

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.

We have come through a hot summer that saw record temperatures day and night, even more than halfway through September, and are now entering the second autumn since the earthquake. In addition to the summer festivals described last issue, the disaster-affected areas have been holding sports days and reconstruction events. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

The site of Otsuchi Town Office (September 23)



### Currently in the Affected Areas

#### Ceremonies for Tanohata's move to higher ground

On October 10, opening ceremonies were held for construction work on the movement of Tanohata Village to higher ground following the tsunami.

The Raga and Shimanokoshi areas of Tanohata suffered significant damage in the tsunami. Movement will be to four areas. The ground-breaking ceremonies for all four areas were held at Matsumaezawa area on October 10.

In attendance were Reconstruction Minister Hirano, prefectural officials, Tanohata Mayor Kamitsukue, the landowners of the destination sites, and residents expecting to move. Following Shinto rituals, the commencement ceremony and the official ground-breaking took place, which marked the start of construction work on the movement project.

The same day saw the ground-breaking ceremony for official reconstruction housing in Kamaishi City's Kaminakashima Town.

This marks a significant move forward in ensuring housing for the victims of the disaster, which is one of their most urgent needs.



#### 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

Students of Morioka's Shibutami Elementary School have been working since last year to make rice to help their friends in Omoto Elementary School in Iwaizumi, which suffered in the disaster last year. The school building was submerged by the tsunami, and about one third of the students' homes were damaged. Shibutami students plan to send the rice they harvest to Omoto Elementary.



Ms. Makiko Toba, Principal, Shibutami Elementary

"Children in inland areas are likely to forget the earthquake quickly. I think it's important for them to interact with children on the coast, and create bonds for the future."

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

Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"

Ep. 28: "Bridging Hearts Project"

(Broadcast on October 15, 16, 17, 18, 21)



### Thank you for all your support!

Donations for **survivors** (as of September 30):

**Around ¥17.45746 billion (81,695 donations)**

Distributed to disaster victims by local administrations

Donations for **reconstruction projects** (as of September 30):

**Around ¥16.31765 billion (5,516 donations)**

For prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund** donations (as of September 30)

**Around ¥4.72421 billion (7,600 donations)**

To assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities

Donations:

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

**Currently in the Affected Areas**  
**Another year sees another sports festival in Miyako's Taro region**

This summer, Miyako City, which was hit by the tsunami, saw high temperatures of up to 32°C even on September 18. But heading into October, the highest temperatures dropped to around 20°C, and people could appreciate the autumn weather.

October 7 saw Miyako's Taro area hosting its "66<sup>th</sup> Annual Taro Area Sports Festival", which is organized by a council made up of local residents.

Taro was heavily damaged by the tsunami, and many citizens have been forced to live in temporary housing. Last year's festival took place in the sports center of Greenpia Sanriku Miyako, which is home to much of the temporary housing. This year the festival was held in Taro Daiichi Junior High School sports ground, which had taken heavy damage from the tsunami. A great many people, young and old, joined in and had a great day of autumn sports.

See Vol. 7 for information on last year's event · ·  
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4402&of=1&ik=3&pnp=4353&pnp=4402&cd=41034>

**Iwate's Efforts:**

**The Iwate Reconstruction Support Team has arrived!**

The "Iwate Reconstruction Support Team" was appointed on October 1. The team will help with the reconstruction and revitalization of disaster-affected areas. They will work on observation and tourism publication for 8 municipalities in coastal and northern areas. The team is looking to recruit members, and the deadline for application is November 9.

Further info at: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=41828>

**Iwate's Efforts:**

**Subsidies for solar power introduction in areas damaged by the earthquake**

Iwate is providing financial support for the introduction of solar power generators *within Iwate Prefecture* to provide energy to damaged homes, etc.

Subsidy amount: ¥48,000/kW

Conditions for the subsidy:

Completion of installation after April 1, 2012

The maximum output of a solar cell does not exceed 10kW

Installation is in a building that will encourage recovery for disaster victims

For further information, contact:

Office of Environment and Residential Life Planning ☎019-629-5273

Website: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=38043>

◆ 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>

**The "Catered Sports and Play Day" was a big success!**

October 13 saw the "Catered Sports and Play Day" event in Kamaishi City's Nakatsuma Sports Hall. The goals of the event were to build up the stamina of children in tsunami-hit coastal areas, and release stress following the disaster. Little kids, as well as their moms and dads, all got a lot of good exercise, and coastal municipalities plan on organizing more such events in the future. For more information, please see the home page here: <http://urx.nu/2d6h>



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◆ News from Iwate's Reconstruction Archives →

<http://bit.ly/qBFB0z>