

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.

Autumn has painted the pastoral scenery of Iwate a beautiful golden color. The affected areas continue to move toward reconstruction. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Publication of Results of the Third "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 third survey this year (conducted in August 2013).

How have the lives of the survivors recovered?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 42.7% (last time: 49.6%)

This is a drop of 6.9 percentage points from the last survey. While many appreciated completion of some of the public housing projects for survivors and finally being able to move in, others felt they were being left behind because there is no timeline for the reconstruction of their homes yet.

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

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 44.4% (last time: 41.6%)

In addition to those expressing their relief at tangible reconstruction measures such as the completion of the salmon hatchery, many were pleased with the improvement in tourism inspired by the popular NHK drama *Ama-chan*, which is set partly on the Iwate coast. On the other hand, concerns are being raised about the impact of large shopping facilities on the smaller temporary stores.

How do you feel about the anti-disaster measures?

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

Aside from calls for speedier restoration/improvement of seawalls, and concerns that people are losing interest in disaster-prevention, there was a slight increase in satisfaction in this area. Early August this year saw damage inflicted by massive rainfall, and some expressed dissatisfaction with measure to prevent damage from rainfall.

The next survey is to be conducted in November 2013. The results of the current survey will be used in the implementation of reconstruction plans.

Iwate Pref 47930

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Inspection Tour of "Sumita-style Reconstruction Model Housing" To aid in rebuilding the lives of survivors

Sumita

An inspection of the "Sumita-style Reconstruction Model Housing" for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is being held in the Setamai area of Sumita Town.

"Sumita-style Reconstruction Model Housing" is housing that is being constructed primarily by Sumita-based firms, using local resources provided for planning and construction. In addition to rebuilding survivors' homes, the project also aims to revitalize local industry.

Three houses are being opened for viewing, including one one-story and two two-story wooden houses. The floor areas are between 77.84 and 132.49 m². They are priced between 17.22 million yen and 24.26 million yen.

The houses are noted for primarily using local cedar wood, and in addition to being earthquake-resistant they are also good for saving energy, with solar electricity generators installed. Additionally, since they are recognized by the national government as long-term superior housing, they are also subject to preferential tax treatment.

The inspection event was held on Saturday, September 21, and many visitors from neighboring Ofunato and Rikuzentakata

were also in attendance. In addition to inspecting the room layout and facilities, they were able to ask questions of the town government representatives, and were able to learn a lot about the reconstruction of housing.

Regarding the three houses that were opened up, once the inspection time has finished there are plans to sell both the buildings and the land to disaster survivors. It is hoped that this will contribute to rebuilding the lives of those living in emergency temporary housing.



Sumita-style Reconstruction Model Housing open for viewing

Future inspection tours: ■ Eligible persons: Disaster-survivors ■ Days: Every Saturday in October, plus Sunday, October 27 (advance booking required, except 10/27)
■ Contact: Sumita Town Hall (Construction Division), 0192-46-2111

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!

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"Our Hometown Otsuchi: Dream Cake" Workshop Held in Otsuchi

Otsuchi

Making cakes to express their hopes for their hometown's future

On Monday, September 9, Otsuchi Elementary School in Otsuchi Town held a cake workshop called "Our Hometown Otsuchi: Dream Cake".

The plan was to allow local elementary schoolers the chance to express their hopes for the kind of town Otsuchi can become in the form of cakes.

90 6th-graders from the school broke up into 12 groups. As a group they decided on what their image for a better Otsuchi would be, and presented it in the form of a picture.

The workshop was planned and organized by the administrative and management consultant Yukiko Tabuchi, who expressed her desire for Otsuchi to continue marching towards a full reconstruction. "I think it's important for the children, who will be leading this town 10 or 20 years down the line, to be thinking about what kind of Otsuchi they want. I hope this workshop will give them a chance to think about what their hopes and dreams for their future life in this community, and for the community itself, are."

On October 29 (Tuesday) the children will turn the pictures they made this time into actual "dream cakes". When asked, they expressed great eagerness to move forward and begin making the cakes.

■ Some of the children's hopes for a better Otsuchi ■

- A bustling town that we'd want to come home to
- A town where everyone works together
- A town with an active traditional arts culture
- A town with lots of different shops
- A town with big parks where everyone can be healthy



The kids turn the ideas into pictures



Presenting their ideas for Otsuchi's future

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 6 introduces Mr. Keitaro Machida's efforts.

Profile:

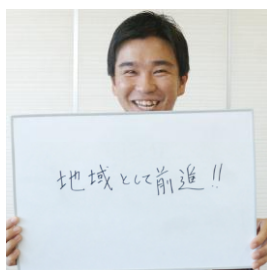
Originally from Kiyose City, Tokyo, after the 2011 disaster he wanted to help out in some way. In the newspaper he read about the "Iwate Reconstruction Support Team", which aims for regional invigoration and to rebuild the Sanriku region, and applied. From October 2012, he has been working in Noda Village's Industry Promotion Division, working to spread information and promote tourism and regional goods, as well as trying to improve the tourism and local produce center known as "Pa-Puru"

Living in the region myself has really allowed me to get to know it

Machida lives in Noda Village's emergency temporary housing, interacting daily with the local people, and working on promotion and information-distribution for the village's tourism



Keitaro Machida
Industry Promotion Division
Noda Village Office



"Let's move forward together as a region!"

and local products.

"I think that by actually living in a place, you can really get to know that place," says Machida. "The villagers keep saying that Noda's not having anything is its selling point, but that's not true: it has nature."

I want to turn Noda into a place people can keep coming back to visit

"The village has many great products like Noda Salt, which is produced in a salt farm that was rebuilt after the disaster, as well as rich seafood such as scallops, not to mention *yamabudo* grapes, *Nambu fukubuta* pork, and so on," he told us. "We also have the Marine Rose Park, where people can view the rare Marine Rose gem that can only be found in Noda. I want to send out information so the people who visited because of *Ama-chan* will want to keep coming back." Machida thus explained to us about Noda's reconstruction efforts and about his hopes to help promote the village going forward.

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:

Iwate Pref Bousai

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Thank you for all your support!

As of Aug. 31, 2013

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.83587 billion (86,495 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥16.58889 billion (6,261 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥5.9748 billion (10,945 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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