

Almost 4 months have passed since the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. We in Iwate would like to sincerely thank everyone throughout the country and overseas for their warm encouragement and support. We hope to continue to treasure these bonds.

The construction of the planned temporary houses in the affected areas is also nearing its completion. Here we will introduce the current state of Iwate, step by step towards reconstruction.

【Road to Recovery】

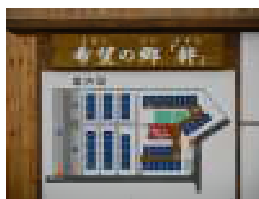
Logistical support activities by Tono City

City of Tono has been playing an important role as a logistical support base for the coastal areas affected by the disaster.

Tono is located within a radius of 50 km from few of the worst tsunami affected areas such as Ootsuchi-cho, Kamaishi, Ofunato and Rikuzen-Takada; these areas are only about an hour from Tono by car. Due to its strategic location, Tono City had been promoting a plan called "Infrastructure and Facility Development as a Logistical Support Base in the event of Earthquake/Tsunami Disasters".

Besides acting as a "Support Base for the Iwate Disaster Measures Headquarters", Tono City has also been an important base for the other agencies such as SDF, police, fire fighting force, governmental organizations, medical and welfare related groups, volunteer groups and so on. Even today, Tono continues to provide aid to the affected areas.

Moreover, the construction of temporary housing, with a focus on elderly people and families with small children, was completed recently and people have begun to move into these houses starting from 16th July. The name of this temporary housing facility has been named "Bonds of Hope".



"Bonds of Hope Village" Temporary Housing

【A Temporary Shopping Center opens in the town of Yamada】

◆9 shops managed to restart their business in the temporary tents set up at the local park in spite of the heavy damage suffered by the town. The main source of shop owners' enthusiasm is the gratitude of the local people who cannot go too far for shopping.



Ms. Kimi Oote

"I want to rebuild a town where the people can do their shopping easily."

Ms. Kimi Oote, who has been running a shop for last 50 years, says, 'our shop and home were both destroyed by the tsunami...but I feel very happy when people come to shop'. The town is slowly getting back its normal life, through the temporary shopping center.

◆For details...

Prefecture sponsored programme "Iwate: Power of Hope"

Episode 4 ~ Temporary Housing of Yamada-machi~

<http://bit.ly/qTPKbL>

Figures related to the damage in Iwate Prefecture (as of 19th July)

- Human Casualties Dead : 4,600, Missing : 2,131
- Damage to the buildings (Completely or partially destroyed):
28,308 buildings
- Evacuation Status
No. of Evacuees: 9,393
(Details)
Evacuation Center: 5,380 (166 locations)
People staying at houses of relatives within the prefecture:
2,581 persons
People evacuating to other prefectures: 1,432 persons

Thank you all for your support!!

★Amount of relief donations received (As of 15th July)

Approx. 147,797,00000 Yen (64,517 donations)

★Amount of contribution received (As of 15th July)

Approx. 56,99,980,000 Yen (4553 contributions)

《How to donate》

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=32136>

【Thank you! We will do our best!】 Ofunato City, Ryori Fishing Cooperative

The 'fixed net fishing' was one of the things that was badly hit by the tsunami; however, a 'hatsu-okoshi' (first trial) of fixed fishing net was held by the Ryori Fishing Cooperative of the Ofunato City on the 12th of July. The *taiyo-bata* (traditional flags wishing for large fishing catch) were also seen at the port again and even a bluefin tuna was caught with the other fish! All the members of the fishing community are deeply grateful to the companies that helped repair the damaged fishing nets.

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A Bluefin Tuna caught in the fishing nets

【Special Feature】 Restoring the Sanriku Railway Line

Sanriku Tetsudo was founded in April of 1984 as the first 'third sector' railway. there were two trains running when the earthquake struck, but thanks to the appropriate actions taken by the driver, all the passengers were unharmed; however, a lot of infrastructure such as the train tracks were seriously damaged. In such difficult times, Sanriku Railways received numerous support messages from its fans requesting them to "reopen the service" or 'doing their best without giving up'. In addition to this, various railway companies all over Japan are providing us their support to the sales of Sanriku Tetsudo related goods.



"Kitto Megaderu Senbei"
(Sure to Sprout Senbei)



Support messages from fans all over the country

The Sanriku Tetsudo staff gives a lot of importance to their bonds with the local community and they have been working hard towards the recovery of this region as a whole through voluntary activities such as distributing food at the evacuation centers, carrying supplies, etc. The staff has also started selling locally developed "We shall overcome senbei" using local food ingredients.

Sanriku Tetsudo is deeply grateful to the local community and its fans all over Japan for their support. Sanriku Tetsudo respects these feelings and is committed to the full restoration of lines by joining forces locally and also through the support and cooperation from the national government.