When the Fugen Peak of Mt. Unzen [in Shimabara] erupted [in the 1990s] we received aid from people all over Japan. A part of my job was to describe the disaster at the Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall. Now, I want to use what I learned from the eruption, as well as the work I have been doing since then, to repay the people of Iwate!"

Emi Kakimoto's remarks

"As a radio personality I had of course been talking about the disaster, but I hadn't actually visited the affected area yet. So when I got the chance to visit places like Ofunato and Rikuzentakata, and experience firsthand the kindness of the local people, I grew to love the area. I want to use my voice to encourage the local people!"



Kakimoto (left) and Sugimoto (right) receive their certificates of appointment

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 17 introduces Mr. Takuma Sato's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Akahama, Otsuchi.

He was 15 at the time of the disaster, which hit the day before he graduated Otsuchi Junior High School.

He graduated Otsuchi High School in March 2014, and from April of the same year has been studying in the Iwate Prefecture Firefighters' School in Yahaba.

I decided to become a firefighter after the disaster

Sato had been in school that day doing a run-through of the next day's planned graduation ceremony, and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit after he went home in the afternoon.

When the tsunami receded, he went with the other locals to look for survivors. Seeing so many people he knew killed in the disaster, and yet more people still



Iwate Prefecture Firefighters' School Student
Takuma Sato



"I want to bring smiles to the faces of Otsuchi."

alive but barely breathing, he felt like there was nothing he could do by himself, he told us.

It was then that he decided to become a firefighter in order to protect the people around him.

It's not enough to simply save the people; we need to be there for them

He is currently attending the Iwate Prefecture Firefighters' School (Yahaba Town, Shiwa County), and upon graduation, he hopes to join the fire department in the Kamaishi-Otsuchi district.

Whenever he goes home to Otsuchi, he sees the new buildings going up, with the things that were there before gradually disappearing, and he gets a real sense of the reconstruction progressing forward.

"It's not enough to simply protect the local area; I want to be there for the people and let them get to know me," says Sato. He then told us about his hopes for the future. "I don't want people to rely on my just as a fireman. I want them to be able to trust me as a human being. And I want to save as many people as I can."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of April 30, 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

Thank you for all your support!

As of March 31, 2014

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.11802 billion (88,775 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.53536 billion (6,701 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.55300 billion (13,000 donations)

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