

Iwate Prefecture

～ Ganbaro Iwate ! Let's Stick Together Iwate! ～

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011, we have received so much warm and encouraging support from the rest of the country and from countries overseas, for which we are sincerely grateful. We cherish these connections.

Now, the third term is starting for elementary, junior and high schools. In regions afflicted by the disaster, there are also some schools welcoming in the third term in new temporary school buildings. Here, we take a look at an Iwate on the road to reconstruction.

**Iwaizumi Town: Start of third term at temporary school buildings**

The temporary school buildings for both Omoto Elementary and Omoto Junior High have been completed, and were home to opening ceremonies for the third term. The temporary buildings were built of wood by workers in the town, with double-glazed windows and solid insulation ensuring sufficient resistance to the cold.

The buildings for both schools were flooded in the tsunami, and after the earthquake, the schools borrowed rooms from the Iwaizumi Elementary and Iwaizumi Junior High buildings approximately 20 km inland to hold lessons. They are now **welcoming the new term in the warm wood of their temporary school buildings.**



There are 27 elementary, junior high, and high schools in the prefecture that are no longer usable due to the disaster. By the start of the third term, in addition to these two schools, Otsuchi Elementary, Ando Elementary, Akahama Elementary, Otsuchi-kita Elementary, and Otsuchi Junior High in Otsuchi-cho, and Toni Elementary and Toni Junior High in Kamaishi City have re-started lessons in temporary school buildings, and thanks to repairs, Taro-ichi Junior High and Miyakoshi High in Miyakoshi City have re-started lessons in their own school buildings. Work is also progressing steadily on restoring the school facilities.

**"Thank you! We're still fighting!"  
Seedling from Rikuzentakata's miraculous lone pine tree off to Nagoya**

On January 18, Nagoya City mayor Takashi Kawamura met with Rikuzentakata mayor Futoshi Toba, and the two agreed that a seedling from the miraculous lone pine tree, which is currently dying despite having survived the tsunami, would be brought to the Higashiyama Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Nagoya where it would be grown about three years from now.



Miraculous lone pine (taken Jan. 25, 2012)

Meanwhile, Mayor Toba asked that the dispatch of Nagoya city staff members continue next year as well, and Mayor Kawamura readily consented to this request. Nagoya has dispatched a total of 130 staff members from school facilities, tax offices, social welfare offices and other facilities to Rikuzentakata since immediately after the disaster.

**Shopping taxi connecting Tanohata with neighboring regions**

In the fierce cold of December in Tanohata, the people riding the bus going round the village are elderly people from nearby regions. The bus, referred to as the "public bath and shopping taxi," makes use of the prefecture's new public support project, and the village has joined hands with an NPO with proven results in support to connect local areas to put the taxi into motion. Working to avoid isolation and building a new place for exchange, it also makes stops at temporary housing.

The first destination is the bathing facilities in neighboring Iwaizumi. Local helpers go along, and after bathing and a health check, the group enjoys singing and some light exercise. On the way home from the bath, the bus stops by the shops to allow users to do some shopping.



Chiho Wakana from the NPO Iwate Community Support Center, pictured here, notes, "I just hope that we can make new connections and build a stronger community." Ten months after the disaster, this taxi linking the village to neighboring towns is connecting people with people every day.

\*For details (back issues): <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

Prefectural program "The Power of Iwate's Hope"

いわて希望のちから No. 32 "Shopping taxi connecting regions"  
(Broadcast Jan. 16, 17, 19, 22)  
Iwate: The Power

**Thank you all so much for your support!**

★Status of contributions received (as of Dec. 31)

Approx. 16,660,980,000 yen (74,511 contributions)

★Status of donations received (as of Dec. 31)

Approx. 6,719,040,000 yen (4,684 donations)

★Iwate Learning Hope Fund status (as of Jan. 20) Approx. 3,077,000,000 yen (4,414 donations)

\*Call for relief funds/donations:

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

**Iwate prefecture damage report (as of Jan. 31)**

Human losses: 4,667 dead

1,325 missing

Building damage (residences only, completely or partially destroyed): 24,739 buildings

### Governor Tasso's Tokyo embassy visit

We have received support from countries all over the world for reconstruction after the disaster. **Kuwait has given the prefecture 8.4 billion yen** (5 million barrels of crude oil) **in aid**, while **Singapore donated a temporary care center** (located in the Taro ward of Miyakoshi City).

On Jan. 26, Governor Tasso took advantage of a business trip to Tokyo to **visit the embassies of both countries to express our gratitude**. At both embassies, he was warmly received by the ambassadors to Japan, who once again expressed their desire to visit and continue offering support to the disaster-afflicted areas.

The spread of various kinds of support coming from both Japan and countries abroad is very precious to us, and we are working and will continue to work on the reconstruction that has begun.

### Hanamaki Higashi High School to participate in National Tournament!

On Jan. 27, Hanamaki Higashi High School was selected for the 84th National High School Baseball Tournament. This will be the first time the team has been selected since achieving second place with pitcher Yusei Kikuchi (currently with Seibu) in 2009.

There are more than a few people on the baseball team from the coast, and some players lost their homes and family members in the disaster. In this year, the first year of reconstruction, their earnest efforts brings cheer to disaster-afflicted regions in particular.

### Kumamon (Japan's No. 1 mascot) comes to Iwate!

**Kumamon**, who got the No. 1 spot in the GP 2011 Mascot poll, **visited Iwate on Jan. 30**.

The mascot came to present the donation collected for the "Kumamon Fun" from Kumamoto.

Thank you to everyone for all your support!



### Smile with Iwate

### Smiles in Iwate

### Video of our appreciation for reconstruction support and of Iwate's charms

The outpouring of support and encouragement from within and outside of the country began immediately after the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and we are sincerely grateful for this.

Last September, we created posters ("Smile with Iwate", "Smiles in Iwate") to let people know the ubiquitous charms of Iwate expressed in the image of Iwate rising up again after the disaster and the slogan "Golden Iwate," and to express our feelings of appreciation for the support we received from all over the country. Now we've put together new videos to further demonstrate our message and Iwate's charms, mainly for people outside the prefecture.

These three videos—(1) "Smile with Iwate (reconstruction edition)," which offers an image of Iwate recovering from the damage of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and a message from the survivors; (2) "Smiles in Iwate (Golden Iwate edition)" which presents the charms of Iwate such as foods, "power spots", festivals, culture and history, and traditional arts shown in "Golden Iwate," and (3) "Be Not Defeated by the Rain (scenes of nature and of life)," which introduces the natural beauty of Iwate and the casual everyday scenes found in the poet Kenji Miyazawa's poem "Be Not Defeated by the Rain"—are available online. Also, to make the information available overseas as well, versions of the reconstruction videos have been made with English and French subtitles.

In addition to the videos being shown at reconstruction support events being held mainly in the Tokyo region, the English and French overseas versions have been shown at events in Malaysia and France, and have been very warmly received.

We will continue to move forward one step at a time towards recovery and reconstruction after the disaster, all the while cherishing the connections with all the people in Japan and abroad who have cheered Iwate on. We hope we can count on your support in the future as well.

See the videos here:

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=35502>



Smile with Iwate (reconstruction edition)



Smiles in Iwate (Golden Iwate edition)



Be Not Defeated by the Rain (scenes of nature and of life)

