

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.

As we head into September, there is a strong sense of the beginning of autumn. The affected areas continue to move toward reconstruction. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

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

三陸復興

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Iwate Prefecture

Viewing of First Public Survivor Housing in Otsuchi

Otsuchi

On Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18, special viewing sessions of public housing for people who lost their homes in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami were held.

The viewing sessions took place in the Ogakuchi and Kirikiri areas of Otsuchi Town, where it was planned residents would be able to start moving in at the end of August. These are the first of the public housing projects to be completed in Otsuchi.

The houses in Ogakuchi are non-detached, wooden buildings of one or two stories, with 70 houses in total. The houses have between one and four rooms, with a kitchen and dining room, and wheelchair-ready houses have two rooms plus a kitchen and dining room. The houses are mostly Japanese-style homes made from locally cut wood, that allow one to feel the warmth of the forest. Within the complex is a community space for residents to interact with each other.

The Kirikiri houses are in a 5-story collective housing style and made from reinforced concrete. There are 34 houses in total, and they have between one and three rooms plus kitchen

and dining room. Wheelchair-ready houses have one or two rooms plus kitchen and dining room.

In total over 300 people came to see the houses over the two days. Visitors saw inside the rooms, and were able to eagerly look forward to their lives after moving in.

Additionally, 21 new non-detached wooden houses are scheduled to be completed in October 2013. Otsuchi, which suffered tremendously in the disaster, continues to move gradually towards reconstruction.



The Ogakuchi site



The Kirikiri site

SHIBUYA 109 KAMAISHI

Opens for a Limited Time Only

Kamaishi

From August 16 (Friday) to August 18 (Sunday), the Shibuya-based fashion department store "Shibuya 109", which is mostly popular among young women in their teens and 20s, opened a limited edition branch store "Shibuya 109 Kamaishi" in Kamaishi City's Sea Plaza Kamaishi building.

"Shibuya 109 Kamaishi" welcomed 13 popular brand stores from Shibuya 109. Welcomed by actual employees from Shibuya, a large number of teenagers and their families from within and outside Kamaishi came and shopped.

What got the ball rolling on this project was a letter that local junior high school student Kana Uchikoshi (15) sent to the president of the company that operates 109. Uchikoshi wrote in her letter that as Kamaishi moves toward recovery from the disaster, she wanted to make people there happy again by organizing fun events around the design and sale of clothing goods. As if by magic, her dream was able to come true.

The event saw clothing and other fashion goods such as bags that were co-designed by Shibuya 109 shops and local junior high school girls selling especially well.



Kana Uchikoshi (center) appearing in the fashion show



One of the joint-produced tote bags

On Sunday, August 18, the last day of event, local junior high school girls and five well-known models from the fashion magazine *Popteen* put on a fashion show on the "Sea Plaza Runway" that had been especially set up. As the models came on stage, there was a loud applause and tremendous clapping.

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

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

Free to Register!



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

Sanriku Railway's South Rias Line restarted operations between Sakari and Yoshihama stations on April 3, 2013, and between these stations, until Saturday, November 30, they are operating a "Lunch Train" (leaves Sakari at 11:30 and leaves Yoshihama at 12:27) and a "Confectionery Train" (leaves Sakari at 13:30 and leaves Yoshihama at 14:35), on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

This service is offered because of the reopening of operations on this part of the line, with the lunches provided by Ofunato City's sandwich shop Sanen. They want to see more people ride on the Sanriku line and look at the ocean, and also to see the smiles on the faces of the passengers.



A family enjoys the Lunch Train



Watching coastal reconstruction works out the window



Lunch on the Lunch Train

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 4 introduces Mr. Kenichi Wakata's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Mishima City, Shizuoka Prefecture, after studying economics in the UK he joined a consulting firm in Tokyo. He applied to the "Iwate Reconstruction Support Team", which is recruited by Iwate Prefecture with the dual aims of regional invigoration and the rebuilding of Sanriku. From June 2013, he has been working in planning, organization and community-building for the reinvigoration of Yamada's central business district.

He wanted to do a job where he could change society for the better

While working for a consulting firm in Tokyo, Wakata did his job for the good of his customers, but he hoped to work in community-building or region-building, in a capacity where he could work to change society for the better.

Then a friend from Iwate told him about the



Kenichi Wakata
Yamada Town Hall,
Fisheries, Commerce and
Industry Division



"Let's turn the bonds that join us together into a new power – a power that will go beyond our town, beyond the coastal region, and beyond even Iwate!"

open-call for the Iwate Reconstruction Support Team. He applied in January 2013, and moved to Yamada Town in June.

We have to think about what the local people's feelings are and what they are thinking

As someone who did not experience the disaster directly, Wakata struggles daily wondering how much he can really understand the feelings of the disaster-survivors.

"You might think that it's important to prioritize speed and to push your own opinions forward. But we really have to think about what the other person's feelings are and what they are thinking," Wakata tells us, emphasizing his high hopes for the community. "I try to take advantage of my experiences in Tokyo in order to listen to the opinions of the local people. Community building centered around the people is most important. Yamada Town is blessed with rich natural scenery, with both mountains and the sea. We need to make Yamada a place where you can enjoy the ocean and taste the fruits of both the mountains and the sea in our local shopping district. This is how we will make Yamada the best it can be!"

We've got a brand new website! Why not check it out at: <http://iwate-fukkoudayori.com>

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

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,145
- ▶ 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:

Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2013

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.82988 billion (86,229 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥16.53804 billion (6,228 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥5.87328 billion (10,791 donations)

※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

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