

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

Volume 74

November 1, 2014

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 morning and evening air has grown chilly as we transition into winter, and people are busy preparing for the new season.

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

First Product Exhibition for Local Industry since the Disaster

Ofunato

On both October 25 (Sat) and 26 (Sun), the Ofunato Industrial Festival was held for the first time in 4 years at the Civic Gymnasium in Sakari-cho, Ofunato, after being put on hiatus following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The event was revived thanks to the recovery of manufacturers who had been hit by the disaster, and the completion of repairs and construction on the Civic Gymnasium. The city's seafood products, agricultural produce, and traditional crafts were all brought together in hopes of gaining wider publicity both inside and outside the region.

The venue had close to 60 booths selling local marine products, processed goods, and fresh vegetables. There was also a corner to show off the local flavor of Ofunato as well as booths run by cities that have exchanges with Ofunato to show off their own goods. The crowds packed in to support the event.

New products and companies that have been developed since the disaster were shown off at the event. These entrepreneurs have high hopes for the new market.

At the same time on October 25 (Sat), the Sanriku-Ofunato Saury Festival was held. Visitors enjoyed the taste of autumn as they were treated to close to 2,000 plump saury fish that were grilled over charcoal fire.



The bustling venue crowded with visitors



Visitors lining up to get free saury

Tsukuehama Banyagun Fisherman Grounds To Be Completed in Late December

Tanohata

Tanohata, a village on the northern Sanriku Coast, boasts the beautiful scenic Kitayamazaki and Unosu Cliffs. It is also home to the Tsukuehama Banyagun area, which retains the historic appearance of an important fishing village. The area consists of 25 large and small Banya, which are fishermen work sheds and warehouses.

In 2006 it was chosen by the national government's Fisheries Agency to be in the Top 100 Historical and Cultural Properties for the Future of the Fishing Industry and Settlements. The local fishermen's work area has long been used in fishing practice, and the Banyagun brings many tourists through ecotourism to experience fishing industry and village culture.

The Banyagun was completely washed away in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

In October 2013, repair work on the Banyagun was started using national reconstruction subsidies, and

structural construction work was completed on Friday, October 10, 2014. Currently they are aiming to completely finish construction on the outsides of the buildings by late December.

The Banyagun consists of a food-tasting area, a salt-making building, an ocean adventure building, a gathering space, a learning building, and so on. There are buildings where visitors can cook local food and make salt along with buildings for the local fishermen to use for their work.

The restoration of Tsukuehama Banyagun is a symbol of reconstruction for Tanohata. By advertising fishing village culture and the hands-on tours they have to offer, it is hoped that more and more people will come to the area.



Banyagun in 2006 (photo cred: Tanohata Village)



Building construction on Banyagun completed



Full view of the completed building construction



We are working toward reconstruction using our strength and the bonds of support we have forged both domestically and internationally. The people of Iwate's reconstruction hold dear their commitment to build the future of Iwate and help the area recover.

Visit us online as we collect stories of people forging Iwate's future. Watch the videos by going to this link or accessing the QR code.

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/kouchoukouhou/028674.html>



Prayers for the Reconstruction and a Safe Return from the Sea at Kamaishi Festival

From October 17 (Fri) to October 19 (Sun), Kamaishi held its annual joint festival with Osaki Shrine and San Shrine.

On October 18 (Sat), the area around the port was overflowing with lively, bustling crowds of people that gathered to see the Hikifune Festival, where fishing boats majestically circled around Kamaishi Bay waving a large flags.

Hikifune Festival is the traditional festival of Osaki Shrine, praying for big catches of fish and safe waters. Mikoshi (portable shrines) are placed on top of the boats to cross the ocean to greet the gods.



The boats that circle the bay in the Hikifune Festival (photo cred: Kamaishi City)



The joint festival of Osaki Shrine and San Shrine



Tiger dance performance in the center of the city

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 28 introduces Ms. Itsuho Yoshimizu's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Miyako City (formerly Taro Village) Went to Taro Elementary, Taro Junior High School, and Miyako High School. After graduation, she moved to Kamishihoro, Hokkaido because of an interest in dairy farming. The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami convinced her to move back to her hometown in March of 2012. After helping out temporarily at a farm in Iwaizumi, she was hired at Hotel Greenpia Sanriku Miyako.

Signs of Reconstruction on the Tourist Front

Although Hotel Greenpia received no damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Disaster, they opened up a nearby gymnasium to shelter those who were. They helped out in ways like providing food from the hotel's kitchen.

Greenpia reopened for business in August 2011. Yoshimizu, who has worked with the front reception desk, restaurant reception, banquet

People for SANRIKU'S Future

Hotel Greenpia
Sanriku Miyako
Itsuho Yoshimizu



"We have many choices of seafood, so come on by!!"

services, and the like since May 2012, says this about the recovery of tourism: "Previously, the hotel was mainly used for construction workers, but recently there has been an increasing number of tourists."

Greenpia Sanriku Miyako, in response to the reopening of all lines on the Sanriku Railway,

Promoting tourism through restoration of transportation and lodging facilities

has started a shuttle service between the hotel and Taro Station.

"This is my first time in reception work, but it's rewarding. I get scolded from time to time, but the smiles of the customers always cheers me up.

"Roads are going to be built in the future, and access to Miyako will be much more convenient. There are a lot of famous tourist spots like the beautiful Jodogahama Beach and the rias coastline, as well as Iwaizumi's Ryusendo Cave, so please come visit Miyako and the Sanriku coast," smiles Yoshimizu.

A good, maintained transportation system, a fully-equipped lodging facility and a hospitable, friendly atmosphere are now supporting the reconstruction.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sept. 30, 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 Sept. 30, 2014

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.18213 billion (89,968 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.57366 billion (6,965 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥6.99390 billion (14,134 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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