

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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Iwate Prefecture

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.

Even the coastal areas are seeing much more snow than usual, as we wait impatiently for the coming of spring.

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

"Koi Suru Fortune Cookie Iwate Sanriku Railway South Rias Line Version" Hits 370,000 Views

Sanriku Railway is Back, and Local Citizens Couldn't be Happier!

The video "Koi Suru Fortune Cookie Iwate Sanriku Railway South Rias Line Version" on the pop group AKB48's official YouTube channel has surpassed 370,000 views.

The video was produced with the goal of promoting the South Rias Line and the coastal region, along with showing the world how well we have rebuilt. It was created primarily by Iwate Prefecture, Sanriku Railway, Santetsu Diorama Café @ Kamaishi Station, the Iwate Future Creation Organization and the NPO Dream Net Ofunato, and uploaded on December 29 last year. The video featured Sanriku Railway workers, civil servants, and office workers from the coastal municipalities as well as local people dancing to the AKB48's hit song *Koi Suru Fortune Cookie*.

Recording took place in 61 places around 10 stations between Sakari Station (in Ofunato) and Kamaishi Station (in Kamaishi) along the

Sanriku Railway South Rias Line, with roughly 1,000 people participating in the dance.

"We asked for the cooperation of elementary schools, high schools, fishing ports and so on," says Hiromitsu Kikuchi of Sanriku Railway, who headed the production. "The local participants were a little unsure at first, but once the video went up and we got such a huge response, they were happy to have taken part. I hope our supporters around Japan see the video and see how the local people are all working together toward reconstruction."

Sanriku Railway, which took great damage during the disaster and was partly out of action, will see both the North and South Rias Lines fully up and running again in April 2014.



Ofunato Camellia Girls with Ofunaton



Mayor Toda of Ofunato (center) with young workers outside Ofunato City Hall



Workers on the Sanriku Railway South Rias Line



The Mayor and Vice Mayor of Kamaishi with Kamaishi citizens

(Photos taken from video footage)

The full video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MX51Cp2pA.

"The Camera and the Reconstruction" Reconstruction Photo Exhibition is Held in Tokyo

On February 9, 2014 (Sunday), 3331 Arts Chiyoda opened the photo exhibit "The Camera and the Reconstruction" in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo (organized by Iwate Prefecture Coastal Regional Development Bureau, et al).

The exhibit was to inform people about the reconstruction efforts in the coastal region as we approach the third anniversary of the disaster, as well as to encourage further support and keep the memory of the disaster from fading.

Staffers of the @Rias NPO Support Center showed some 110 photos of (primarily) Kamaishi and Otsuchi's journey toward reconstruction starting right after the disaster leading up

to now. They also talked about the photos with visitors.

The Kamaishi resident Kentaro Izutsu used PowerPoint and recordings to describe the disaster and deliver messages from the affected areas to the capital.



The photo exhibition



Talking about what it was like at the time of the disaster

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

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



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

Search

Free to Register!

First Symposium Held “Rebuilding Iwate and Improving Local Governments”

Morioka

On February 6 (Thursday) and 7 (Friday) the first “Rebuilding Iwate and Improving Local Governments” symposium was held at the Iwate Education Center.

The event was organized to express our gratitude to dispatch workers from local governments around Japan, as well as workers from private organizations and companies, and anyone else who has aided the reconstruction, and to ask for continued understanding and support for the reconstruction.

On the second day of the symposium, presentations were made about the coastal municipalities and the activities of workers who had returned to their original municipalities.

Mr. Keisuke Mizutani, an Osaka Prefecture worker dispatched to Iwate, made a presentation about Osaka’s anti-disaster measures and how he hopes the things he learned in Iwate will help Osaka prepare for future disasters in the Kansai region. He also talked about the bonds formed between Iwate and the rest of Japan.



The Symposium

The Iwate Reconstruction Seafood Show 2014

On February 10, 2014 (Monday), the Metropolitan Hall of Hotel Metropolitan Morioka New Wing hosted the “Iwate Reconstruction Seafood Show” (organized by Iwate Prefecture et al).

The event aimed to teach people about the recovery of Iwate’s fisheries industry from the tsunami, and to encourage even greater recovery going forward.

The event also promoted Iwate fisheries’ products with a slideshow of the fisheries industry’s recovery, a photo panel showing our excellent food sanitation inspection, seafood samples prepared by the fisherman’s association’s women’s department, business talks, and the 2014 (15th) Iwate Prefecture Fishery Products Competition (33 companies, 132 products in contest).

At the opening ceremony Governor Tasso gave a speech in which he expressed his hope for the recovery of the coastal region’s key industry since “Iwate’s seafood is tied directly to Iwate’s reconstruction.



The Seafood Show

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 13 introduces Mr. Takeichi Kimigahora’s efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Kamaishi, Kimigahora lived there until high school. After college he worked in a department store. In 2007, he returned to Kamaishi and joined Yamakiichi, intent on eventually taking over the family business.

He started the online sale of Yamakiichi products including their famous scallops around Japan.

He continues to work as a master appraiser of seafood.

*I hope to bring smiles to
our customers’ faces*

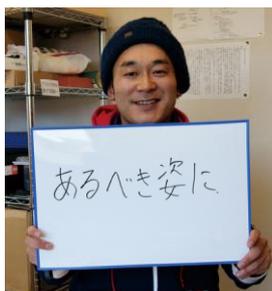
Sanriku’s seafood industry was badly hurt by the disaster. Takeichi Kimigahora’s work at Kamaishi’s Yamakiichi seafood seller is a quest to promote Sanriku’s seafood products along with the reconstruction.

“Speaking as a seller of Sanriku’s marine goods,”



Yamakiichi
Specialist Director

Takeichi Kimigahora



“As it should be”

Kimigahora told us, “reconstruction for me means having a lot of people enjoying our delicious seafood. It’s not enough to just recover what was lost; we must be able to give something back to the world.”

I hope to tell them Sanriku has recovered

The Maebama area in Hirata, Kamaishi last summer restarted its urchin fisheries, and started producing abalones again in November.

“Last year’s abalone catch actually exceeded that of the year before the tsunami, but because of the damage to the facilities and the lack of fishermen, it takes a lot more time. We can’t sell a single Sanriku product for less than its worth, I think. It’s nice that people want to buy our goods to help with the reconstruction, but I prefer people buying them because they just think they’re delicious. I hope we will soon be able to tell our customers that Sanriku’s fisheries have completely recovered.”

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Jan. 31, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,142
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,705

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 Jan. 31, 2014

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

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥18.68803 billion (6,579 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥6.26919 billion (12,017 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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