

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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



Volume 50
(October 15, 2013)
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.

News from Iwate's Reconstruction has reached its 50th issue. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readership.

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

Reconstruction Site Tour Held for a Second Time

Kamaishi

On Thursday, October 3, a "Reconstruction Site Tour" (organized by the Iwate Prefecture Coastal Regional Development Bureau) was held in Kamaishi.

The aim of this tour is to teach residents about the current state of the reconstruction of disaster-affected sites, and this is the second time it has been held following the first tour in August of this year. A total of 39 residents from Kamaishi City and Otsuchi Town took part. They observed the reconstruction progress of four sites in Kamaishi.

SOFCO Seafoods' Kamaishi Plant

SOFCO's fisheries plant in the Ando area of Otsuchi was damaged during the disaster. It has moved to the Unosumai area of Kamaishi and has restarted production of salmon flakes.

It has recovered 100% of its pre-3/11 client base, and has gotten back to producing at 70% of its pre-disaster peak level.

Participants got a rare chance to experience the inside of a fisheries plant, and were able to see the reconstruction process in action.

Katagishi Temporary Storage Facility for Disaster Debris

Participants also saw this facility from inside their bus. The sorting processes for concrete, wood, and metal debris (among others) were explained, and they learned about the progress made thus far.

According to the Kamaishi authorities, disaster debris in the city totaled approximately 780,000 metric tons – the equivalent of roughly 50 years of regular waste in the city. 99% of this has been moved to the temporary storage facility, and 82.3% has been processed.* (Processing is due to be completed by the end of March 2014.)



Works at the Katagishi facility



Repair works on the Mizuumi coast

Reconstruction Work Site on Mizuumi Coast (seawall repairs)

They also visited the construction site of one of Iwate's seawalls on which we have begun repair works.

At present, work on the right bank of the seawall is at 18% completion, work on the left bank is at 5%, and strengthening of the floodgate is at 70%. Work began in December 2012, and is expected to see completion by the end of March 2016.

Kamaishi Fish Market

In the disaster, the Central Fish Market in the Uogashi area of Kamaishi was completely destroyed, Shinhama Fish Market was damaged, and the ice production and storage plant at the No. 2 Fish Market stopped working.

However, in April 2013, the Shinhama Fish Market reopened for the hauls of large fishing vessels. The Uogashi area market has been designated as a "sanitation management priority type" market, and hopes to see a full recovery by 2016.

We wish the fisheries industry a speedy recovery!

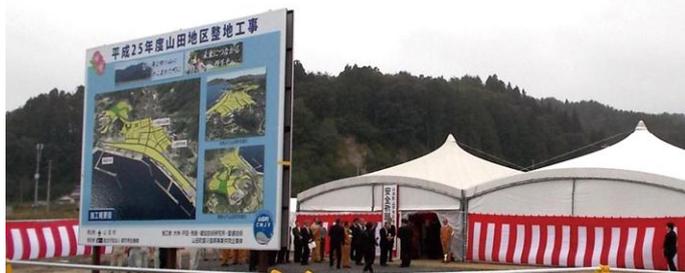
* Figures given are accurate as of August 31, 2013.

Reconstruction of Central Yamada Begins!

Yamada

Reconstruction works have begun in the Yamada district in the central part of Yamada Town. The works consist of land reallocation, improvements to tsunami strongholds, and the promotion of a collective relocation to less disaster-prone areas.

On Wednesday, October 2, a ceremony was held to pray for the



The ceremony wishing for the safety of the project

safety of the project near Rikuchū-Yamada Station on the JR Yamada Line, which ceased operation following the disaster.

The project will raise the land level of certain areas, with residents encouraged to move to high ground. There will also be improvements to the fire department, hospitals and other anti-disaster facilities, in addition to raising the embankments of the central part of the town.

The aim is to create a tsunami-resistant town where residents can live safely, and is due to be completed in April 2016.

The construction work will be a joint venture, and planners and builders will be selected at the same time using a "CM system". It is hoped that by shortening the bidding period we will be able to speed up the completion of the work.

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

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Free to Register!

Iwate-Sanriku Spirit Revival Festival

The Heart of Japan,
Together in Sanriku

Miyako

On the weekend of September 28 and 29, the "Iwate-Sanriku Spirit Revival Festival" was held in the Oku Jodogahama venue in Miyako's Hitachihama area. The festival was to commemorate the souls of those who lost their lives in the disaster, and to pray for a successful recovery.

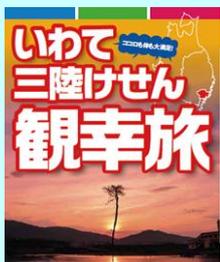
There were 14 traditional performing arts groups from around Iwate's coastal region. Dances and other arts were performed on the famous Jodogahama beach to ease the spirits of the departed.

At the end of the event, *kabuki* performer brothers Kankuro and Shichinosuke Nakamura took the stage. They impressed an audience of around 2,000 people with their lively dance that was performed with perfect unison.



A dance performed by Kankuro and Shichinosuke Nakamura

Before the performance, the brothers described their feelings about the Sanriku region. "Our father [the late Kanzaburo Nakamura] would always say that if he weren't ill he would have loved to come straight to the affected area and dance to make the people there happy. We hope that our dance today channels the wishes of our father."



"A Wonderful Trip to Iwate's Sanriku-Kesen Area" Pamphlet

Iwate Prefecture's Regional Promotions Center Ofunato Branch (Coastal Regional Development Bureau) has published "A Wonderful Trip to Iwate's Sanriku-Kesen Area". The pamphlet was produced with the cooperation of the Sanriku-Kesen Tourism Board, which consists of tourism organizations and local governments of the Kesen region (Rikuzentakata City, Ofunato City and Sumita Town).

The pamphlet is the first sightseeing guide produced in the area since the disaster, and it introduces notable tourism spots, as well as reconstruction shopping facilities, etc. It showcases the beauty of Kesen and also details the reconstruction efforts.

It is available at rest stops around Iwate, and at tourism centers in Kesen. You can also download it from our website.



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 7 introduces Ms. Satoko Kinno's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from the Akasaki area of Ofunato City, Kinno studied confectionary production at a vocational college in Tokyo after graduating high school. She then worked at a Morioka sweet shop among other places. She was working at a cake shop in Ofunato at the time of the disaster, but it was completely destroyed.

In August of 2012, she opened the baked goods shop Oiseau Sweets in the emergency temporary shopping facility in her hometown of Akasaki, Ofunato.

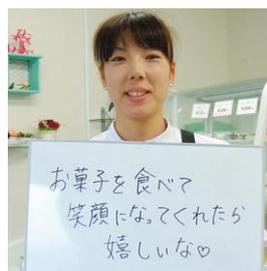
Opening her own business in the temporary shopping facility

"My home and the cake shop I worked for were both washed away in the tsunami," Kinno tells us, remembering that awful day.

After the disaster, she looked for work via the employment agency "Hello Work", doing office work and other duties.



Satoko Kinno
Oiseau Sweets



"I hope people will smile when they try our sweets!"

When the temporary shopping facility opened in Akasaki, she decided to set up her own business.

In August 2012, she opened the baked goods shop, Oiseau Sweets.

I wanted to open a baked goods shop and sell cookies in the place I grew up

"Ofunato gives the impression of having already recovered, but the Akasaki area is still bare, with nothing but grass and weeds," Kinno tells us. "My recipes were also lost in the tsunami, but I decided that I wanted to do my utmost to open a shop here in the place where I was born. We sell cookies by weight, so anyone can just come in and buy whatever cookie they want, and everyone can enjoy delicious cookies."

We are counting on Oiseau Sweets to use confectioneries to bring smiles back to the faces of people in the affected region.

Oiseau Sweets Address: Ofunato-shi, Akasaki-cho, Aza Oikata 15-7

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sept. 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,144
- ▶ 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>

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Vol. 50. October 15, 2013.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

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Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE