

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 56
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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.

You can see people's puffs of breath while walking around snow-covered towns as we find ourselves in the middle of winter. We will now bring you news of Iwate's reconstruction.

Hometown Reconstruction Support Event

led by Iwate-born baseball players Yuusei Kikuchi and Shohei Otani

Hanamaki

On Saturday, December 28, 2013, Hanamaki Higashi High School alumni Yuusei Kikuchi (Saitama Seibu Lions) and Shohei Otani (Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters) led a Hometown Reconstruction Support Event organized by Hanamaki City. The two professional baseball players held the event at the Hanamaki Gymnasium Annex, with around 3,000 townspeople and youth baseball players in attendance.

The event was "to repay Iwate Prefecture, the land where we were raised. We hope this raises the spirits of the children of the coast," said the two players. Hanamaki City and others were in full agreement and helped organize the event.

At the event, Kikuchi taught pitching, and Otani taught batting. At a talk show panel following, the two players recalled their first face-off and the All Star games, to the delight of the people in the hall.

Fourteen elementary and middle school baseball teams (around 270 players) were invited from Kamaishi and Ofunato, which were hit by the great tsunami. They all received bat sleeves and ball cases from Kikuchi and Otani.

"I'll never forget what you taught me. I want to become a player who gives people dreams and hope," said Kaito Yano, the captain of the Unosumai Baseball Sports Club of Kamaishi City, his eyes bright as he spoke to Kikuchi and Otani.



Kikuchi (right) and Otani (left) taking a group photo with the children

Monthly Report

Status Report on Major Reconstruction Implementation Plan Projects

Do you know how far Iwate's reconstruction has progressed?

The prefectural government reports on the status of its major initiatives and projects on its homepage under the three principles outlined in its Reconstruction Implementation Plan ("Ensuring safety," "Rebuilding lives," and "Rebooting industries").

Some of the projects reported on are the "Emergency Disposal of Disaster Waste (Debris Removal)" under the Safety principle, the "Construction of Public Housing for Disaster Survivors" under the Lives principle, and the "Cooperative Use of Fishing Boats and Other

Recovery Support Measures" under the Industry principle. Iwate Prefecture picks some of the major initiatives throughout the 395 projects listed in the 1st phase of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan, and reports easy-to-read data on their progress. Reports are published monthly (updates around the end or beginning of the month).

Specific data can be found regarding Iwate's reconstruction so please take a look.

For more info

Iwate Fukkou Shinchoku

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Project	Details	Latest Data (Published on December 25, 2013)
Emergency Disposal of Disaster Waste	Reports on amounts and ratios of debris disposed	Out of a total of 5.25 million tons, around 4.76 million tons of debris have been disposed (90.7% disposal rate)
Construction of Public Housing for Disaster Survivors	Reports on the status of construction of public housing for survivors (pref. projects only) as well as future plans	Out of a total of a planned 2,914 units, 74 units have been completed, 813 units are under construction or ordered to be constructed, and 1,110 units are being designed or ordered to be designed.
Cooperative Use of Fishing Boats and Other Recovery Support Measures	Reports on the support of fishing cooperatives and their coordinated acquisition of boats and tools	New boat registration goal for the 1 st phase of the support project was 6,800 boats, with an actual registration of 6,161 boats (90.6% of goal)



Status reports on major reconstruction implementation plan projects can be downloaded from the Iwate Pref. homepage

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:

Iwate Ooendan

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Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and help support us!

Free to Register!

Opinion exchange held to gain the perspective of women and young people for the 2nd phase of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan

Morioka

As Iwate Prefecture attempts to step up to full gear of its reconstruction from the earthquake and tsunami, we need to actively gather opinions from young people and women as we establish policies for the 2nd phase of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan (lasting from 2014 to 2016). Opinion exchanges were held with both women and young people for this purpose.

On Tuesday, January 7, an opinion exchange with young people was held at the prefectural office, with 10 young men and women in attendance. These 20- to 30-somethings are involved with reconstruction efforts throughout Iwate.

"You need exciting and fun projects in order to involve women and young people," said Shoma Okamoto. There were many more ideas from the rest of the members showcasing a youth perspective.

Then, on Thursday, January 9, an opinion exchange with women was held at the hotel Espoir Iwate. In attendance were eleven women involved with Iwate organizations and businesses.

These exchanges were places where members could reflect on suggestions given at exchanges held in July 2013, as well as draft ideas for the 2nd phase of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan.

"I learned a lot by hearing about future plans and projections from the prefecture officials, and by listening to the opinions of many others. It was nice to give my own opinion as well," said Toshiko Saga, the principal of Yamada Minami Elementary School of Yamada Town.

The prefecture will conduct regional seminars from January 28 (Tue) to February 10 (Mon) on the 1st draft of the 2nd Phase of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan. Not only will they receive the opinions of many people, they will hold a public comment session. The plan will be finalized in the end of March.



Youth Opinion Exchange



Women's Opinion Exchange

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's future" showcases these young people and their powerful feelings.

Part 12 introduces Mr. Riku Hashimoto's efforts.

PROFILE

Hashimoto is a 1st year high school student who loves the Sanriku Railway, and has helped with cleaning and guiding patrons at the Sakari Station since he was in middle school.

In October 2011, he showed great initiative in helping to develop the Sanriku Railway Sakari Station Exchange and Waiting Room which is run by the NPO Yume Net Ofunato.

Hashimoto is working hard in between school and club activities to help both the Sanriku Railway and the reconstruction.

The energy that tourists give the ocean line

Riku Hashimoto's grandmother's house lies by the ocean-facing Sanriku Railway. Since he has used the train since he was in elementary school, he has great love in his heart for the Sanriku Railway.

As a middle school student, volunteering as a guide to tourists gave him a good perspective on the region and

People for SANRIKU'S Future

Riku Hashimoto
1st Year at Ofunato
Prefectural High School



Comment from Hashimoto: "Come to Sanriku - Enjoy my beloved Sanriku Railway!"

the Sanriku Railway. As a high schooler, he works part time during breaks at the Sanriku Railway Sakari Station Exchange and Waiting Room run by the NPO Yume Net Ofunato.

"Tourism has been increasing since the Sanriku Railway restarted operations. It's fun talking to tourists, and I think they energize the area," says Hashimoto, talking excitedly about his home, the Ofunato region.

Hoping for the quick reconstruction of the railroads

The Sanriku Railway is not due to be completely reconstructed until April 2014. During this time, the JR Ofunato Line has temporarily recovered by using a BRT (bus rapid transit) system and the JR Yamada Line is borrowing buses from a bus company to transport passengers.

Knowing this, "Trains have become a precious resource in transporting people from town to town," says Hashimoto, hoping for the restoration of the line. "I think people feel reluctant to visit because it's a disaster-affected area, but I would love for lots of tourists to visit. Please come and enjoy Sanriku, and create happy memories here," he said, hoping for the restoration of tourism to Sanriku and a quick reconstruction of the Sanriku Railway.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Dec. 31, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties – Deaths: 4,672, Missing: 1,142
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,023

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation:

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 ¥18.6215 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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