

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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



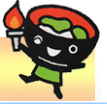
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We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished.

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

**The National Sports Festival**  
Finished!

**National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities**  
Finished!



## The 2016 National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities! On the Bridge to a Bright Future

The "Land of Hope" 16th National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities was held during the 3-day period from October 22nd (Sat.) to October 24th, 2016 (Mon.). Athletes with disabilities competed fiercely with each other to reach the top spot. On Saturday 22nd, the Crown Prince attended the opening ceremony, which was held in the Track and Field Stadium at Kitakami Sports Park. Teams from all 47 prefectures and 20 designated cities attended the ceremony, comprising roughly 3,300 people.

**The opening ceremony, toward a bright future**

"I pray that this sports festival will become a pillar of strength for the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and a bridge to a bright future. I hope that communities where people both with and without disabilities respect and support each other will continue to develop from here on," said



Athletes Takahashi (left) and Ozawa (right) making a speech

**The successful Reconstruction Photo Exhibit**

Governor Tasso's opening address.

Afterwards, the torchlight passed down from the National Sports Festival was lit. "We'll express our gratitude for all the support we've received from the

whole country by doing our best. We'll work to show our strength until the very end so that people can feel our bravery and passion," said Junichi Ota and Asuka Takahashi, athletes who competed with the Iwate team.

**The closing ceremony, congratulating the hard-working athletes**

On the 24th (Mon.), at the closing ceremony which Her Imperial Highness Hisako, Princess Takamado and Princess Ayako of Takamado attended, Governor Tasso made a final remark to the athletes, saying, "By showing us each and every person's potential and hard work in competing in the games, you have touched the hearts of and given the people of Iwate and the whole nation courage." After his speech, he passed on the National Sports Festival flag to Mayor Tokihiro Nakamura of Ehime Prefecture, which will be the host of the festival next



Sansa Odori performance by approx. 700 people

year.

Including track and field, the sports meet had 17 athletic events which were held in 8 municipalities within the prefecture. Iwate's medal count was 55 gold, 42 silver, and 42 bronze, for a total of 139 medals – a new record for the prefecture.

The National Sports Festival held in January, and the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities in October, the two Land of Hope National Sports Festivals in Iwate that represented a bridge toward reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, both finished with great success.

**A touching year bustling with sports festivals**

Land of Hope Iwate Reconstruction Photo Exhibit was set up during the period that both events were being held.

The exhibit, which was started as a cultural program during the sports festivals, was held at the Iwate Prefectural Information Center (Morioka) and the Kitakami Sports Park Wanko Plaza Venue (Kitakami).

The theme of the exhibit was "We want to show our thanks and tell people



The team from Ehime, next year's host, at the closing ceremony

about the status of the reconstruction". Many people from all over the country saw Iwate as it takes steps towards recovery from the disaster.



## 291 New Emergency Homes To Be Built Inland

On October 13th, 2016 (Thu), it was officially announced that a total of 291 homes would be constructed inland in the 6 cities of Morioka, Hanamaki, Tono, Kitakami, Oshu, and Ichinoseki. They will be used by victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, who evacuated from the coast to inland areas.

In January this year, the prefecture administered a survey targeted at the

2,326 households that had evacuated inland. 1,951 households replied (a reply rate of 83.9%). Some commented that they didn't want to live in temporary housing on the coast; others said they hadn't received any financial aid towards building a new home. As a result, it was decided that the government would build 291 homes inland.

The prefecture is aiming to secure a

location to build the homes by Spring 2017, and is currently looking for tenants. Construction work is due to finish in 2018.

**Number and Location of Planned Inland Emergency Homes**

- Morioka 162 homes
  - Hanamaki 25 homes
  - Tono 14 homes
  - Kitakami 32 homes
  - Oshu 12 homes
  - Ichinoseki 36 homes
  - Ichinoseki (previously Senmaya) 10 homes
- <total 291 homes>

## Construction Completed on 801 Emergency Homes

Ofunato

On September 30th, 2016 (Fri.), Iwate Prefecture completed the construction of Shimotateshita Apartments, a 7-story, reinforced concrete, 58-room building in Sakari, Ofunato. New residents began moving in on October 31st (Mon.).

Ever since 2011, when the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami destroyed 5,582 of Ofunato's homes, the city has been working with the prefectural government to rehouse its residents.

Ofunato City built 290 homes across 16 districts. Iwate Prefecture built 511 homes across 9 districts, including Shimotateshita Apartments. This brings the total number to 801 homes, across 25 districts.

As of late September, Ofunato has 464 emergency, temporary homes in use across 25 districts (not including those currently being demolished). Of the 801 new homes, 641 have been filled (419 by Ofunato City, 222 by Iwate Prefecture).



Shimotateshita Apartments, the last of Ofunato's new housing

## "National Taiko Festival" Gains Support From Across Japan

Rikuzentakata

On October 16th, 2016 (Sun.), the National Taiko Festival was held at Daiichi High School in Rikuzentakata. An audience of around 520 people enjoyed lively performances from 9 groups, including Legendary Taiko and Creative Taiko.

The festival began in 1989. This year's show conveyed thanks to people across the country for their support and cooperation, as well as a message of encouragement to the victims of the earthquake in Kumamoto.

The well-practiced performances and beautiful stickwork earned cheers and applause from the audience. The performers included the Kesen Fighting Tanobata Preservation Society (from Rikuzentakata), Odate Magewappa Taiko (from Odate, Akita) and Tajima Tatumikai's Byakko (from South Aizu, Fukushima), who shined brightly at the Japan Taiko Tournament by winning its junior category.



"Byakko" makes an impact

## Sanriku Event Information An Autumn of Food and Fun!!

Event information is subject to change. Please confirm before attending.

11/13  
Sun

### Miyako Salmon Half-Marathon

Miyako

Venue ▶ Miyako City

A large-scale marathon, happening for the 30th time. Local food will be given out at the goal.

Contact

Executive Committee Office; 0193-62-6000

11/14  
Mon

### Viewing Party for the 2016 Supermoon

Hirono

Venue ▶ Hirono Makiba Observatory (within Ohno Campus)

Hirono Makiba Observatory, set up in 2007 by the Ministry of the Environment, was chosen as the place in Japan where it's easiest to see the starry sky. It's holding a special viewing party on the day of the biggest full moon of the year.

Contact

Hirono Makiba Observatory; 0194-77-3377

11/23  
Wed

### Kuji, Sanriku: The Winter City

Kuji

Venue: Kuji City Center

The city will be filled with chances to enjoy local crafts, folk entertainment, and of course, fresh food from Kuji's mountains and seas.

Contact

Executive Committee Office; 0194-52-2123

11/27  
Sun

### The 7th National Tiger Dance Festival

Kamaishi

Venue: Sea Plaza

A lively contest to find the best performers of Kamaishi's flagship folk dance, the Tiger Dance. Come and watch groups from in and outside the city give performances bursting with energy.

Contact

Kamaishi Association of Tourism and Local Products; 0193-27-8172

12/4  
Sun

### Noda Scallop Festival

Noda

Venue: Noda Fisheries Cooperative

Araumi Scallops, a regional specialty, will be available at a special price on this day only. There will be many stalls, selling live Araumi Scallops, grilled scallops, and various other food and drink.

Contact

Executive Committee Office; 0194-78-2171

12/11  
Sun

### Opening Event for the Michinoku Shioikaze Trail's South Fudai Route Walk along the Alps of the ocean

Fudai

Venue: From Fudai Station to Kurosaki or Kitayamazaki

The section of the Michinoku Shioikaze Trail between South Fudai and Noda opens on this day. Walk along the coast while enjoying the ocean breeze.

Contact

Promotions Office for the Hachinohe-Fudai branch of the Michinoku Shioikaze Trail; 0194-53-5756

## Salmon Festival Information



11/27 Sun Yamada Salmon Festival Venue: Yamada Fish Market (Yamada)

Salmon catching (apply on the day; fee applicable), special seafood sale, prawn rolls, a lottery, and more.

Contact Yamada Town Seafood Commerce Department; 0193-82-3111

12/4 Sun Otsuchi Salmon Festival Venue: Otsuchi River's flood plain (Otsuchi)

An event to promote salmon in Otsuchi, where Aramaki (salted salmon) originated.

Contact Otsuchi Tourism Association; 0193-42-8725  
45th Ganso Miyako Salmon Festival

12/18 Sun Venue: Tsugaruishi River's flood plain (Miyako)

Salmon catching in the river (¥1,000 fee; 1 fish per person), free salmon soup, and more.  
Contact Executive Committee (Miyako Tourism and Culture Association); 0193-62-3534

## Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Sept. 30, 2016

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:

[www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

## Thank you for all your support!

As of Sept. 30, 2016

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.5632 billion (93,854 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.79252 billion (7,877 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥8.55577 billion (18,328 donations)

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

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For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

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