

# 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.

Summer is truly upon us, with the bright rays of the sun beating down on Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction.

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

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



Volume 64  
(June 1, 2014)

## 5/13 (Tues) Supporting the Kids through Soccer!

Rikuzentakata

### Shinji Kagawa (playing for Japan in 2014 FIFA World Cup) visits Rikuzentakata

On May 13 (Tuesday), Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa visited Rikuzentakata to see first-hand how reconstruction in the affected region is progressing, and to express his feelings directly to the people of Tohoku.

After visiting Rikuzentakata's famous "Miracle Lone Pine Tree" he dropped by the soccer club at Rikuzentakata High School and cheered them on. He then made a courtesy call on Rikuzentakata City Hall, and played a friendly soccer match with the kids at Takata Elementary School.

Kagawa spent his junior high and high school years in Sendai, and remarked, "People in Sendai and Tohoku helped me out a lot back then. I hope I can repay that debt now by playing my best soccer game!" He also wrote on his personal blog that he would be thinking of Tohoku's reconstruction while doing his best for Japan in the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

The 2014 World Cup will be held in Brazil, and will take place between Friday, June 13 and Monday, July 14 (Japan

Standard Time). Japan's first match versus Cote D'Ivoire will be on June 15 (Sunday) from 10 a.m.



Kagawa (center) at Rikuzentakata City Hall



With students at Takata Elementary



With students at Rikuzentakata High

Photos from: Shinji Kagawa official website ([www.kagawashinji.com/?aid=260](http://www.kagawashinji.com/?aid=260))

5/14 (Wed)

## Special Tree-Planting for the Settai Coastal Defense Forest

Miyako

Iwate's coastal defense forests suffered tremendous damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. But the Taro-Settai district of Miyako has finished laying the groundwork for the planting of new saplings, and so it has become the first place in Iwate to begin reviving its coastal defense forests.

The planting day was 30° Celsius and it was with sweat on their brows that participants began planting the new trees.

Some of the saplings were grown in Tottori Prefecture in the Chugoku region of southern Japan, using Iwatean seeds, as a form of aid for the affected area. Governor Hirai of Tottori, along with students at the Aimi No. 2 Elementary School in Nanbu Town, Tottori, took part in the event. They planted 1,530 saplings over a 3,000-square-meter area. In about 20 to 30 years' time, these trees will grow up to once again protect Taro from the winds and waves.



Speech by Governor Hirai (Tottori Prefecture)



How the area looked before the planting



The planting



We did it!



We hope they will grow up big and strong



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

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May 18 (Sunday): A planting ceremony for the new “Takata no Yume”-brand rice was held in Yonesaki, Rikuzentakata.

“Takata no Yume” (“the dream of Takata” in Japanese) is derived from Akita-Komachi rice. Thanks to the continued restoration of paddies that were destroyed in the tsunami, this year they can plant over five times last year’s crop.

Mr. Chihiro Kinno who runs the paddies told us “The tsunami decimated my crop. I was in despair. But that despair has turned into hope. Our rice is delicious, so please try it!”



The rice-planting



A commemorative photo of the participants



Commemorative plaque to mark the occasion

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 18 introduces Ms. Mayu Suzuki’s efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Kesenuma in Miyagi Prefecture, she is now 19 years old.

In her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of middle school, her home was damaged by the 2011 disaster.

She debuted as a jockey at Iwate’s Mizusawa Race Track on April 19, 2014. She is the first new female jockey in Iwate in 10 years.

*People should never give up on their dreams and always do their best*

She would go with her father on visits to the races, and after seeing female jockeys race at Mizusawa, she decided to take up the sport herself.

After her house was damaged in the disaster, she was set to give up on her dream of becoming a jockey, but with support from her mother she continued

## People for SANRIKU'S Future

Female Jockey  
Mayu Suzuki



“Let’s work toward a better future together and always remember to smile!”

chasing her dream and finally made it a reality.

“I had given up on this dream,” says Suzuki, “but if we try our hardest, we can make our dreams come true. I hope everyone else will get to do what they really want to do.”

*I hope people will see me and feel better!*

Exactly a month after her debut, on May 19, she won her first race, and seeing her do her best is really exciting.

“I think we need to do more for the reconstruction than we have been,” says Suzuki. “I hope people will see me and feel better!”

We hope that in addition to doing her best on the track, Ms. Suzuki will bring courage to the hearts of all those who watch her racing.

### 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

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### Thank you for all your support!

As of April 30, 2014

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.13534 billion (89,001 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.55962 billion (6,803 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.54 billion (13,190 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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