

Exactly 5 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 has all been completed before the *Obon*. Here we will introduce the current state of Iwate, step by step towards reconstruction.

【The Path to Restoration】 Thank you, Japan Self Defense Forces!～With hands held firmly～

After 138 days of coordinating relief efforts after the prefecture was hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Japan Self Defense Forces (JSDF) ended their tenure on July 26th. In the morning of the same day, Governor Tasso requested for the JSDF troops to be pulled out at the meeting of the Department of Disaster Countermeasures.

The ceremony of gratitude was held in front of the Prefectural Government Building with the attendance of approximately 300 prefectural government staff. The Governor gave a speech in front of about 30 officials from the 9th Division of the Ground JSDF, thanking them “for risking your lives to



perform your duties. Without the assistance of the JSDF, it would have been impossible to tackle the disaster. Iwate citizens greatly appreciate and respect the JSDF for their work”.

Divisional Chief Mr. Hayashi responded by thanking the “encouragement we received from various parts of Japan. The Ground JSDF is always ready to support the citizens in all circumstances. We pray that the disaster stricken areas will push on towards restoration and that the smiles will return to the faces of those affected.”

Thank you, JSDF! Iwate Prefectural Government is missing the sight of you.



Opened on
August 10th

The “Support Restoration of Iwate Food Produce” has opened! Through this website, you can apply to participate or exhibit in nationwide fairs that support restoration, receive news from Iwate food companies and exchange information. (<http://www.iwate-shokuouen.jp/>)



Thank you all for your support!!

- ★ Amount of relief donations received (As of 5th August)
Approx. 15.25 billion (66,195 donations)
- ★ Amount of contribution received (As of 5th August)
Approx. 6.25 billion Yen (5,525 contributions)

◀ How to donate ▶

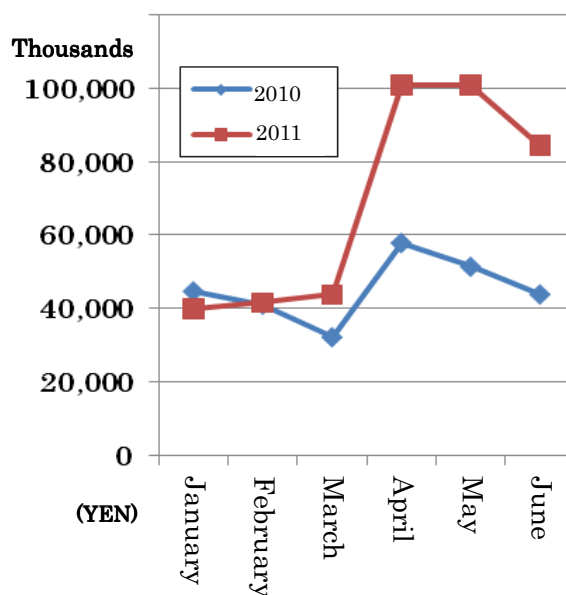
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=32136>

Figures related to the damage in Iwate Prefecture (as of 10th August)

- Human Casualties Dead : 4,632, Missing : 2,038
- Damage to the buildings (Completely or partially destroyed):
24,606 buildings
- Evacuation Status
No. of Evacuees to Evacuation Center: 990 (67 locations)
(Details)
People evacuating to coastal Evacuation Center: 938 persons
(59 locations)
People evacuating to inland Evacuation Center: 52 persons
(8 locations)

【Special Feature】 Thank you for buying our local specialties!

Sales of Iwate Ginga Plaza



«Iwate Ginga Plaza»
<http://www.iwate-ginpla.net/>

We received a high number of orders for our prefecture specialties from people all over Japan wishing to show us their support. In the wake of the earthquake, consumers refrained from shopping but this has since changed to “purchasing specialties to support disaster stricken regions”. With the prefectural government’s assistance in spreading the word, businesses in Iwate are working in full gear to support the revitalisation and market development for local companies.

“Iwate Kensan”, which specialises in Iwate products, saw a substantial increase in the number of enquiries and offers for new business dealings from department stores in Tokyo and Osaka following the earthquake. “Iwate Ginga Plaza”, located in Tokyo (East Ginza), made a profit of over 100 million yen in monthly sales in April and May, which is double the amount from the previous year.

Thank you very much for all your support!

【The Hiraizumi Declaration on the Tohoku Restoration】



Hiraizumi’s cultural heritage has been inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage List. To all of us in Hiraizumi Town, Iwate Prefecture, and the Tohoku region, this is a great source of pride and joy.

Tohoku took a large amount of damage from the March 11th Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. I want to express my deepest gratitude for all of the support we received from the rest of Japan and from all over the world. In the 11th century, there was a violent war in Tohoku and many lives were sacrificed. The founder of the Oshu-Fujiwara clan, Lord Kiyohira, restored the devastated country and tried to create the Buddhist Pure Land in this area in order to bring about a peaceful topia that had no wars. In doing so, Hiraizumi’s cultural heritage was developed.

Hiraizumi, which was built according to Buddhist thought, has left us magnificent temples and gardens, and conveys to us the idea that we should live together respecting every life.

We are working hard to rebuild Tohoku after the natural disaster, with the ideas of Hiraizumi in our hearts. We vow to protect Hiraizumi’s cultural heritage and pass it on into the future.

July 3, 2011

Representing the people of Iwate Prefecture,
the Governor of Iwate Prefecture

Takuya Tasso

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◆ For the latest Reconstruction/Recovery Newsletter → <http://goo.gl/j8h24>