

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 and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will be always cherished.

The second autumn since the earthquake is upon us. It is a time for autumn festivals, and in tsunami-hit coastal areas, some festivals that were cancelled last year have been resumed. One can really sense how hard people are working to rebuild. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

The site of Otsuchi Town Office (September 23)



Currently in the Affected Areas Groundbreaking ceremony for Rikuzentakata's seawall

September 25 saw the opening ceremony for the rebuilding of the Rikuzentakata's seawall in Takata-cho, in the Takata-Matsubara area.

The area's seawall was destroyed in the tsunami, and the Takata-Matsubara pine forest immediately behind was destroyed. All but one (the miraculous "lone pine tree") of the 70,000 trees in the famous pine forest were washed away. Behind the pine forest, Rikuzentakata's city center also suffered terrible damage.

Roughly 70 people attended the opening ceremony on September 25. Vice Governor Ueno, ministerial aid Tsugawa from the Reconstruction Agency, and Mayor Toba were among those who took part in the ceremony to pray for a safe construction.



The current project is one part of the construction of a 2-km wall, which is to be completed in 2015.

This represents a major step in the move toward re-making Rikuzentakata as a city with strong anti-disaster defenses.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of October 10)

Human casualties/deaths 4,671; Missing 1,204

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,236

Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damage, etc.):

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taioujoukyou/index.html#new>

Education Supporting Reconstruction

"Reconstruction education" is being brought into educational facilities in Iwate. Noda Village's Noda Junior High School has introduced reconstruction education, with the aim of "encouraging students to love their home, and creating adults who work for their home's reconstruction/development". In particular, the aim is to use volunteer activities to encourage students to think about their village. Beginning here in Noda Junior High, this reconstruction education is to be implemented in Iwate's elementary, junior high and high schools. This will hopefully tap a new resource to assist in Iwate's development and reconstruction.



Hiroaki Fujioka, Principal, Noda Junior High School

For more info, see ... <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>



Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"
No. 24: "Noda JHS and Volunteer Education"
(Broadcast on September 17, 18, 19, 20, 23)

Thank you for all your support!

Donations for **survivors** (as of August 31):

Around ¥17.43003 billion (81,240 donations)

Distributed to disaster victims by local administrations

Donations for **reconstruction projects** (as of August 31):

Around ¥16.29993 billion (5,452 donations)

For prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of August 31)

Around ¥4.62485 billion (7,374 donations)

Assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study

Donations:

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

Towards Reconstruction

Update of the Reconstruction and Recovery Roadmap

Iwate produces a report on the social resources and maintenance status in the prefecture called the "Reconstruction and Recovery Roadmap".

On September 27 the updated report was published. The update added three new sections: harbors, medical issues, and education.

Sample of educational areas covered in the Roadmap

Municipality	School Names	Completion
Iwaizumi Town	Omoto Elementary, Omoto JHS	2015
Miyako City	Sokei Elementary, Chikei Elementary	In discussion
Yamada Town	Funakoshi Elementary	2013
Otsuchi Town	Otsuchi Elementary, Ando Elementary, Akahama Elementary, Otsuchi Kita Elementary, Otsuchi JHS	2015
Kamaishi City	Toni Elementary, Unosumai Elementary, Toni JHS, Kamaishi Higashi JHS	In discussion
Ofunato City	Akasaki Elementary, Okirai Elementary, Akasaki JHS	2015
Rikuzentakata City	Takata High School	2014
	Kesen Elementary, Hirota JHS, Otomo JHS	2015
	Kesen JHS	In discussion

For more info, see: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39327>

Towards Reconstruction

Autumn festivals held throughout Iwate



In various tsunami-hit coastal areas, autumn festivals and Shinto shrine festivals were held.

Otsuchi Town's traditional tiger dance passed through the streets along with the shrine's float (above). They passed through an area that had grown thick with grass following the removal of rubble.

Kuji and Miyako Cities, as well as Yamada Town, also put on autumn festivals that brought cheer back to their communities.

◆ Iwate Reconstruction Net also reports on Iwate's reconstruction, so why not check it out?

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

Videos created in thanks for aid in reconstruction

Iwate Prefecture has created a series of videos to convey the message of *Arigato* ("thank you") to everyone who has helped in Iwate's recovery. We have currently got as far as video no. 6, so please have a look!

<http://www.iwatekara.jp/thanks/thanks01.html>



Toru Chiba, Committee for the Revival of the Rikuzentakata Mobile Tanabata Festival



Hiroko Omukai and Yaeko Nakagawa, divers



Takeichi Kimigahora, managing director of Yamakiichi Shoten



Tokuei Nekiji of the Earthquake Disaster Narration Team



Shizuko Niwa of Hanamasu-tei, Hirono Town

