

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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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.

The vibrant, autumn leaves have come to an end, and the first snow fell in the open lands of the prefecture 14 days earlier than last year.

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

## Trial Planting Complete, First Step to Recovery of Takatamatsubara

Rikuzentakata

On October 25th, 2016 (Tues.), trial planting geared towards recovery of Takatamatsubara occurred at Rikuzentakata's Disaster Prevention Forest Development Construction Site in the Takatamatsubara area.

Takatamatsubara, which was one of Rikuzentakata's tourist spots, was completely washed away during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Roughly 70,000 trees were destroyed that day, with only one pine tree left standing. This lone tree, the Miracle Pine Tree, has become a symbol of the reconstruction. The locals look towards it for hope as they pray for the reforestation of Takatamatsubara.

The trial planting was carried out to research and gain knowledge on what's needed to ensure the trees would take root and grow. Official planting of the trees is due to begin in 2018.

Approximately 40 workers - employees from the Prefectural Coastal Regional Development Bureau Department of Agricultural Administration and Forestry's Agriculture and Forestry Promotions Center Ofunato Branch, and members of the Association for the Preservation of Takatamatsubara - attended the event, where a total of 147 Japanese black pine and Japanese red pine were planted using mostly container tree seedlings.

The effectiveness of the additional soil and fertilizer used, the growth of the roots, and the soil water content were among some of the factors that were researched at the site.

There is a 3-year plan that will take effect starting next year to plant approximately 40,000 trees on a 4.25m high embankment measuring 1.9km long.

It's estimated that it will take roughly 50 years for the saplings to grow and form a pine forest, but this marks a new step towards bringing back the breathtaking scenery of the pine tree beach.



Takatamatsubara before the disaster



Takatamatsubara after the disaster



Trial planting of the pine trees

## Non Visits Kuji and Cheers on Local Citizens

Kuji

On October 23rd, 2016 (Sun.), Non (real name Rena Nonen), the actress who appeared in the Kuji-based NHK drama Ama-chan, visited Kuji after it suffered damage from Typhoon 10. She cheered on the residents with her bright smile.

Kuji River and Osanai River both overflowed due to the downpour of heavy rain from the typhoon. The city received extensive damage, as it is located between the two rivers.

Non also visited the city earlier this year on September 18th (Sun.) with the actress Eri Watanabe. During the trip, they visited several places such as the Kosode, Ama Center, which was one of the filming locations for the drama, Ama-chan House, which received damage despite having just been remodeled, and Moguranpia, an

underground aquarium and science museum which reopened this April.

Non also participated in the Kuji Local Products Festival that was held in Amber Hall, which is located in Kawasaki, Kuji. On the previous day, Non had a charity talk show at Hirosaki University. She donated the proceedings she

received from this event to Kuji and Iwaizumi, which had both suffered from Typhoon 10. She interacted with the locals in other events as well, such as the mochi-scattering event, and the transportation of the portable shrine. The participants were all smiles as they were blessed with Non's cheerfulness.



Non (center) shaking hands with Mayor Endo of Kuji (left) and Vice Mayor Nakai of Iwaizumi (right) after donating to the two disaster-affected areas (photo: Kuji)



Non scattering mochi into the crowd (photo: Kuji)

### We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and Help Support Us!



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area.

(Information only available in Japanese.)

For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Iwate Ooendan

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