

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.

Although we are in the rainy season, rays of sun occasionally shine through the clouds and we can truly feel the heat of summer.

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

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



Volume 65
June 15, 2014

5/29 (Thursday)

Completion Ceremony for the Research Vessel Kitakami-maru

On Thursday, May 29, the Iwate Fisheries Technology Center held a completion ceremony for the seventh *Kitakami-maru*, a marine research vessel weighing 38 metric tons.

The newly-constructed ship is equipped with state-of-the-art scientific research equipment and a vast array of fishing tools to allow it to engage in marine observation operations and study of fisheries resources off Iwate's coast. The results of its studies will be made available to those in the fisheries industry in a speedy and efficient manner.

The Center suffered tremendous damage during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, with restoration works on its research facilities only being completed in March of this year. Because of this, those in attendance at the

Kitakami-maru ceremony were also able to hear presentations on the results of 4 recent research projects: "Development of New Processing Methods by Heating with Electricity", "Shellfish Toxin Plankton-Monitoring Study", "Experimental Proof-Based Research on Improving the Effectiveness of Raising of *Wakame* Seaweed" and "New Research on the Breeding and Production of Japanese Abalone".

The Iwate Fisheries Technology Center is working towards the full recovery of Iwate's fisheries industry, through both experimental research and the distribution of data. The rebuilding of their research facilities and the completion of this new, top-of-the-line research vessel are important steps in this process.



Governor Tasso's speech at the completion ceremony



Ribbon-cutting in front of the *Kitakami-maru*



Shellfish Toxin Plankton-Monitoring Study

Examining the data in Vol. 10 of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report

The Iwate Reconstruction Index Report is published periodically and serves to make it easier to understand the current state of affairs and recent trends in Iwate's

reconstruction efforts, particularly in the 12 affected coastal municipalities. Below are outlined the main points from volume 10 of the report (as of the end of May 2014).

Progress on disposal of debris (as of March 31, 2014)

►Rate: 111.1% (5.837 million metric tons)

As a symbol of the acceleration of our reconstruction, we were able to complete the disposal of debris as of the end of March.

Opening of reconstruction roads (as of April 30, 2014)

►Opened: 31%, 123 km (April 30, 2013: 28%, 110 km)

The reconstruction roads have been increased by 13 kilometers from the same time last year. Out of a total planned 393 kilometers, we are now at 31%.

Emergency temporary housing usage (as of April 30, 2014)

►Number of units occupied: 11,464 (December 2013: 13,218)

There has been a 13.3% drop since the peak period (December 2013: 13,218) in the number of households forced to live in emergency temporary housing units.

*Reconstruction Roads:

- Sanriku Coastal Roads (Sanriku Longitudinal Expressway, Sanriku North Longitudinal Expressway, Hachinohe-Kuji Expressway)
- Trans-Tohoku Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line
- Miyako-Morioka Trans-Prefectural Road (Route 106)

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!



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.

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

Free to Register!

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

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On May 28 (Wednesday), a ceremony was held in Otsuchi Town Hall, to mark the signing of an agreement to introduce the Venezuelan music education system *El Sistema* in the town.

The Venezuelan Ambassador, Seiko Ishikawa, was in attendance, as was Yuzuru Kikugawa, representative director of El Sistema Japan, the organization responsible to promoting *El Sistema*. "Otsuchi is working to develop its musical profile with people of all ages" said Mayor Yutaka Ikarigawa at the start of the ceremony. "I hope the introduction of this new system of musical education will encourage our children to grow and learn more effectively."

The system was developed around 40 years ago, and is meant to allow children in all economic conditions to develop their musical talents by playing instruments or singing, free of charge. Aiming to use music to allow people to improve their lives, it has been introduced in over 50 countries and regions, and Otsuchi is the second place in Japan to follow this trend (after Soma City on the coast of Fukushima Prefecture).

Music classes for pre-school and elementary children are planned with *El Sistema* conductors being sent to classes.



Mayor Ikarigawa (left) with Director Kikugawa (right)



Commemorative photo with Venezuelan Ambassador Ishikawa (center)

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 19 introduces Mr. Tomoyuki Se's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Yamaguchi City in Yamaguchi Prefecture, he studied child-rearing in college before working as a childcare worker.

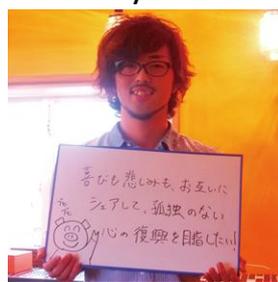
Hearing about the disaster on the news, he wondered if there was anything he could do for Tohoku's children, and so he volunteered in Minamisanriku (Miyagi) in May and June of 2011, and in both Rikuzentakata and Minamisanriku in August.

Following that, he came to feel that the coastal region needed long-term workers, and moved to Iwate in October 2011. In April 2012 he moved to Ofunato, and in May 2014 opened the café "Ecclesia Coffee".

The café is my offering to the local people

"I had a special strength, but no special skills," says Se regarding his enthusiasm for interacting with people. "I think what I'm good at is listening to the local people, especially children."

Vice-Director
With You Global NPO
Tomoyuki Se



"Let's share all our joy and sadness with each other, and build an Iwate where no one has to feel isolated."

He understands the importance of being there to listen to people who feel isolated as the disaster continues to get further and further away and people's topics of conversation change.

I wanted to get to know the local people

In May 2014, he opened a café where young people can get together, called "Ecclesia Coffee". The café is a place where people can enjoy delicious coffee and a good chat.

"The things people talk about are gradually changing, compared with just after the disaster. Aid workers coming here shouldn't just help Ofunato; I want to be a model for others by interacting with the young people. It's not about those helping and those being helped. I want to see these people as equals."

He hopes he can use the café to help listen to the locals, particularly the children.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of May 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:

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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.