

Ever since the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011, we have received tremendous encouragement and support from all over Japan, as well as the world. We would like to express our utmost gratitude and continue to cherish these newly developed bonds. The road to the recovery is not an easy one but all the people of Iwate continue to advance towards the reconstruction of Iwate and Sanriku. This newsletter brings you the latest information from Iwate.

【Reconstruction of tide embankment, breakwater wall is under way】

The reconstruction work on the breakwater and tide embankment structures destroyed by March 11 tsunami is progressing steadily.

A groundbreaking ceremony of the reconstruction project was held on 8th March at Kanehama Beach; after rebuilding the embankment to its pre-disaster height of 8.5 m, it will be further raised by 10.4m. This would mark the first major breakwater reconstruction project in the disaster-hit Iwate.

In addition to the project above, groundbreaking ceremonies for reconstruction work on the breakwater at the mouth of Kamaishi Port and Miyako Port were also held on 26th February and 17th March respectively.



Inauguration ceremony for Kanehama Coast restoration project

Rebuilding infrastructures is an important foundation of the town's redevelopment and recovery. We are committed to moving ahead by combing the infrastructure development with policies.

【Thank You! We are working hard!】

Kozukata HS's Music Club conveys its gratitude to France

Students belonging to Kozukata Pref. HS Music Club, conducted a music tour of France starting from 24th March, to convey their gratitude for the support extended by various countries to Iwate. During their tour, students visited UNESCO HQ in Paris and expressed their gratitude for Hiraizumi's inclusion on the World Heritage List. This was 8th Overseas Tour for the Music Club.



Kozukata Music Club students performing on local TV show in December

Kozukata HS's Music Club has been performing concerts as part of their efforts to support the disaster-hit areas of Iwate. Before leaving for France, Club President Tamura said: "After the disaster, we strongly realized the power of music to connect people. We would like to sing for peace during our concert tour. We will convey our feelings of gratitude as representatives of Iwate and Japan."

【Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of March 30th)】

- Human Casualties/Deaths: 4,671; Missing: 1,237
- Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; Total/Partial): 24,869

【Ofunato's Commitment towards Disaster Prevention】

A year has passed since the March 11 disaster. The disaster resulted in the death of 4,671 people while 1,237 are still missing (As of 26th March 2012). Some of the firemen also lost their lives while trying to protect their local communities. In the aftermath of the disaster, the fire brigade continued their support to the local communities throughout the search operations, rubble removal, goods transport to the evacuation centers, etc.

Mr. Konno (61), the fire brigade chief of Ofunato, was also one of the staff, who risked his life on that fateful day to protect the local people. "Many residents thanked us for the relief operations of the fire brigade which was very encouraging and a matter of pride for us".



The number of firemen in Ofunato is about 1,000. At a time when the declining numbers of firemen became a cause of concern in Iwate, 40 new members joined the fire brigade in Ofunato following the disaster.

"People's awareness towards safety & security has increased significantly after the disaster. All the members of fire brigade are committed to making our region the most disaster prevention-conscious region in the world", says Mr. Konno. People's feelings about not forgetting the lessons of March 11 seem to have resulted in a strong commitment towards disaster prevention.

>>> For details (Archives) ... <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>
Prefectural TV Programme "Iwate Kibo no Chikara"
いわて希望のちから Episode 39: Commitment towards Disaster Prevention
(Broadcast: March 5, 6, 8, 11)

Thank you all for your support

★Donations for victims (As of February 29)

Approx. 16.79207 Billion Yen (76,363 donations)
*To be contributed to the victims through municipalities

★Donations for the reconstruction (As of February 29)

Approx. 17.19565 Billion Yen (4,844 donations)
*To be used for reconstruction measures by the prefecture

★Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of March 19)

Approx. 3.86400 Billion Yen (5,213 contributions)
*To be used to support children affected by the disaster

>>> For Donations/Contributions
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouthou/volunteer.html>

[A gift from the space] ~Astronaut Satoshi Furukawa visits Iwate~

Astronaut Furukawa, who stayed on the international space station, after leaving for the space on Soyuz on March 29th, just a few days after the disaster, took a replica of Iwate's prefectural flag with him to express his concern for the disaster-hit area. He presented this replica to Governor Tasso recently during his visit to Iwate. The replica is now displayed at Citizens' Hall at the prefectural office.



The same day, Mr. Furukawa also visited Otsuchi town and talked on the topic titled: "My impressions of space and my message to the disaster-hit areas"

[Governor Tasso expresses his gratitude for the support to the recovery efforts]

Governor Tasso thanked the representatives of Kansai Regional Federation and Shizuoka Prefecture at the Recovery HQ's meeting for their support towards recovery and reconstruction efforts, as the two organizations get ready to close their support offices in Iwate.



[Hanamaki Airport restarts its Fukuoka flight operations]

On March 25th, JAL's Hanamaki-Fukuoka flight restarted its operations after a gap of 4 and half years. Moreover, the number of Fuji Dream Airline (FDA) flights serving between Hanamaki-Nagoya Komaki, was increased to two flights per day.

We hope that the increase in the flights will boost the recovery efforts by contributing to the economic and tourism related exchanges.

>>>For Details ... <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=37376>

Venue: Fuji TV Bldg.

[Photo Exhibition 『Rebuilding Sanriku: Towards Hope Iwate's one year after disaster』]

A photo exhibition titled "Rebuilding Sanriku: Towards Hope - Iwate's One Year After Disaster" is being held at Fuji TV's headquarter building. One year has passed since the Great East Japan Disaster; the disaster-hit areas of Iwate are stepping towards a period of Rebuilding from a period of Recovery. The exhibition shows disaster-hit areas' vigorous progress towards recovery through aerial photographs of the landscapes taken before-during-after the disaster. Please do come and visit the exhibition.

>>>For photo details ... <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=37591>

- Organizers
Iwate prefecture, Fuji TV
- Schedule
Last day: 6th May (Sunday)
- Venue
Fuji TV Head Office, 24F corridor
- Exhibition Details
 - Scars of the disaster (About 70 Photographs)
Aerial photos of the city landscape taken before and immediately after the disaster; photos taken a year after the disaster are also displayed.
 - Rebuilding Camera (Approx. 70 photos)
1 Year of Kamaishi City and Otsuchi Town



Rikuzen Takata City, Takata Pine Beach (Before the Disaster) March 14, 2010



Rikuzen Takata City, Takata Pine Beach (After the Disaster) March 29, 2011



Rikuzen Takata City, Takata Pine Beach (After 6 months) October 12, 2011



Restoring Oyster Rafts (Near Yamada town) February 20, 2012



Reconstruction of Sanriku railway Kita Rias February 20, 2012



Photo Exhibition



News from Iwate's Reconstruction Vol. 17 Published 1st April 2012

By : General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Gov't

☎ 019-629-6922 ✉ AJ0001@pref.iwate.jp

◆ For the latest Reconstruction/Recovery Newsletter →

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=34866&ik=0&pnp=14>