

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



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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.

There is ice on the windows and the roads are sparkling white. Winter has truly come to Iwate.

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

Publication of First Draft of the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan

We're looking to hear what you think!

On Monday, January 20, Iwate Prefecture published the first draft of the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan.

The Plan is a document that clarifies the policies and projects that will be implemented for the recovery effort following the 2011 disaster. Lasting for three years from fiscal 2014 to fiscal 2016, Phase 2 has been dubbed the "Full-Fledged Reconstruction Period" and consists of some 327 projects. A few major points from the draft will be presented here.

Theme and Key Points

Our unifying theme is "A Full-Fledged Reconstruction that aims to build a sustainable community that will continue into the future, in which each and every disaster survivor can live safely and happily", and our three key points in producing this draft have been "participation", "relationships" and "sustainability".

Building Stronger Seawalls

We plan to extend seawalls and other coastal protection facilities (both in ports and other coastal areas) by 35.2 km. This project will be fully completed by the end of Phase 2.

We are also planning the completion of coastal levees in the bay entrances of Kamaishi and Ofunato ports.

Aid to Survivors

With regards to the reconstruction public housing policy for survivors, 5,950 housing units out of a planned 6,093 (99%) will be finished by the end of Phase 2. We will also coordinate with municipal governments to provide support for homeowners who choose to rebuild their own houses.

Supporting Efforts by Young People

In order to encourage youth participation and activity in the reconstruction, we will support people tackling problems locally and activities to energize the community which are organized by groups of young people.

The full draft can be seen at http://www.pref.iwate.jp/dbps_data/material/files/000/000/018/069/plan.pdf, and the outline can be seen at http://www.pref.iwate.jp/dbps_data/material/files/000/000/018/069/leaflet_2.pdf (both pages are in Japanese only). An English translation of the Basic Reconstruction Plan produced in 2011 can be seen at www2.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0212/fukkou_net/fukkoukeikaku_english.html.

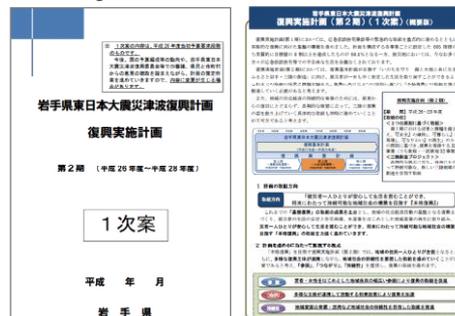


Where Phase 2 lies in the 8-year Reconstruction Implementation Plan

Sanriku Creation Project

We are planning five projects that will promote sustainable development of the regional economy, tackle the population decrease, train human resources, and create a long-term vision for the region.

The above is just a small sample of the contents of the plan. Between January 24 (Friday) and February 23 (Sunday) we will be listening to opinions on the first draft of the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan through venues such as the Iwate Prefecture website.



We have prepared a full draft (139 pages, left) and an outline (4 pages, right) for the first draft of the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan

Regional Briefing Sessions about the First Draft of the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan



On Tuesday, January 28, the first session was held in Seatopia Naado in Miyako to discuss the draft proposal for the Phase 2 Reconstruction Implementation Plan. The purpose of these meetings is to listen to the opinions of Iwate citizens and make the plan reflect those opinions.

Sessions were held in Miyako and Yamada on January 28, and local people made suggestions such as a plan for building

building roads to connect districts that are to be moved to higher ground, and requested lower rent on disaster reconstruction public housing.

We plan on holding these meetings around Iwate until February 10 (Monday). Advance booking is not required. Please join in if you have the time. Depending on demand, we will also organize meetings with organizations around the prefecture.

For more info:

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!

Free to Register!

Sanriku-Ofunato Camellia Festival (*Tsubaki-matsuri*)

Currently in the Affected Areas

Ofunato

Reconstruction Work on Port Facilities

This year marks the 17th Camellia Festival, which opened in "Goishi – the World Camellia Hall" in Massaki, Ofunato.

At the opening ceremony on January 19 (Sunday) Ofunato vice-mayor Shumei Kinno gave a speech in which he expressed his desire that people from within and outside the city would come to festival and see how hard we are working to rebuild.

There are around 600 types of camellia from 13 countries around the world inside the hall, and some flowers had bloomed early, showcasing their full colors. Visitors stopped and took photos of the camellias, hoping for an early taste of the coming spring.

"Since the facility is open during the winter, we hope visitors will not just enjoy viewing the camellias but get a sense of how the coastal region is recovering from the tsunami," says Misaki Funano of the Camellia Festival Organizing Committee's office.

The Camellia Festival will run until March 23 (Sunday).



Visitors enjoying the camellias

An early-blooming camellia

Iwate's Ofunato Fisheries Promotion Center has put together a report on the restoration status of the prefectural fishing port facilities under their watch as of the end of December 2013.

Among these port facilities, there were some 259 cases of disaster damage as determined by a survey by the national government. Of these, orders have been made for restoration works on 154 cases, a restoration ratio of 59.5%.

Some 26 restoration construction projects under the Center have been completed, including construction of a coastal levee at the Konpaku Port in the Yoshihama district of Sanriku, Ofunato, which suffered tremendous damage, as well as a seawall and coastal defenses to the Ryuri Port in the Ryuri district.

Iwate Prefecture aims to have the fishing port, fishery and other coastal restoration construction works under the Ofunato Fisheries Promotion Center completed by the end of March 2016.



Konpaku Port, with its completed levee

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 12 introduces Ms. Megumi Uchino's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Yokohama, after graduating college Uchino joined a carmaker, and worked in management at an overseas sales company. Later she worked in public relations for international organizations.

Following the disaster, hoping to find somewhere she could use her experience to help out in some way, she applied for the NPO ETIC's dispatch program and was assigned to Otsuchi in March 2013.

She currently works in production, managing sales, and distribution for the Otsuchi Recovery Sashiko Project.

Using sashiko products to allow the women of Otsuchi to support themselves

A proponent for the empowerment of women, Uchino joined the "Otsuchi Recovery Sashiko Project", which encourages women to support themselves through the production of sashiko products.



Otsuchi Recovery Sashiko Project
Project Manager
Megumi Uchino



"I'm going to make Otsuchi Sashiko into an industry for Otsuchi!"

Sashiko is a traditional stitching method in Tohoku that is used to embroider pretty designs on coasters, items of clothing, and so on.

Sashiko is work that can be done in even cramped spaces like temporary housing with only some cloth and string. It provides valuable income to women in the affected areas, in addition to granting them an increased sense of self-worth.

"I hope to help the women of Otsuchi support themselves by making goods that will be bought not just to help the affected area but because of their high quality," says Uchino, who feels strongly about helping Otsuchi.

Continued support to help themselves

"Compared to the cities," she says, "the coastal region doesn't have much legal or financial support to help people start businesses. For Otsuchi to stand up by itself, people who came here as volunteers should continue to work with businesses to make opportunities in the future."

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, go to the Iwate Disaster Information Portal:

Iwate Pref Bousai

Search

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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