

# 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 Iwate's summer draws to a close, we can sense the changing of the seasons in even the chirping of the cicadas.

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

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

三陸復興

Volume 70  
September 1, 2014

## Performances by Tokyo's "Heaven Artists" in various coastal areas

Ofunato, Kamaishi, Otsuchi, Miyako

Between August 22 (Friday) and August 24 (Sunday), Tokyo's Heaven Artist Organizing Committee held the "Great Iwate Street Performance Event" in Ofunato, Kamaishi, Otsuchi and Miyako.

The event utilizes Tokyo's performing arts culture to support the disaster-affected areas, and has been held in Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima since 2011.

Four groups of "Heaven Artists" (street performers, artists, musicians and so on who have a recognized license from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) visited different parts of Iwate's coastal region and entertained the locals with juggling and other performances.

On August 23 (Saturday), roughly 50 locals gathered to watch the festivities at Kamaishi's "Sea Plaza Yu", which featured music and other performances.

After the performance, the children had a lot of fun trying their hands at juggling, diabolo and so on, which were being taught by the Heaven Artists.

"Compared to when we visited Kamaishi just after the disaster, people seem to be gradually getting happier," says Takao Hashimoto of the Heaven Artist Organizing Committee. "I hope to keep coming back to Iwate every year until people are completely recovered."



Kids join in the performance (Kamaishi)



A performer juggling (Kamaishi)



Kids try diabolo (Kamaishi)



Jazz performance (Miyako)

## Examining the data in Vol. 11 of the Iwate Reconstruction Index

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 11 of the report (as of August 28, 2014).

### Ensuring Safety

Construction rate of anti-tsunami facilities in coastal areas (as of end of March 2014)

▶Percentage: 26.7%; total length of finished projects: 19.0 km (end of March 2013: 25.4%; 18.1 km)

There has been an increase of 0.9 km on last March's results. The current total length of anti-tsunami disaster protection facilities is at 19.0 km, which comes to 26.7% of the total planned length of 71.3 km.

### Rebuilding Lives

Emergency temporary housing usage (as of end of July 2014)

Number of units occupied: 11,054 (Dec. 2011 peak: 13,218)

There has been a 16.4% drop since the peak period in the number of households forced to live in emergency temporary housing units. There has also been a drop of 410 households since the last report (end of April 2014: 11,464).

### Regenerating Industries

Fisheries catch (April~June, 2014)

▶Market catch in producing areas (current total for the fiscal year): 14,799 metric tons (71.0% of 3-year average); April~June 2013: 18,110 metric tons, 86.1% of 3-year average.

The total market catch for producing areas is at 71.0% of the average catch between 2008 and 2010, and there has been an 18.3% drop from the same period last year.



"e! Iwate" is a mobile app that sends you news and information about Iwate's Reconstruction.

You can then re-post this information on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

You can use the app with the following smart phone models:

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

For more information:

[e-iwate.info](http://e-iwate.info)

Search



# Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium

Celebrating 200,000 visitors!

Kuji

On August 12 (Tuesday), the Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium welcomed its 200,000<sup>th</sup> visitor. The aquarium moved to central Kuji following the 2011 tsunami.

The Moguranpia aquarium was located in the Samuraihama area of Kuji, but the building was completely destroyed in the tsunami. Five months later it reopened its doors in a vacant commercial building by Kuji Station, as "Machinaka Aquarium". (*Machinaka* means "in the center of town".)

The aquarium's 200,000<sup>th</sup> visitor since reopening was New Zealand resident Amy McAulay (10). She was in Japan on a family vacation, and while visiting her mother's hometown of Kuji went to the aquarium.

The aquarium has a permanent exhibit showing specimens provided by Sakana-kun (visiting lecturer at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology), who has been supporting the aquarium since before the tsunami. It is now a popular tourist spot in the center of Kuji.

According to the Kuji municipal government, construction work to rebuild the "Subterranean Aquarium Moguranpia" is due to begin in early September, and the full earthquake-proof facility will be completed next July.

(Photos provided by Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium)



The 200,000<sup>th</sup> visitor



Mogu-chan, the aquarium's mascot



Children examining the large fish tank



Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium

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 24 introduces Ms. Ayano Okubo's efforts.

## Profile

Originally from Otsuchi.

After graduating high school, she spent two years studying cosmetic care in Tokyo before returning to Otsuchi. While trying to set up her own business the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck.

Since December 2011 she has been working in AMDA Otsuchi Health Support Center, which was opened by AMDA, an Okayama-based medical NPO.

*It's not enough to move one's body: mental health is also really important*

The AMDA Otsuchi Health Support Center is a facility that was built to give the people of Otsuchi, which suffered enormous damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, a place to meet and gather freely.

Their main activities are arts and crafts classes, bread classes, boxercise classes, and so on. The

People for

SA NR IKU'S

Future

NPO AMDA

Otsuchi Health Support Center

Project Officer

Ayano Okubo



"I hope to build a place where everyone, young and old, can come together and enjoy themselves!"

facility has become a pillar of the local community.

"I don't think health is limited to physical activity," says Okubo. "Moving one's hands also helps to keep one mentally healthy, and keeping an active social life and interacting with one's fellow townspeople is all important to a healthy lifestyle." Okubo expressed her belief in the importance of "inner" health, and aims to create a space where residents can get together and share happy stories.

*A town where young people's opinions are valued*

"There are still lots of people who want new houses but can't get them built," said Okubo, when asked about Otsuchi's reconstruction. "Even with new public housing, people will be concerned about noise from their neighbors, and so even if they move out of emergency temporary housing into public housing estates, I don't think that should be the final goal. This town's destiny is in the hands of its young people, so I think it's critical to take the views of young people into account. My generation still doesn't have many chances to participate, so I think it would be better if people of all ages were involved in the process."

## 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](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

## Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2014

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.15396 billion (89,620 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.56960 billion (6,889 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.93561 billion (13,810 donations)

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

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 70. September 1, 2014.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE