

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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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 hot weather in Iwate is coming to its end, and the nights have a cool breeze.

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

"Yokohama South Market Summer Festival –Iwate Day–"

Yokohama, Kanagawa

From Aug. 2nd (Sat) to Aug. 3rd (Sun) in the South Market area of Yokohama, Yokohama South Market Co-Prosperity Committee and Kanagawa Shimbun held a spotlight event for the three prefectures that suffered from the disaster. They were planned to be held in summer, fall, and spring, with Iwate Prefecture holding the main spotlight for this year's summer festival.

South Market Co-Prosperity Committee supported the afflicted areas by donating sanma-yaki (grilled fish) and toilet Paper / tissues from home, but this time they had a special plan to help the prefecture, as worries about supplies had been resolved through the continuous efforts of the reconstruction.

Besides displaying Iwate's food and products in a tour PR booth, Governor Tasso also explained the status of the reconstruction in his speech saying, "The reconstruction

project is kicking into high gear." After the speech, he went around to each booth and expressed his gratitude to the exhibits.

The atmosphere at the event was very lively, with the steel pan performance on Yano Stage playing like background music. When interviewing one of the attendees, she said, "It's fun just looking around since it's so busy and lively. I went to Iwate to volunteer before, so I have an attachment to the place. I want to go again."

That people who volunteered in the affected areas had come to the event made the feeling of support all the more apparent. Also, in spite of the fierce heat at 34.5°C, there was a long line for Ofunato's 10,000 no-charge sanma-yaki.



Ofunato's sanma-yaki given out for no charge



Otsuchi's hotate-yaki (scallop)



"Comic Iwate" Manga edited by the governor (Center: Governor Tasso)



Iwate tour PR booth



Yokohama South Market, where the summer festival took place

Field Trips to Reconstruction Areas "Reconstruction Adventure Tours"

Iwaizumi · Tanohata

On Aug. 7 (Thu), Reconstruction Adventure Tours were held during field trips to reconstruction areas in Iwaizumi and Tanohata.

The aim of these field trips was to have residents witness the state of reconstruction for the affected areas in Iwaizumi and Tanohata. On this day, there were twenty-one participants from Miyako City and Shimohei district, including eight elementary school students. They visited six of the reconstruction zones – the Omoto station area in Iwaizumi, Omoto harbor, the Kitayamazaki sightseeing ship, Shimanokoshi fishing harbor, the plaza in front of Shimanokoshi station, and the Tsukuehama Banyagun fishing area.

Omoto Harbor (Iwaizumi)

In Omoto harbor, the land sunk by 40-50 cm due to the earthquake, and the 450m breakwater was destroyed by the tsunami. The reconstruction work on the breakwater should be finished by fall of this year, and the participants went to see its progress.



Field trip to Omoto harbor

Kitayamazaki sightseeing ship (Tanohata)

The "Kitayamazaki Cliff Cruise" has been back in business since Jul. 26. Participants were able to get on the sightseeing ship "SUN RIKU GO" and view the magnificent scenery of Kitayamazaki.

While on the cruise, they were also able to learn about the extent of the damage from the disaster, and the history of the Sanriku area.



The participants experiencing the Kitayamazaki Cliff Cruise

Tsukuehama Banyagun (Tanohata)

Before the disaster, this was a tourist area where visitors could come and see fishermen drying wakame and konbu seaweed, and the lifestyle of the fishermen (through Banyaga food and the likes), but 25 of the buildings were completely washed away by the disaster. At present, 23 of the buildings are being restored, and the participants went to see its progress.



The fieldtrip in Tsukuehama Banyagun

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.

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

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

Free to Register!

Iwate Oendan

Search

On Aug. 1 (Fri) ~ Aug. 4 (Mon), local mascots of the prefectural and municipal governments who dispatched workers to aid Iwate's reconstruction took part in the parade on the first day of "Morioka Sansa Odori". In total, 14 local governments came together with 16 different mascots and took commemorative photos with Governor Tasso and festival attendees in front of the entrance of the prefectural office. The mascots then led the prefectural office worker team forward, pumping up the excitement of the parade.

This effort expressed our gratitude to all of Japan and the rest of the world for their support. At the same time, we hope it called attention both within and outside Iwate to the work of the support workers, and encouraged people not to forget about the disaster.

Among the people watching the parade alongside the road, there were people who cheered and shouted the names of the mascots, and the mascots waved in return, making it fun for all the parade attendees.



Commemorative photo of the mascots with Governor Tasso.



Parade attendees taking pictures of the mascots.



Local mascots from various Japanese local governments who have sent support workers to Iwate

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The new section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces one of these young people and their powerful feelings every issue.

Part 23 introduces Mr. Kensuke Saito's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Gunma Prefecture.

He came to Iwate for college. After graduating, he started work at an IT company in the Kanto region.

In the summer of 2012, he applied to the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team, and in October of the same year, engaged in work at an IT-related industry for the general incorporated association "SAVE TAKATA," where he is currently.

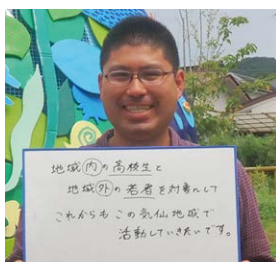
I want to train the next leader

After the disaster, Saito, who had visited the affected areas as a volunteer, applied to the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team because he wanted to be involved with the reconstruction long-term, not just temporarily. Now he is working at "SAVE TAKATA".

"I want to train the next leader," Saito thought, and by using his experiences from his previous IT job, he organizes IT classes for local high school



"Save Takata"
Kensuke Saito



"By targeting local high school students, and young people from outside, I want to keep working for the Kesen region."

students, and urges them to participate in town development workshops. He is educating students about their careers.

I want to make it a place where young people who come to visit would want to live

"I think there are several ways to define the reconstruction depending on the damage in question. There's one for when you rebuild your house, one when a commercial facility is built, another when railroads and other infrastructure are being rebuilt... I think there are many ways to experience the reconstruction," says Saito.

Concerning the future of the reconstruction, Saito says, "It's been over 2 years since I came to Rikuzentakata, but I think this town has changed a lot in that time. They've committed to raising ground levels, and the town is gradually starting to come back together. But I think if the town doesn't attract young people, its development will cease. I want to make it a place where the local high school students, and young people from the city who come to visit, would want to actually live."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,132
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,716

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 June 30, 2014

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.14860 billion (89,415 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.56901 billion (6,860 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥6.86918 billion (13,608 donations)

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