

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 brief autumn has passed, and Iwate has had its first snowfall. The winter season has finally arrived.

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

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



Volume 52
(November 15, 2013)
Iwate Prefecture

“Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum – Toward the Creation of a New Homeland”

Ofunato

On November 2 (Saturday), the Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum (organizer: Iwate Prefecture) was held in the Ofunato City Culture Center "Rias Hall".

The theme of the event was "Bonding & Taking part in planning". The Naha-Daiko group from Okinawa gave a drum performance, livening up the atmosphere of the event, and Vice Governor Chiba delivered an address in which he said, "2014 will begin of the 3-year 'Real Reconstruction Period'. We want to speed up our reconstruction efforts by having young people and women join the planning process, promote connections that will have entities coordinate and act, as well as develop sustainability of the local society."

The keynote speech was titled "Let's Go Full Power During This New Reconstruction Stage!" and was given by Retz Fujisawa, representative director of RCF Reconstruction Support Team. "The third year is truly the start of reconstruction," said Fujisawa. "Knowledge and involvement of the people is important for the reconstruction."

During the second portion of the event, there was a panel discussion by people working for regional development on the Sanriku coast. Efforts toward the reconstruction, and the importance of networking and bonds formed as part of these activities, were emphasized.

The closing performance by Tetsuya Matsumoto and Eiko Hamamori pulled at the heartstrings of the attendees with a moving performance that expressed deep feelings toward the Sanriku region.

Iwate plans to hold an "Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum in Nagoya" in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture on Thursday, December 19. We are planning to further promote participation in planning, continuing support and bonding in the future.



Naha-Daiko's performance



Retz Fujisawa's keynote speech



The panel discussion

Town Development Projects Start in the Katagishi and Unosumai Areas

Well-Wishing Ceremony for Urban Infrastructure Works

Kamaishi

On November 4 (Monday), a ceremony to pray for the safety of urban infrastructure works was held in the special event facility in the Unosumai area of Kamaishi.

The purpose of the ceremony was to pray for safety of the land readjustment and construction projects in the Katagishi and Unosumai areas of Kamaishi, and tsunami reconstruction works such as moving elementary and junior high school buildings to higher ground in the Unosumai area. Many people in both of these areas lost their lives in the disaster.

The land readjustment and construction works will be the first of such activities to begin in Kamaishi, and the land area being targeted is roughly 82.5 hectares, with cost of around 18 billion yen. Using earth and sand produced during construction of the Sanriku Longitudinal Expressway, the plan is to raise the ground level an average of 1-2 meters, and work will begin in areas where land owners have given their consent.

The projects will follow a "Construction Management" (CM) system, which efficiently bundles together planning, construction and management in order to improve transparency, decrease costs and speed up the projects.

"I am tremendously pleased to hold this well-wishing ceremony as we hope for the revival and revitalization of our hometown," said Mr. Takenori Noda, Mayor of Kamaishi City, who was in attendance at the ceremony. "I hope Kamaishi can be reborn as a city that can rise to the expectations of people throughout the entire region."

The tsunami reconstruction works are hoped to be finished in March 2016, and the land readjustment and construction works in March 2019.



The well-wishing ceremony



The Unosumai area, which suffered significant damage

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:

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Iwate Ooendan

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Free to Register!

Making Cakes with Hopes for the Future of Their Hometown:

6th graders in Otsuchi Elementary School try their hands at baking cakes!

Otsuchi

On October 29 (Tuesday) 90 6th graders at Otsuchi Municipal Otsuchi Elementary School tried their hands at baking "Dream Cakes".

The event had students take the images they had thought up at the "Our Hometown Otsuchi: Dream Cake Workshop" this September* and turn them into real cakes, which they called "Dream Cakes".

On the day, a total of 15 *pâtissiers* and staff came from within and outside Iwate to teach the kids how to bake their cakes. The students

* This workshop was described in Volume 49 (October 1, 2013).

broke up into 12 groups and began working. Using marzipan (made by grinding almonds and mixing with colored sugar into a semisolid state) they were able to decorate their sponge cakes with their images of the future Otsuchi, complete with a beautiful ocean and rivers, and a lively, bustling townscape.

In addition to baking, the students had the opportunity to realize and present their own dreams using marzipan. The event allowed the children to enjoy eating the cakes they had made, and talk about their dreams for the future.



Making Dream Cakes



An image of Otsuchi (1)



The completed cake (1)



An image of Otsuchi (2)



The completed cake (2)

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 9 introduces Ms. Hitomi Ike's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture, she moved to Tokyo for college. After graduating, she worked in television, her dream job, and for three years worked on producing variety shows.

Following the 2011 disaster, she decided to help the affected area, and from April 2013 she has lived in Kuji as a member of the "Iwate Reconstruction Support Team", working in the Chamber of Commerce on regional promotion through tourism, and holding events downtown and around the region.

She made the decision to act

"I was really frustrated at the time of the disaster, since I wasn't able to come to the affected area because of my work and all," says Ike. She was working for a TV station in Tokyo at that time.

Having reached a 3-year milestone in her previous



Hitomi Ike
Kuji Chamber of Commerce



"I want to turn Iwate and Kuji into a place people will want to come back to!"

job, she decided that if she didn't act now she wouldn't get another chance, and when she heard of the "Iwate Reconstruction Support Team" that allowed members to live and work in Iwate, she decided to apply for it.

A lively Kuji and Iwate are also part of our reconstruction

Currently, she works on tourism in the Kuji Chamber of Commerce, building a hospitality infrastructure so visitors to Kuji can enjoy the sights and amenities the city has to offer.

"Kuji took relatively minor damage during the disaster, and so I want to use tourism in order to liven up the whole region; *Ama-chan* really helped liven up this city." says Ike, referring to the popular NHK morning drama set in Kuji. She then told us about her hopes for Kuji and Iwate. "I think Iwate's people are reserved and don't like to assert themselves, so I want to make the local residents think more about how they can liven up the community. I think that making not just Kuji, but all of Iwate, a happier, livelier place is also an important part of the reconstruction."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Oct. 31, 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:

Iwate Pref Bousai

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>

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Vol. 52. November 15, 2013.

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

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives:

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE