

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.

In the mountains of Iwate, the leaves on the trees continue to turn red. We are truly entering into the autumn season.

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

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

三陸復興

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Iwate Prefecture

Iwate Land of Hope Sports Festival

Kitakami

On Saturday, October 19, the Iwate Land of Hope Sports Festival was held in the Kitakami General Sports Park. The event was organized by the Land of Hope Iwate National Sports Festival Organizing Committee.

The event commemorated Iwate's selection as the 2016 host of the National Sports Festival and the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities. The event allowed people to experience the appeal of a sporting event in advance of the main festival in three years' time.

At the ceremony, Governor Tasso gave an address in which he stated that he hoped the National Sports Festival and the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities would be an event like no other, providing an opportunity to power up the reconstruction efforts, and to show all of Japan how Iwate

has been recovering since the 2011 disaster. Rock-climber Hibiki Yamauchi (3rd year, Mirumae Junior High School, Morioka) told us why he wanted to try his best. "There are still a lot of people suffering after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. For their sake, we young people must do our best to make a great Iwate's National Sports Festival!"

At the Kitakami event, Otsuchi-born singer Misaki Usuzawa gave the first performance of the Festival's theme song Egao no Sanka ("Song of Smiles").

To expand interest in sports, former Japan soccer player Masahiro Fukuda, former Japan volleyball player Takahiro Yamamoto, female judoka Yoko Tanabe and other athletes organized Q&A, sports classes and so on. Participants got to work up a good sweat while interacting with the athletes.



Governor Tasso's speech



Athletes who participated



A soccer class

The Fudai Road Opens!

Fudai

~The first section of the Sanriku Coastal Road opens in Iwate~

On Sunday, October 13, the Fudai Road, managed by the Sanriku National Roads Office, officially opened.

The Fudai Road is a 4.2-km road reserved for motor vehicles and forms a part of the Sanriku Coastal Road (total length: 359 km). Work began in fiscal 1988, and was operated by the national government as part of the Sanriku Longitudinal Expressway. Following the 2011 disaster, it became part of the Sanriku Coastal Road, a "Reconstruction Road". The road is the first part of the Sanriku Coastal Road to be opened within Iwate.

An opening ceremony was held before the road opened, in which Governor Tasso joined with many local people in expressing their happiness at the long-awaited event.

The opening of the Fudai Road will strengthen the area's disaster prevention capabilities as well as increase safety and allow for quicker transportation to emergency healthcare facilities. It will also strengthen the bonds between the northern and southern areas of the coastal region, and thus become a key building block in the road toward reconstruction.



Cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony



The Fudai Road after being opened

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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"Papa-Ichi Cooking" Event Held to Support Bereaved Households

Kamaishi

On October 27 (Sunday) an event called "Papa-Ichi Cooking" was held in the Kamaishi Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government. It was organized by the Welfare Division of the Department of Health, Welfare and Environment of the Coastal Regional Development Bureau, and the NPO Child Grief Support Station.

The event was to allow children who lost their mothers in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami to bond with their fathers by preparing simple meals together. This event has been held four times since last year.

On the menu this time were flavored onigiri rice balls and Chinese dumplings. The event allowed fathers who aren't confident at cooking or housework to try their hands at making these dishes with their kids. There were smiles all around, and there was a genial atmosphere at the event. One

participating father expressed his feelings about the event: "I was able to interact with other fathers and their children and discuss daily life, raising kids and so on."

The next Papa-Ichi Cooking events will take place on November 10 (Sunday) and 23 (Saturday).



Flavored onigiri and Chinese dumplings made by the fathers and their kids

Isao Aoki and Terumasa Hino visit the Prefectural Office to donate money

On October 18 (Friday) the pro-golfer Isao Aoki and the jazz trumpeter Terumasa Hino presented Governor Tasso with a certificate of donation for the Iwate Learning Hope Fund.

The money was raised by the "The Legend Charity Pro-Am Tournament 2013" (organizing committee: Isao Aoki, Terumasa Hino and Sadaharu Oh), a golf tournament aiming to help children who survived the 2011 disaster. Previous donations were made last year and the year before last. We are very grateful for their continued support.



The donation ceremony (left to right: Isao Aoki, Governor Tasso, Terumasa Hino)

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 8 introduces Mr. Shoma Okamoto's efforts.

Profile:

Born in Rikuzentakata, after graduating high school he went to university in Sendai and then worked in construction in Tokyo. He left his job at the end of May 2011, following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and returned to Rikuzentakata, where in September he started "Sakura Line 311".

In May of 2012, he registered Sakura Line 311 as a non-profit organization, and currently serves as its representative director.

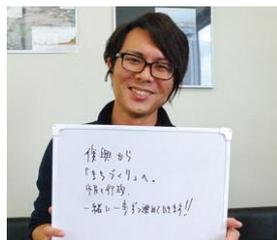
In order to leave behind memories of his homeland, and lessons learned

Okamoto came back to Rikuzentakata in May after the earthquake, thinking he must do something for his hometown, and leaving his job in Tokyo.

The main activity of the NPO "Sakura Line 311", where Okamoto serves as representative director,



Shoma Okamoto
Representative Director,
Sakura Line 311 (NPO)



"From recovery to community-building, the people and government move ahead one step at a time"

is the planting of cherry (*sakura*) trees along the line marking the furthest the tsunami reached in Rikuzentakata.

The line is about 170 km long. They aim to put a tree every 10 meters along this line, or 17,000 trees, so next time a tsunami hits people can evacuate beyond the cherry tree line. "Memory of the disaster is bound to fade over time," says Okamoto, "but we can't rely only on memories. I hope that through our *sakura line* we can make sure people remember the lessons of 3.11."

Taking the time to reconstruct properly

"In Rikuzentakata, we have to rebuild the city from square one. With the reconstruction, we can say "the faster the better", but we must be careful not to rush the rebuilding of our town. I don't think that will allow us to make our town the best it can be. If we built the town in six months, it probably wouldn't be a very pleasant place to live. It's critical always be thinking of the residents when it comes to town-planning."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sept. 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,144
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,023

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation, go to the Iwate Disaster Information Portal:

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Thank you for all your support!

As of Sept. 30, 2013

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.84914 billion (86,753 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥16.61792 billion (6,310 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥5.96433 billion (11,139 donations)

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

We've got a brand new website! Why not check it out at: <http://iwate-fukkoudayori.com>

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