

# 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.

The autumn leaves are falling as we start to turn on our heaters. The beginning of winter has come to Iwate.

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

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

三陸復興

Volume 75  
November 15, 2014

## Sending Firewood to Aid the Affected Areas – Kuzumaki to Taro

Kuzumaki

Various forestry organizations and volunteer groups are using wood to assist the tsunami-affected region. These groups, among others, include the Department of Forestry in Iwate's Morioka Regional Development Bureau, and the Office of Forestry in the Coastal Regional Development Bureau's Miyako Agriculture and Forestry Promotion Center.

On October 20 (Monday), they were able to provide firewood from Kuzumaki's Koiwa Forest to the Taro Fisheries Cooperative Union in Miyako in cooperation with the Kuzumaki Town Forestry Union.

Individual trees must be felled for the health of the entire forest. This is the theme of the annual project which sees the Iwate Prefectural Government sending wood cut by children and volunteers from Kuzumaki and the Tokyo area to the tsunami-affected coastal region.

The wood is cut from Mongolian oaks grown over a roughly 10,000-hectare area in Kuzumaki. Easy to burn, it is well-suited to being used for firewood or charcoal. Twice a year (in spring and autumn) roughly 3-4 metric tons of the wood is loaded onto two trucks and transported to the coastal region. Immediately after 3.11, it was used for cooking rice and other daily essentials, but now is being used to for heating fishing plants, boats, and so on. In order to meet the needs of the affected area, Iwate Prefecture will continue to work to provide this firewood wherever it is needed.



Employees of Taro Fisheries Cooperative Union and Iwate Prefecture



Moving Kuzumaki firewood into Taro Fisheries Cooperative Union container

\* This is part of the Smile 130 Project. For more information see the URL at the bottom of this page.

## National Memorial Centers to be Built in Affected Prefectures, Cabinet Decides

The cabinet decided on Friday, October 31 to establish memorial facilities in both the Takata-Matsubara area of Rikuzentakata and the Minamihama area of Ishinomaki City, Miyagi. Both suffered tremendous damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The aims of the memorial will be to express the nation's deep sympathy to the victims of the disasters, to pass on the lessons of the disaster to future generations, and to show both Japan and the world a strong will to rebuild following the disaster.

It is believed the government will build small hills or open areas in prefectural or municipal memorial parks and construct monuments there. Preliminary work will begin in fiscal 2015, with the goal of completing the project in March 2021, ten years after the earthquake struck.

"We want them to be places where people can pray for those who lost their lives, and remember the disaster," Reconstruction Minister Wataru Takeshita told reporters at a press conference. "They need to be places where anyone can go anytime they like. We hope that these hills and parks will become symbols of the reconstruction."

The national government is planning one national memorial facility in each of the three affected prefectures. The site in Fukushima, which continues to feel the effects of the nuclear reactor problem, will be determined after consultation with the prefectural government.



Takata-Matsubara, planned site of one of the memorials



### SMILE 130 PROJECT

The Project is bringing smiles to the faces of all 1.30 million Iwateans and it aims to bring joy to the rest of Japan and the world as a thank you for all the aid we received. The Project aims to enliven and encourage Iwate's prefectural employees and citizens to move forward together toward reconstruction.

For more info on Smile 130's activities, please visit the Iwate Prefecture website:  
[http:// www.pref.iwate.jp/seisaku/smile/index.html](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/seisaku/smile/index.html)



## New Fishing Training Vessel Launching Ceremony – Classes Begin Next Spring

Ishinomaki  
Miyagi

On Tuesday, November 4, the launching ceremony for the rebuilt fishing training vessel was held at the Yamanishi Corporation's shipyard in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. The ship is jointly used by Kuji Higashi High School, Miyako Fisheries High School and Takata High School, and was damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The ship's new name, Kaisho ("sea-speedster"), was decided by a vote among the students of the three schools.

Kaisho is 34 meters long, weighs 170 metric tons, and has a 34-person staff quota. It is equipped with top-of-the-line mechanical equipment, with LEDs used in internal and external lighting and the lamps of the saury fishing boats. It also has separate toilets and sleeping quarters for female students.

The new ship, which has been called a classroom on the sea, will be used to train the next generation of fisheries workers starting in April 2015.

(Photos courtesy of Kuji Higashi High School)



The newly-built Kaisho



Students joined in the launching ceremony

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 29 introduces Mr. Kenya Watanabe's efforts.

### Profile:

Originally from Otsuchi Town.

Since 2007 he has worked in the Otsuchi Social Welfare Council.

A survivor of the 2011 tsunami, he now resides in the public housing for disaster survivors.

He currently works in the Volunteer Center, welcoming volunteers from around the country to Otsuchi, and organizing training for the volunteers.

### Work to build the new community

Watanabe coordinates the volunteer activities of people who come from around the country to help Otsuchi.

"It's been a long time since the disaster, and it seems like everyone living here, whether they have their own homes or are still living in temporary housing, is looking for volunteers who will build up the new community and plan events for people to come together," he says of his activities.



Otsuchi Social Welfare Council  
Volunteer Center  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Kenya Watanabe



"Ladies and Gentlemen! I'll see you all in Otsuchi!"

## Steamed Oyster Season Starts Now! The Sanriku-Yamada Oyster Hut

Yamada

The "Oyster Hut" (*Kaki-goya*) in the Osawa area of Yamada was completely destroyed in the tsunami, but it was reopened in the Funakoshi area of Yamada in October 2011 as "Sanriku-Yamada Oyster Hut", with the goal of revitalizing the town's tourism sector.

The Hut is known for cooking a large number of oysters on a big hot plate and steaming them one-by-one to seal in the flavor. Saturday, November 1, marks the start of steamed oyster season.

"The oysters we sell are taken fresh from Yamada Bay every morning," says Takashi Sasaki, the owner of the restaurant. "We want people all over Japan to come and try these oysters carefully raised by the fishermen of Orikasa." The restaurant is a focal point of the local food tourism industry.



Steaming oysters on a hot plate

### All-You-Can-Eat Steamed Oyster Season

- Until May 6, 2015
- Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays (except holidays)
- JHS and older: 2,500 yen, younger: 1,500 yen

For more info, call the Yamada Tourism Association, 0193-84-3775 (8:30~17:00, reservations made days other than Wednesday)

Watanabe also acted as one of the organizing committee members for the Great Otsuchi Town Sports Meet, whose theme was "hope for the reconstruction". The event was organized following a town-led reconstruction conference in which citizens expressed their desire for some sort of gathering - in particular, a sports festival. The Sports Meet is also one of Otsuchi High School's "Five Great Reconstruction Strategies", and is intended to bring Otsuchians together across generational and regional boundaries.

### Please tell people of the new Otsuchi

When asked about the future of Otsuchi, Watanabe said the following: "We still don't even know how many years the reconstruction will take. We can't keep relying solely on the assistance of others; Otsuchian's must work to rebuild their town for themselves. I think Otsuchi will change rapidly going forward, and I hope volunteers will continue to come here, talk to the local people and learn about Otsuchi, and when they return home they can tell people of the new Otsuchi. Even just that little bit of effort would be enough to help our town recover from the disaster."

## Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Oct. 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](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

## Thank you for all your support!

As of Oct. 30, 2014

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.18762 billion (90,154 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.59661 billion (7,023 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥7.03655 billion (14,081 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 75. October 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