

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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Iwate Prefecture

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.

Happy New Year! 2014 is the "Year of the Full-Fledged Reconstruction", and we have some big plans going forward.

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

Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum in Nagoya

~Thanking You From the Bottom of Our Hearts~

Nagoya

On December 19 (Thursday) the "Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum in Nagoya" (organizer: Iwate Prefecture) was held at Will Aichi (the Aichi Women's Center).

The theme was gratitude from the bottom of our hearts for all the help we received. There was a video message from the people of Rikuzentakata, in which Mayor Toba appeared. The people thanked Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya for all their aid.

Following this was a baseline report delivered by Governor Tasso, in which he talked about the damage to the area and the progress of the reconstruction. Using last year's hit drama *Ama-chan* as an example he stressed the importance of utilizing Iwate's regional potential and

connections for the reconstruction. Nagoya's mayor, Takashi Kawamura, gave an impassioned keynote speech in his local Nagoya dialect about Nagoya's various aid projects such as "Rikuzentakata All-out Aid" and the "Invite Rikuzentakata's Children to Nagoya Project".

This was followed by a panel discussion with people from various walks of life such as photographers, university lecturers, corporate figures and residents of the affected area. They gave updates on aid received, described their feelings, and exchanged opinions.

Both aid givers and recipients appreciated the chance to express their sympathy and gratitude, and it was a very warm and pleasant event. We are moving forward with our reconstruction thanks to the aid received from so many people.



Governor Tasso with Mayor Kawamura, the latter wearing a "hanten" (made from a traditional fisherman's flag) presented by Iwate Prefecture



Chiyuki Funato (second from the right) talks about the current state of affairs in Rikuzentakata



Natsuki Yasuda (second from the left) talks about the Lone Pine Tree she photographed



The venue also held an exhibit of Yasuda's photos, and Iwate Nippo newspaper extracts

Nagoya's Support for the Reconstruction! ~Michinoku-ya: The Iwate Store~

Nagoya

Commercial aid is one form of support Nagoya has dedicated to the affected area. We decided to drop in on Michinoku-ya, an Iwate-Rikuzentakata farmer's market for the reconstruction effort that is located just outside the ticket gate of Nagoya Municipal Subway's Kamimaezu Station.

Michinoku-ya opened in October 2013. Nagoya City entrusted operations to the company to support Iwate and Tohoku's reconstruction by selling goods from Tohoku, particularly from Iwate and Rikuzentakata. We sat down and had a chat with Yuuki Miyagaki, the manager.

Mr. Miyagaki initially went to the affected area after the disaster and did volunteer work, but once the debris was cleared, more specialized skills were needed to be effective. He thought to himself about what else he could do to help. That's when talk of Michinoku-ya began, and he decided that by selling delicious goods from Tohoku he could continue to actively aid in the reconstruction.

"By enjoying the produce of Tohoku, people will continue to be reminded of what's going on up there, and it'll be that much harder for memory of the disaster to fade away," he told us.

Particularly big sellers are mamebu-jiru soup, yubeshi cakes, Nanbu Senbei crackers, and Rikuzentakata's regional Yumenoki Baumkuchen cakes, and the store is quite popular with Nagoyans, he told us. The shop promotes a strong connection between Aichi and Iwate, as well as all of Tohoku.



Michinoku-ya, where goods from Iwate and Rikuzentakata are aplenty



Goods based on the Lone Pine Tree and Takata no Yumechan (Rikuzentakata's mascot) were also on sale

Michinoku-ya is located at 4-11-15, Oosu, Naka Ward, Nagoya City (in the shopping area at the Kamimaezu subway station). Telephone: 052-252-0202

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:

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and Help Support Us!

Iwate Ooendan

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Free to Register!

Otsuchi Junior High's Ceremony to Thank Dispatch Workers

Gifts of colorful message boards as a mark of thanks

Otsuchi

On December 13 (Friday) the student council of Otsuchi Municipal Otsuchi Junior High School (282 students, principal: Toshinori Suzuki) held a ceremony to thank dispatch workers.

The student council planned the event in order to thank all the workers from companies and local governments around the country who had been dispatched here to help with Otsuchi's reconstruction projects.

The event was held in the multipurpose hall of Otsuchi Town Hall, and the dispatch workers in Otsuchi were invited. There were around 50 people in attendance.

Each dispatch worker was presented by the student council members with a flower bouquet and colored paperboard with messages from all the school's students. Singer Misaki Usuzawa (a third year at the school) gave a small, heartfelt performance.

At the end of the ceremony the students and workers all formed a circle and chanted "Move forward, Otsuchi!" in order to renew their dedication to the reconstruction.

"We wanted to thank the dispatch workers, so we got in touch with all the other students," says Ryosuke Nitta, chairperson of the student council. "I'm very happy that we could organize this event and see the smiles on everyone's faces."

115 of Otsuchi's 241 reconstruction workers are dispatch workers. We are advancing our reconstruction with help from around Japan.



Students handing gifts to the dispatch workers



Participants joined together in a circle: "Move forward, Otsuchi!"

Publication of Results of the Fourth "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" for 2013

Iwate Prefecture conducts the "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" in order to periodically measure Iwate's reconstruction progress following the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami.

The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every three months.

We will now explain some key points extracted from the results of the fourth survey this year (conducted in November 2013).

How have the lives of the survivors recovered?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 48% (last time: 42.7%)

- There was an increase of 5.3 points over the previous results.
- While participants gave positive comments like "The survivors feel a lot more at ease" and "More people have moved out of the emergency temporary housing", some expressed concern over the delaying or cancellation of construction projects.

The results of the current survey will be used in the implementation of reconstruction plans.

How do you feel about the recovery of the local economy?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 48.8% (last time: 44.4%)

- There was an increase of 4.4 points over the previous results.
- While participants look forward to an increase in employment from the introduction of large shopping malls, there were concerns over the effect this would have on the business of the temporary shopping facilities.

How do you feel about the disaster mitigation measures?

"Satisfactory" or "Mostly satisfactory": 13.7% (last time: 15.6%)

- There was a decrease of 1.9 points under the previous results.
- Participants were happy with the improvements in the seawalls and so on, but some wished they would be completed faster, and people in different areas had varying feelings about the progress of the disaster mitigation measures.

Iwate Watcher Chosa 001853

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

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,143
- ▶ 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

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Thank you for all your support!

As of Oct. 31, 2013

Donations for survivors: Around ¥17.85943 billion (87,052 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥18.62150 billion (6,307 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥6.03353 billion (10,956 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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