

We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which struck on 11th March 2011. The precious bonds created during this period will always be cherished. A year has passed since the disaster and most of the rubble and debris have been removed to a temporary site, as recovery efforts continue to move forward as planned.

Although the road to recovery is not easy, Iwate's people remain firmly united in their efforts to rebuild and reconstruct Sanriku Area and Iwate.

We hope that you will continue to support these efforts in the future as well.

Now, here is some latest news of Iwate.

A photograph of Ofunato City taken on 25th April.



A Look at the Disaster-hit Areas During Golden Week



Photograph taken at Yamada Town on 30th April.

This is the "Bell of Requiem and Hope" monument built at the site of the destroyed town library. In the distance, one can enjoy the sight of cherry blossoms in full bloom and the Yamada Bay.



(Picture on right)

Photograph taken on 4th May in Otsuchi Town. The town streets were submerged due to the heavy rains after the GW holidays.

(Picture on left)

Photograph taken on 29th April in Otsuchi Town (Shiroyama Park). Cherry blossoms can be seen in full bloom..



Governor Tasso himself participated in the "Procession of Minamoto no Yoshitsune's Eastern Flight" Parade at the Spring Fujiwara Festival during the GW holidays, hoping to boost Iwate's rebuilding efforts through tourism. You can visit Iwate Prefecture's official HP for more details.

>>> <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=20468>

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of May 9th)

- Human Casualties/Deaths: 4,671 ; Missing: 1,222
- Buildings Destroyed:(Residences only; Total/Partial): 24,877

The Joy of Working in One's Hometown - Coastal Area Food Business Operator Supports Enterprise

A mismatch between employers and job seekers has been evident in the coastal areas where revitalization efforts continue. On the one hand, people are struggling to find a job of their choice, while on the other hand, employers say that there are no applicants responding to job advertisements.

Under such difficult circumstances, Kimura Shoten, a food manufacturer in Yamada Town, has employed new staff and has been developing new products such as candied scallop. This new product development uses a prefectural system for supporting food business operators in the coastal areas.



The president of Kimura Shoten, Toshi Kimura says: "We built a temporary factory and employed 6 people after the earthquake. We also employed 3 fresh graduates this year and we hope that we will be able to revitalize Yamada Town with the help of such young people."

>>>>>For Details: (Back Issues) ... <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>
Iwate Pref. TV Program "Iwate: A Step Towards Hope"
3rd Episode ~ Joy of Working! ~



(Broadcasting Dates: April 23, 24, 25, 26, 29th)

Thank you for your support!!

★Donations for Survivors (As of March 31)
Approx. ¥ 17.18960 Billion (78, 264 Donations)
～To be distributed to the disaster-hit people by local administrations～

★Donations for Reconstruction Projects (As of March 31)
Approx. ¥ 17.55003 Billion (4,878 Contributions)
～For reconstruction & redevelopment projects planned by the prefecture ～

★Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of April 20th) Approx. ¥ 4.15000 Billion (6,239 Donations)
～To be distributed to the children affected by the disaster
～>>> For Donations/Contributions

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

Helicopter Emergency Medical Service Starts Operations

A ceremony was held at the heliport of Iwate University Hospital in Yahaba Town on May 8th, to inaugurate the full-fledged start of Iwate Prefecture's 'Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.'

This medical helicopter can carry an emergency medical team of specialists and nurses to an emergency scene quickly and offer first-aid. This helicopter service played an important role in the carrying medical teams to the 3.11 disaster scene and by transferring the injured from the affected coastal areas to safer inland areas. Since Iwate is a large-sized prefecture that requires more time for travel, it is hoped that the emergency helicopter will prove effective in saving lives.

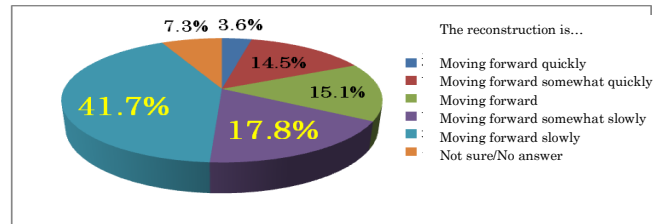


The Results of the "Reconstruction Awareness Survey"

Iwate Prefecture conducted a survey to find out how much importance people attach to the reconstruction activities of the prefectural government and whether or not they perceive such activities taking place. The results of this survey, titled "Awareness Survey of the Great East Japan Disaster Reconstruction," have now been released.

According to these survey results, the percentage of people who feel that the reconstruction is slow or somewhat slow is quite high at 59.5%. Iwate Prefecture will take into account these results and continue to promote its reconstruction and recovery efforts in this first year after the disaster.

>>> Please see here for details:
http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0212/fukkou_net/ishikichosa_24_sokuho.html



Perception of Reconstruction & Recovery of Iwate as a whole (Coastal Areas)

A Show of Iwate's Energy & Vitality at Fuji TV's United States of Michinoku in Odaiba

An Iwate Booth was put up at a United States of Michinoku event organized to support the rebuilding efforts in the affected areas; the event was held during the Golden Week holidays (May 3 – May 6) near the Fuji TV building in Odaiba.

The Iwate Booth attracted many visitors with souvenirs such as Wanko Kyodai goods and Comic Iwate along with well-known food items like *reimen* cold noodles, *jajamen* noodles, Iwaya do *yokan* sweet bean treats, Nanbu rice crackers, and many more.

Juicy *satoimo* potato croquettes were also quite popular, provided at the local cuisine stall set up by the Kitakami Croquettes *Noren* Association.

<Event Outline>

- Venue
Odaiba Fuji TV
- Schedule
May 3 (Thu) ~ May 8 (Sun)

No. of Visitors:
137,512



Kitakami Croquettes were a big hit



Sobacchi greets children



Iwate Booth



Reimen and Jajamen noodles and Wanko Kyodai goods were also a hit

>>> "For Details on the United States of Michinoku, please see here:
http://www.fujitv.co.jp/fujitv/news/pub_2012/120508-147.html

