

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.

A year and a half has passed since the disaster. The beginning of this month saw the reopening of the only damaged prefectural fish market that had not yet reopened. It is a step-by-step process but the reconstruction is moving forward. Here is the latest news from Iwate's reconstruction.

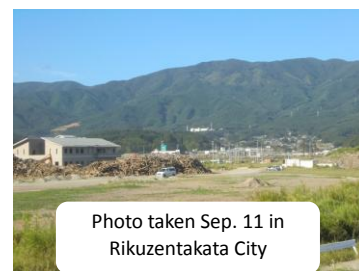


Photo taken Sep. 11 in
Rikuzentakata City

Currently in the Affected Areas:

Rikuzentakata City's Miraculous Lone Pine Tree

On September 12, one and a half years since the disaster, the **Miraculous Lone Pine Tree of Rikuzentakata City was cut down to be treated for preservation.**

The Takata-matsubara pine forest was a beautiful scenic forest of pine trees and sand spanning 2km within the Rikuchu-Kaigan National Park, but **the great tsunami washed away over 70,000 of the trees. The one tree that miraculously survived** suffered damage to its roots and withered, so on September 12 it was prepared to be cut down in order to preserve it forever.



According to the city's plan, the parts of tree will be reassembled around a carbon shaft. After a concrete foundation is built, **the tree will be returned to its former spot in February of next year, where it will stand forever.**

>>>For details regarding the preservation of the Lone Pine Tree ...
<http://www.city.rikuzentakata.iwate.jp/kategorie/fukkou/bou-saimemorialpark-ipponmatu/bousaimemorialpark-ipponmatu.html#ipponmatu>

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of 12th Sep.)

○ Human Casualties

Deaths: 4,671 Missing: 1, 205

○ Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; totally or partially destroyed): 24,212

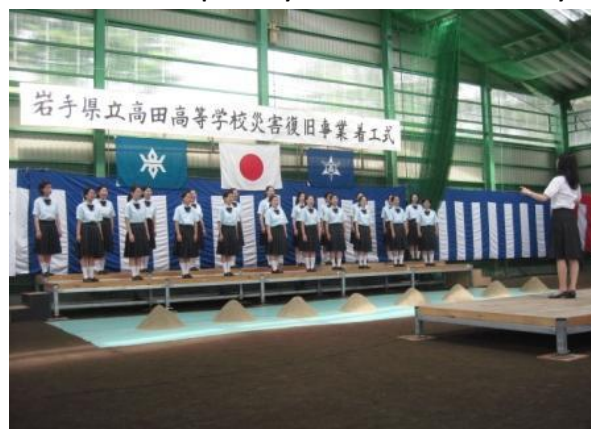
>>> Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damages, etc)
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taioujoukyou/index.html#new>

Reconstruction Topics: Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Takata High School Building

On September 15, the **groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of new Takata High School building** was held in the school's indoor practice field in its #2 grounds in Rikuzentakata City. The event was emceed by students with a choir performance by the music club.

The Takata High School building was completely destroyed by the tsunami and currently the school is using the former Ofunato Agricultural High School building in Ofunato City.

The new building will be a 12,200 m² 4-story building constructed in the northern end of the #2 grounds along with a gymnasium and practice facility for judo and kendo. Land development starts this month, and **the entire facility is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2014 fiscal year.**



Thank you all for your support!!

★Donations for Survivors (As of 31st August)

Approx. ¥17.43003 billion (81,240 donations)

To be distributed to the disaster-hit people by local administrations

★Contributions for Reconstruction Projects (As of 31st August)

Approx. ¥16.29993 billion (5,452 contributions)

To be used in prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects

★Donations to Iwate's Fund to Support Children's Education (as of 31st August)

Approx. ¥4.62485 billion (7,374 donations)

To aid the lives and learning of children affected by the disaster

>>>For Donations and Contributions

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

Moving Towards Reconstruction: Policies for Constructing Disaster Reconstruction Public Housing

Iwate Prefecture has revealed their basic disaster reconstruction public housing policy, which was established through coordination with municipal governments. The plan provides for the prompt construction of safe and high quality public housing through the introduction of various construction techniques. The following chart outlines each municipality's construction plan.

Municipality	No.of Buildings	Built by	
		Municipality	Prefecture
Hirono Town	4	4	0
Kuji City	15	15	0
Noda Village	120	90	30
Tanohata Vil.	112	112	0
Iwaizumi Town	53	53	0
Miyako City	730	352	378
Yamada Town	738	246	492
Otsuchi Town	980	480	500
Kamaishi City	1,049	478	571
Ofunato City	800	240	560
Rikuzentakata City	1,000	300	700
Total	5,601	2,370	3,231

>>>Details .. <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=41279>

Moving Towards Reconstruction: The Iwate Reconstruction Cheer Squad is Determined!

Fourteen people have been selected to be part of the Iwate Reconstruction Cheer Squad that will encourage the restoration of the affected areas and community rejuvenation.

The squad members were hired as staff of the Iwate Permanent Residence and Exchange Promotion Liaison Council, and at first only 10 people were to be hired out of 98 applicants. Ten of the fourteen hires are residents of other prefectures.

The squad will start on October 1st in 8 coastal and northern municipalities such as Rikuzentakata City and Noda Village. For up to five years their duties will include accepting disaster area observation tours, providing tourism information, and developing special new Iwate products.

All 13 Iwate Fish Markets are Now Open!

On September 1, the Taro Fish Market of Taro, Miyako City, resumed activities. With this reopening, all of the 13 fish market facilities in Iwate have resumed operations after the damages of the disaster a year and a half ago.

Also, on the 5th, the New Otsuchi Fisheries Cooperative made the first haul of its sea nets since its foundation. We were able to make it to this day through so much of your support, and now the spark of life has returned to the ocean.

"Iwate Reconstruction Net" also has information on Iwate's ongoing reconstruction efforts, so why not check it out?

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

The Hot Air Balloon of Hope Project in Rikuzentakata

At the Rikuzentakata City Otomo Elementary School on September 8th, the "Hot Air Balloon of Hope Project ~SORAKARA~ (From the Sky)" was held for children to see how the reconstruction was progressing in their city from the vantage point of an air balloon. This project was organized by a committee set up in April of last year in order to "bring a smile to the faces of survivor children." This is the second time the project has been held.

The children exclaimed, "It was like I was flying!" "I wanted to ride forever." "The scenery seemed to sparkle." "I hope Rikuzentakata becomes a place where many people come together."



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