

We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both Within and outside Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which struck on 11th March 2011. We will always cherish the precious bonds created during this time. We are approaching the second *Obon* holiday since the disaster. During *Obon*, many Japanese return to their faraway family homes to visit with relatives. We hope that people returning to Iwate are able to see just how far we have come in our reconstruction. Here is the latest news from Iwate's reconstruction.



The Beach Opens at Jodogahama, Miyako

On 21st July, the swimming area at Jodogahama Beach in Miyako City was opened to swimmers after being closed last year.

Unfortunately, it was not quite a good day for swimming, what with a cloudy sky and a high of 18.5 Celsius, but the beach still saw a few families enjoying the surf at the water's edge.

Also, 26th July was reported to be the official end to the rainy season in Iwate Prefecture! Since the end of the rainy season, there have been many days with a high temperature of over 30 degrees.

Photo taken 31st July



This year saw the reopening of Jodogahama Beach along with Funado Beach (Kuji City) which was also open last year, as well as Edogahama Beach (Hirono Town), and Fujinokawa Beach (Miyako City), which both had been closed last year.

Come and enjoy the surf at Iwate's beaches this summer!

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of 1st Aug)

- Human Casualties
 - Deaths: 4,671
 - Missing: 1, 207
- Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; totally or partially destroyed): 24,211

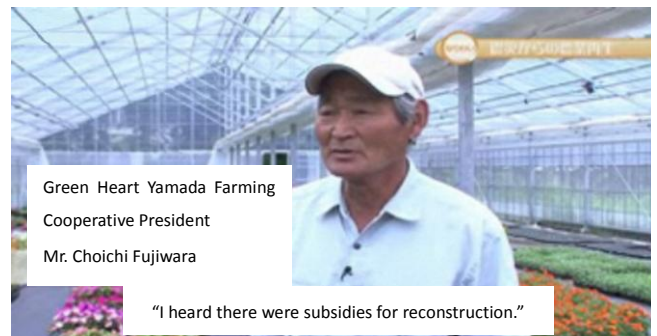
>>>Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damages, etc)
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taioujoukyou/index.html#new>

The Green Heart Yamada Project

Mr. Choichi Fujiwara, who grew flowers and vegetables in Yamada Town, lost his greenhouses and tractor to the tsunami. The area where his greenhouses once stood were now home to a debris storage site, and he had to give up farming for quite a long time.

"I want to grow flowers and vegetables again."

In August of last year, he founded a farming cooperative and bought a new greenhouse and tractor with government subsidies. He started planting flower and vegetable seeds, cucumbers, and tomatoes in the spring.



Green Heart Yamada Farming Cooperative President Choichi Fujiwara

>>>For previous episodes ... <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>

Iwate Pref. TV Program "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"
Ep. 16: Restarting the Farming Industry after the Disaster Part 1
(Broadcast on July 23, 24, 25, 26, 29)

Thank you all for your support!!

- ★Donations for Survivors (As of 30th June)
 - Approx. ¥ 17.35323 billion (80,190 donations)
 - To be distributed to the disaster-hit people by local administrations
- ★Contributions for Reconstruction Projects (As of 30th June)
 - Approx. ¥15.66502 billion (5,298 contributions)
 - To be used in prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects
- ★Donations to Iwate's Fund to Support Children's education
 - Approx. 4.52256 billion (6,930 donations)
 - To aid the lives and learning of children affected by the disaster, through encouraging their participation in study and sports

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

Prime Minister Noda Visits Iwate Prefecture

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda visited **Kamaishi City** and **Otsuchi Town** on 14th July in order to **observe the status of the reconstruction.**



On the day of his trip, PM Noda received reconstruction briefings from the Kamaishi Fish Market (left), Kamaishi City Hall (below), and Shiroyama Park in Otsuchi. He also visited the temporary housing in the

Heita district of Kamaishi and the temporary shopping district and Sea Side Town Mast shopping center in Otsuchi. Additionally, PM Noda talked with survivors and other residents of the area and listened to their thoughts.



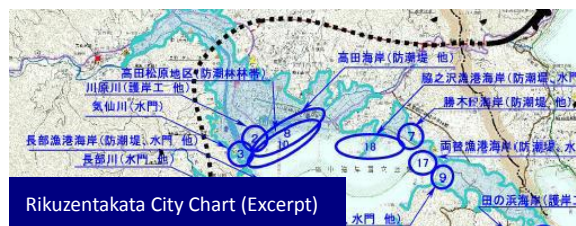
Roadmap to the Restoration of Social Capital

Specific Municipal Process Charts Unveiled

Iwate Prefecture is in the process of unveiling the “**Roadmap to the Restoration and Reconstruction of Social Capital,**” which outlines the progress status of social capital necessary for community development.

The “**Specific Municipal Process Charts**” were released on **25th July**, following the “General Progress Chart” which was released in June.

The progress chart provides maps of where projects will be performed within each municipality along with detailed project outlines and goals, and various fiscal year schedules.



>>>For more information and progress charts for each municipality

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4544&of=1&ik=3&pnp=64&pnp=4544&cd=40314>

« News » ◆ You can read about Iwate’s reconstruction situation and related projects on “Iwate Reconstruction Net”!

→ <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39696&ik=0&pnp=14>

Art Caravan 2012 in Otsuchi and Kamaishi

The Art Caravan 2012 is a traveling event run by the Iwate Prefectural Museum of Art, and it was held in Otsuchi on 28th July and in Kamaishi on 29th July. Children cut pieces of colored cellophane and tissue paper into their own design and pasted them on large, transparent plastic canvases. Sunlight filters and sparkles beautifully through the pieces.



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