

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 100
February 1, 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.

Thanks to everyone's support, the "Iwate Land of Hope - National Sports Festival" has begun, and the prefecture is buzzing with activity.

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

NHK Trophy Figure Skating Special Exhibition

Morioka

On January 9th, 2016 (Sat), the NHK Trophy Figure Skating Special Exhibition (hosted by NHK, NHK Promotions and the Japan Skating Federation) was held at Morioka Ice Arena to mark the upcoming 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and to support the reconstruction in the damaged regions. Eighteen top skaters from around the world appeared in the event.

Seven of the skaters attended a press

conference on the previous day, including Yuzuru Hanyu, who won gold at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Mr. Hanyu, a native of Sendai City, spoke with emotion. "As a Tohoku native, I'm happy that I can contribute to the reconstruction in my own small way. I hope to express the radiant emotion that is hope [during my performance]." The Olympic skater Mao Asada also gave her thoughts. "I'm going to skate with all my

heart and soul for this audience. I want to show the children a brighter future."

On the day, Mr. Hanyu expressed a prayer for the disaster-hit regions by performing "Requiem of Heaven and Earth." Ms. Asada performed "Jupiter," a specially-developed piece supporting the reconstruction. When the "Miracle Pine," a tree of hope left standing on the coast, was projected onto the rink and children from Sendai joined her on the ice, the audience burst into applause.



The skaters at the press conference.



Mr. Hanyu performing "Requiem of Heaven and Earth."



Ms. Asada performing "Jupiter" with local children.

Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum

Morioka

On January 22nd and 23rd, 2016 (Fri-Sat), the Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum (hosted by Iwate Prefecture and the Iwate Board of Education) was held at Morioka Theater.

At the beginning of Saturday's full program, Governor Tasso reported on the reconstruction's progress, and explained the upcoming challenges.

Next, Dr. Fumihiko Imamura, Professor of Tsunami Engineering at Tohoku University's International Research Institute of Disaster Science, gave the keynote speech on passing down the experiences and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Dr. Imamura explained the outbreak and damage of past tsunamis. "Our job is to study the buildings left behind and the information archives to prepare for future tsunami. We need to learn from the past, record the present and make use of it in the future."

Lastly, there was a discussion between four panelists who are engaged in various activities on the coast. They exchanged opinions on the theme of "A Plan for Iwate's Future," and how the reconstruction might progress as we reach the disaster's 5th anniversary.



Dr. Imamura giving the keynote speech.



The panel discussion.

The "Hayadōri Wakame" Season Is Here!

News from Sanriku

Hayadōri Wakame is seaweed that has been harvested at an early stage of growth. It's in-season in midwinter: January and February. Companies all over Iwate, such as the Omoe Fishery Cooperative in Miyako, who produce the "Haru Ichiban" brand, are entering their peak shipping season.

Last month, at the "Sanriku & Kesen Tourism Product Fair" held at the Iwate Ginga Plaza, Hayadōri Wakame was hugely popular in the shabu-shabu corner, as it turns a vibrant green when dipped in boiling water. Early spring is your only chance to try this incredibly healthy food, so don't miss out!



Omoe Fishery Cooperative's "Haru Ichiban"
(Photo: Omoe Fishery Cooperative)

"Pieces of the Future" - a short film

Special Screening and Television Broadcast!!

Otsuchi

The national government put out a call for essays that would improve Tohoku. The winner, "Four-and-a-Half Years Since The Disaster (Eternal Gratitude)" by 5th year Otsuchi Elementary School student Souta Iwama, was turned into a short film called "Pieces of the Future." A special screening will be held in Otsuchi.

The protagonist of "Pieces of the Future" dreams of becoming a carpenter. The 15-minute film shows scenes from ten years into his future, and vividly depicts his feelings about his home.

Kenta Suga, who plays the lead, said, "I hope lots of people to see it, and for them to feel like it's a piece of the future, just like the title says."



Filming in progress
(Photo: Seiko Ishikawa)

Information

Mirai no Kakera

Search

- "Pieces of the Future" special screening Free entry
February 7th, 2016 (Sun), Shiroyama Park Sports Hall, Otsuchi <Aiina>
AM: 11:00 - 11:40 / PM: 14:00 - 14:40
- Television broadcast
February 20th, 2016 (Sat), 14:30 - 15:00 (subject to change)
BS Fuji "Full steam ahead!! A story of Tohoku yet to come" (title TBC)

"Kuji Underground Aquarium Moguranpia"

Celebrates Its Reopening After 5 Years

Kuji

Kuji Underground Aquarium Moguranpia was completely destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but many people called for it to be rebuilt, and work is progressing towards a reopening in April this year.

Currently, an exhibition of various sea creatures, including those provided by the celebrity Sakana-kun, is on display at the "Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium" beside Kuji Station.

There are plans for the renewed Moguranpia to feature a brand-new projection mapping and film installation. It will show a documentary about the facility's revival, starring the green sea turtle Kamekichi, who has been on loan to Hachinohe, Aomori since the disaster. An online funding drive is currently underway to pay for the exhibition. Donations will be accepted until February 13th; visit Kuji City's homepage if you'd like to contribute.

Inquiries: Kuji Tourism Department
☎ 0194-52-2123

Kamekichi, who's due to return to Moguranpia.



Winter Events

1/17
SUN

Sanriku & Ofunato 19th Tsubaki Festival

Ofunato

Ofunato Camellia Hall, Goishi (Ofunato)

600 types of camellia (tsubaki) from 13 countries, various events, and a sale of seedlings and merchandise.

Inquiries - Tsubaki Festival Planning Committee: 0192-27-3111

3/21
MON

Starry Sky Classroom

Hirono

Hirono Makiba Observatory (Hirono)

Dates: 2/6 (Sat) • 2/20 (Sat) • 3/12 (Sat) • 3/26 (Sat)

Inquiries - Hirono Makiba Observatory: 0194-77-3377

- Ono Furusato: 0194-77-3202

2/18
THU

North Sanriku Pub Crawl

Kuji

Kuji City Center Pubs and Restaurants

Visit and collect stamps from four of the pubs on the list to enter a prize lottery. ¥3,000 in advance (¥3,500 on the day)

Inquiries - Kuji Chamber of Commerce and Industry: 0194-52-1000

2/18
THU

Machinaka Arigato Market

Kuji

City Center (Kuji)

A sale taking place in over 70 shops in Kuji City Center.

When you make a purchase, you can receive tickets to enter a raffle.

Inquiries - Kuji Chamber of Commerce and Industry: 0194-52-1000

2/21
SUN

Miyako Horsehair Crab Festival

Miyako

Miyako Fish Market (Miyako)

Buy horsehair crab, which is reaching its seasonal peak. There will also be free crab soup and crab pole fishing events.

Inquiries - Miyako Tourism Cultural Exchange Assoc.: 0193-62-3534

2/27
SAT

Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium ~Doll Festival~

Kuji

Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium (Kuji)

Dolls of the emperor, empress and Amarin are waiting for you at Moguranpia. We're giving out free rice flour cakes to visitors!

Inquiries - Moguranpia Machinaka Aquarium: 0194-53-9600

2/28
SUN

North Sanriku Kuji Winter Market

Kuji

City Center (Kuji)

An event celebrating Kuji's fresh seafood, mountain produce and village harvests. Let's enjoy them together!

Inquiries - Planning Committee: 0194-52-2123

2/28
SUN

Otsuchi Variety Show

Otsuchi

Otsuchi Town Hall (Otsuchi)

A comedic play showing the love, laughs and tears of a town with very few babies. Songs, stand-up and many more hidden talents.

Inquiries - General Policy Division / Citizen Coop Dept.: 0193-42-8724

Details regarding these events is subject to change, so please check before you attend.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate

As of Dec. 31, 2015

- Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,124
- 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.htm

Thank you for all your support!

As of Dec. 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.43776 billion (92,605 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.72779 billion (7,599 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.89788 billion (17,032 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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