## News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Ganbaro, Iwate! Let's stick together, Iwate!



Volume 105 May 15, 2016

#### The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming 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 always be cherished.

We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.



until the



National Sports Festival

National Sports Festival Days for the People with Disabilities



# **Otsuchi Hospital Now Accepting Patients**

Otsuchi

On April 27th, 2016 (Wed), an opening ceremony was held to celebrate the rebuilding of Otsuchi Prefectural Hospital, which was completely ruined in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Tsunami waters reached the ceiling of the second floor, destroying the medical equipment. Medical services resumed in April 2011, in the Kamicho Fureai Center, and were transferred to temporary facilities in June that year. Meanwhile, construction work began on a new hospital, 2 kilometers inland from the tsunami-affected region.

A crowd of 60 people, including support groups and medical professionals, attended the opening ceremony. Governor Tasso gave a greeting. "The new Otsuchi Hospital will become a symbol of how we restarted medical services on the coast. We're sparing no effort to provide further services, and to rebuild people's lives," he said. The Governor's speech was followed by a performance of the Shishi Odori (Deer Dance), a traditional dance in the Usuzawa region.

The new hospital building is a 3-story concrete structure with a total

floor space of 5,353 square meters. It will provide six services: internal medicine, surgery, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, ophthalmology rehabilitation. There's also a ward with 50 beds. Outpatient care began on May 9th (Mon), and patients were admitted from May 16th (Mon).

Yamada and Takata Prefectural Hospitals also suffered damage, and are currently operating out of temporary facilities. Rebuilding work is due to be completed on Yamada Hospital in autumn, and on Takata Hospital sometime next year.



The newly completed Otsuchi Prefectural Hospital



Outpatient care at Otsuchi Prefectural Hospital



The hospital interior

## The Grand Opening Of Rugby Cafe Kamaishi

Kamaishi

April 29th, 2016 (Fri) saw the grand opening of Rugby Cafe Kamaishi. It will be a hub for all things rugby in Kamaishi, which is a host city for the 2019 World Cup.

The cafe is intended to help with the post-disaster reconstruction effort by drumming up enthusiasm in the city. It was established in October 2013 in the Kizuna House in Unosumai by a group

of local volunteers. In March 2015, plans were announced to move the cafe into the Sea Plaza next to Kamaishi Train Station.

The cafe showcases Kamaishi's rugby culture and traditions with an exhibition of panels and objects. It will also be used as a recreation area, to encourage social exchange through rugby.

- Opening hours: Weekends & holidays (10:00 17:00) Address: 2nd Floor (West Side), Sea Plaza Kamaishi, 22-1 Suzukocho, Kamaishi
- Inquiries: 2019 Rugby World Cup Promotions Office, Kamaishi City
- **5** 0193-22-6323



Players from Kamaishi Seawaves RFC attend the opening ceremony

## spreading the joy. Giving thanks. The Land of Hope National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities



Event ► Judo Dates ► October 8<sup>th</sup> (Sat) – October 10<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Venue ► Kuji City Civic Gymnasium (4-13-3 Shinnakano-hashi, Kuji, Iwate) Inquiries **2** 0194-54-8006 (Kuji City)

### Kuji INFORMATION

Kuji boasts a beautiful natural landscape, featuring a magnificent rias coastline and over 310,000 white birch trees. It's the host of the judo tournament at this year's National Sports Festival, and is also the birthplace of the 10th-dan judo master, Kyuzo Mifune. The Mifune 10th-Dan Memorial Center hosts an exhibition of related objects. The city suffered extensive damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but the Kosode Ama Center and Moguranpia Underground Aquarium and Science Center have been rebuilt. Thanks to the NHK serial TV drama "Ama-chan", Kuji receives visitors from all over the country.



## "SL Ginga" Now Runnin For the Season



On April 23, 2016 (Sat), the "SL Ginga" (Steam Locomotive Galaxy), a steam train on the JR Kamaishi Line, made its first journey of the season.

The SL Ginga is run by JR East, with the intention of attracting more tourists to Tohoku, supporting the reconstruction through tourism and revitalizing the region. This season marks the train's third year.

The train makes a 2 day roundtrip from Hanamaki Station to Kamaishi Station (90.2 kilometers in total) on the JR Kamaishi Line. This year, it will run mainly on weekends and holidays from April 23 (Sat) to August 28 (Sun).

This season, the Sanriku Railway South Rias Line will operate a special retro-styled train between Kamaishi Station

Sakari Station (Ofunato City) that will match with the arrival of the SL Ginga in Kamaishi. The trains' operations are expected to provide an enormous amount of support for the coastal regions.



Spectators taking pictures of the SL Ginga

For more details ► JR East Japan Railway Company Morioka Branch http://www.jr-morioka.com/ ► Sanriku Railway Company http://www.sanrikutetsudou.com/

## Reopening Ceremony Held For Taro Baseball Field

Miyako

On April 23rd, 2016 (Sat), a reopening ceremony was held for the rebuilt Taro Baseball Field (nicknamed "Kitto, Sakurasaku Baseball Field" or "Surely, the cherry trees will blossom Baseball Field") in Miyako, which was completely destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The ceremony was hosted by Nestle and Sanriku Railway, with special assistance from Miyako City. Incidentally, Nestle's KitKat bar is translated as "Kitto katsu" in Japanese, which also means "Surely, we'll win," so it's often used as a pun.

The new field has been built on the inland side of seawall #2. It measures 92 meters on both flanks, and 120 meters in center field. The stands have 1,000 seats, and four floodlights for night games.

At the reopening ceremony, children tried to break the Japanese record for the most number of consecutive hits. There was a

commemorative match between the "Sanriku Railways Kitto Dreams" an amateur team, and the "Takeshi Gundan Special Team", led by the local celebrity, Dankan. Cheers filled the field as the crowds enjoyed both teams' unusual playing styles.



Players attending the reopening ceremony

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful feelings.

Part 55 introduces Mr. Osuka Lloyd's efforts.

#### 

Originally from Sydney, Australia. He started playing rugby at the age of 5.

His father is Australian, and his mother is Japanese. He lived in Australia until he graduated from high school. In 2012, he moved to Kanagawa to enroll at Tokai University where he placed second in the 52nd National Rugby Football Championship.

After graduating from university in April 2016, he joined the Kamaishi Seawaves rugby team, and also works as a staff member at a local hotel and eatery, Horaikan.

## Understanding the dangers of natural disasters

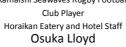
In his 4th year of university, Mr. Lloyd realized that he still wanted to play rugby after graduation. His coach and other foreign rugby players already living in Kamaishi told him that this is a city where you can relax and concentrate on rugby. This led to his decision to move to the coastal city.













"Revitalizing Kamaishi with Rugby!"

Currently, he is putting his best efforts into rugby, while also working at Horaikan, which he was introduced to by the general manager of Kamaishi Seawaves.

"I was still in Australia during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. I couldn't register the reality of the disaster from so far away, but now that I've come to Kamaishi, I can really see how scary natural disasters are. It feels like a lot has recovered since I last visited 2 years ago. But still, in areas like Usunomai, there's just nothing. Recovery is still in the works," he says on the progress of the reconstruction.

## Revitalizing the region through rugby

In regards to the 2019 Rugby World Cup which will be held in Kamaishi, Mr. Lloyd says, "The people of Kamaishi are always cheering us on, so I'd like them to learn more about the sport. I also want to work hard towards someday becoming a part of the Japanese national rugby team, and to become a top player in Seawaves. I hope rugby will become a topic of conversation and brighten up the city." There are high hopes that more people around the world will learn about Kamaishi through sports.

## Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of April 30, 2016

►Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123

▶Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,168

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction: www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

### Thank you for all your support!

As of April 30, 2016

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.49228 billion (93,339 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.77035 billion (7,742 donations) <u>Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:</u> Around ¥8.38756 billion (17,722 donations)

> ※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 105. May 15, 2016.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6945 For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE