

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.

As southern Japan reaches the end of the rainy season, we in Iwate are waiting with baited breath for the end of our rainy season to come. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

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



Volume 67
July 15, 2014

PM Abe visits the affected areas

Otsuchi

On July 2 (Wednesday) Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Otsuchi to inspect the reconstruction progress following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

He visited the construction site of the reconstruction public housing project in block 2 of the Ogaguchi area, as well as the NPO "Otsuchi Recovery Sashiko Project", which seeks to promote traditional *sashiko* knitted goods, and the refrigeration factory of the recently reopened fisheries processing facility. This was Mr. Abe's fourth visit to Iwate.

After his visit, Abe said "It's true the reconstruction is taking time, but I really felt things were moving forward." He also proposed setting up a new fund to support businesses.



At the Otsuchi Recovery Sashiko Project



At the fisheries processing facility

※Photos and quote taken from the PM's official website.

Reconstruction Marketplace held in Taro

Miyako

On July 6 (Sunday) the "Miyako-Taro 8th Iwate Town Prosperity Reconstruction Marketplace" was held in Greenpia Sanriku Miyako. The event started in December 2011, with the goal of revitalizing towns and bringing people together, and has since been held around the affected coastal region, with this being the eighth time it has been held.

There were around 20 stores selling all kinds of delicious dishes from within and outside Iwate, such as Kuji mamebu-jiru soup (Kuji; as seen in last year's NHK drama *Ama-chan*), Hachinohe sembei-jiru soup (Hachinohe, Aomori; rated Japan's best in cuisine category B), Yokote yaki-soba (Yokote, Akita), Kitakami croquette (Kitakami), Iwate-machi yaki-udon (Iwate Town) Sumita harami-yaki (Sumita), Nishiwaga biscuit tempura (Nishiwaga), and many more.

There were also traditional performing arts demos, so visitors could have a nice snack as they walked around enjoying the festivities.



Lots of people at the market



Selling Kuji mamebu-jiru soup

Publication of Results of the Second "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" for 2014

Iwate Prefecture conducts the "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" in order to periodically measure Iwate's reconstruction progress following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every three months.

We will now explain some key points extracted from the results of the second survey this year (conducted in May 2014).

How have the lives of the survivors recovered?
"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 55.8% (last time: 55.9%)

- The results are basically unchanged from last time. In both the north and south coastal regions, "Mostly recovered" had the largest share (59.5% in the north, 47.3% in the south).
- While participants gave positive points like "More people have moved into new houses and public housing projects", some were worried about a loss of jobs once emergency employment measures end, or were distressed by the number of people still living in temporary housing.

How do you feel about the recovery of the local economy?
"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 55.9% (last time: 46.9%)

- There was an increase of 9 points over the previous results.
- While participants appreciate the revival of the fisheries industry and look forward to an rise in jobs and consumption from the new large shopping malls, concerns were raised over the future of the temporary shopping facilities, as well as a drop in fish prices and the effects of the consumption tax.

How do you feel about the disaster mitigation measures?
"Satisfactory" or "Mostly satisfactory": 23.3% (last time: 19.6%)

- There was an increase of 3.7 points over the previous results.
- Participants were happy with the improvements in the seawalls and so on, but some wish for a speedier recovery, or felt that the details of the construction projects were not being adequately explained to the local residents.

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Search

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:

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Search

Three years after the disaster, with reconstruction projects growing more and more by the day, the number of large vehicles related to construction works running on roads in the affected areas and access roads to the coast has increased. Further, new and better roads are being built, and with these changes in both the roads and the traffic, there is concern over a potential rise in the number of traffic accidents in the affected region.

As a result, the Iwate Prefecture Road Safety Policy Council has as one of its projects for this fiscal year the publication of a booklet outlining road safety in the affected areas and working with related parties to promote road safety.

So everyone, are you caught up on the rules of the road?

- ★ **Pedestrians, drivers and cyclists: Stop and look around!**
It's not enough not to *cause* an accident. In order to avoid *having* an accident, please drive at a safe speed and always keep an eye on your surroundings.
- ★ **Protect children and the elderly from getting into traffic accidents!**
When going out in the evening or at night, please use reflective materials. In a car, please attach your seatbelt and baby-seat correctly.
- ★ **Bicycles are vehicles too.**
Please put pedestrians first while cycling, and keep the rules of the road.



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 21 introduces Mr. Yuya Matsuoka's efforts.

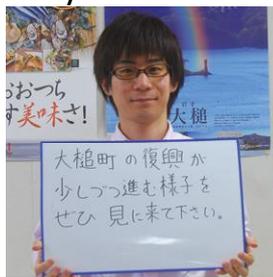
Profile:

Originally from Tokyo. As a university student, he was a member of the NPO International Volunteer University Student Association (IVUSA) and helped in the affected areas following the 3/11 disaster.

While in university, he applied for the Iwate Reconstruction Support Team, and since April 2013 has been working in Reconstruction Community Development Otsuchi as a member of the Team.



Reconstruction Community
Development Otsuchi
Yuya Matsuoka



"I hope everyone will come and see how Otsuchi's reconstruction is moving forward one step at a time."

wondering if there was something that could be done in the affected areas, heard of the Iwate Reconstruction Support Team online and applied to them. With his employment with the Team confirmed, he came to Otsuchi in March of 2013.

Once again fill the town with smiles

"The embankments in Otsuchi have already begun, and things *are* getting better, but I hoped more would change over a year, and things don't seem to be moving forward," says Matsuoka about his impression of the reconstruction. He is currently involved with running the Otsuchi Information Plaza (a booth that distributes information about Otsuchi's reconstruction) in Otsuchi's Seaside Town Mast shopping center.

"I'm currently working with the local people to put together a plan to create a central shopping district for the town," he says about the future of the town. "Construction is coming along well, and we're hoping it will be a new hub of activity where people can get together and once again fill the town with smiles."

Something to be done in the affected area

Matsuoka was a second year student at the time of the disaster, and from April 2011 visited the affected area once or twice a month to engage in aid activities.

He was also engaged in job-hunting activities, but with the state of affairs in the affected areas he felt wrong looking for work in Tokyo, and,

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of June 30, 2014

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

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 May 31, 2014

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.14013 billion (89,205 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.56102 billion (6,833 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.86 billion (13,455 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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