

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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.

Cherry blossoms throughout Japan are blooming early this year, and Iwate is no exception. Spring has brought a new energy to the area.

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

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



Volume 82
April 15, 2015

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: Iwate's Proposals to the World

Sendai
and more

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture from March 14 (Sat.) to 18 (Wed.), 2015. The conference was aimed at developing disaster risk reduction methods on an international scale.

The conference attendees numbered around 6,500 people, including heads of state, cabinet ministers, representatives of international organizations, and registered NGOs. Related events were held in the four disaster-affected prefectures (Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima) and in total there were around 156,000 participants – a truly monumental international event.

Iwate Prefecture took the opportunity to express our thanks for the aid received from around the world and contribute to global disaster risk reduction by creating a booklet, entitled *Proposal*

from Iwate Prefecture about Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction.

On Monday, March 16, Governor Tasso spoke at the main conference's Working Session on "Communities Addressing Local Risks". He addressed the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and detailed some of the 11 proposals from Iwate, emphasizing disaster risk reduction education and the participation of women and young people.

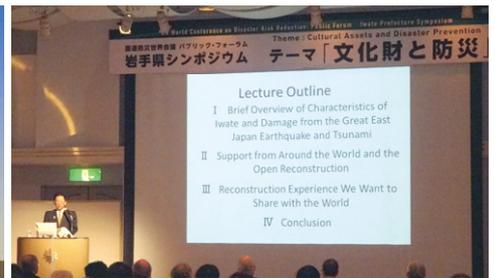
In coordination with the conference, Iwate Prefecture held a symposium in Ichinoseki on March 17 (Tues.) about cultural assets and disaster prevention. Study tours were also held in the tsunami-affected coastal region between March 16 and March 18.



The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai)



Governor Tasso explaining the proposals from Iwate Prefecture



The Iwate Prefecture Symposium (Ichinoseki)

Results from the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey #1 for 2015

Iwate Prefecture conducts the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey in order to periodically measure Iwate's reconstruction progress from the earthquake and tsunami.

The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every three months.

Here are some key points extracted from the results of the first survey this year (conducted in February 2015).

Have the lives of the survivors recovered?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 65.9% (last time: 52.3%)

- A 13.6-point increase from the last survey.
- Opinions varied. Many people have moved out of temporary housing and into public housing, but some expressed the need for better mental care for elderly residents still living in temporary housing.

How do you feel about the recovery of the local economy?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 53.6% (last time: 52.0%)

- A 1.6-point increase from the last survey.
- Some were happy about the improvements in the construction and fisheries industries, but there were concerns about the amount of available work and a lack of workers in the future.

How do you feel about the disaster mitigation measures?

"Satisfactory" or "Mostly satisfactory": 30.5% (last time: 28.8%)

- A 1.7-point increase from the last survey.
- Many answered that they can see progress, like raising the ground level in residential and other areas, and construction of seawalls. However, there was some uneasiness at the measures not being completed yet.

Brand New Local Delicacy in Ofunato!
Britain's famous
Fish & Chips
On sale at last!

Ofunato was so grateful to the UK rescue team that rushed to the area after 3.11, that they've come up with their own brand of fish and chips!

Ofunato Fish & Chips

Search

(*Information only available in Japanese.)



Ofunato

News
from
Sanriku

March 29 Grand Opening!
Hotel Folkloro
Sanriku-Kamaishi

A new hotel has opened beside JR Kamaishi Station for local tourism and reconstruction support. The perfect travel hub for Sanriku!
<http://www.folkloro-sanrikukamaishi.com/en/>



Kamaishi

The 3/11 Logistics Support Museum opens in Tono

Tono

On Saturday, March 14, 2015, the Great East Japan Earthquake Logistics Support Museum opened in Tono.

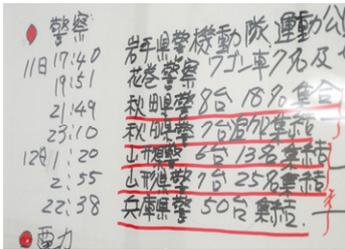
Tono is an hour by car from both the coast and the urban centers of inland Iwate, and performed a very important function immediately following the earthquake and tsunami, serving as a major base for logistical support for aid operations.

The museum houses photos and newspaper articles from the time of the disaster, photo panels with English translations, as well as handwritten records made by municipal employees to record damage numbers as well as the arrival of police, firefighters, JSDF, medical workers, and aid supplies in Tono. All in all there are around 300 items in the collection.

Tono had systems in place for logistic support before the disaster, and it is hoped that the city's efforts and the lessons learned will be of use in the event of future natural disasters.



The many panels on display in the museum



Handwritten notes from the hectic period following the disaster

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 36 introduces Ms. Keiko Ogasawara's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Tonicho, Kamaishi.

After graduating from Kozukata Senior High School, Ogasawara went to Tokyo for work. She returned to Kamaishi when she was 20.

In February 2015, she formed a theater troupe called Moshokom in Kamaishi while being employed as an office worker. They held their first big performance on March 29 and filled the theater with their youthful passion.

To once again fill the town with smiles

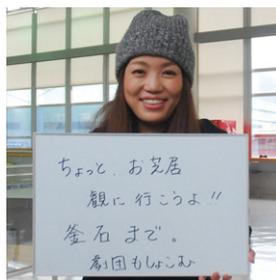
Ogasawara has loved the theater since high school, and wanted to try acting herself. She appeared on stage at the community theater in Kamaishi, and that experience drove her to create her own theater troupe.

Their play, *Heikou Spiral*, was themed around temporary housing, and portrayed the trials and tribulations of two sisters in the four years since the disaster as they struggled to move forward.

The troupe includes people directly affected by the disaster, as well as those who came in support. There



Moshokom Theater Troupe Representative
Keiko Ogasawara



"Hey, you! You gotta see our play! In Kamaishi. Moshokom Theater Troupe"

Yamada's Urban Revitalization Plan – first in Iwate to be authorized

Yamada

Yamada's Urban Revitalization Plan was officially authorized by the national government on Tuesday, March 24. It is the first municipal plan in Iwate to receive this authorization, and the second nationwide after Onagawa, Miyagi.

Under an Urban Revitalization Plan, the national government provides support to rebuild business districts in towns damaged by the 2011 disaster. Along with encouraging the creation of commercial and public facilities, these plans allow for a more complete reconstruction of the surrounding town. Grant money can be received once a plan is authorized.

Yamada's plan is to fill the 3.3-hectare lot to the east of Rikuchu-Yamada Station with a large number of facilities concentrated in a small area.

Construction will cost approximately 690 million yen, with 70% covered by the national Reconstruction Agency, and the project is planned to be completed by March 2016.



Image of the Urban Revitalization Plan (courtesy of the Reconstruction Agency)

There was some debate within the troupe about the topic of temporary housing but after the performance many people told them to keep putting on plays about the disaster. Theater-goers encouraged them to perform not just on the coast, but also in the cities in the inlands, as well as outside of the prefecture.

Theater is another way to rebuild the heart

On reconstruction in the coastal region, Ms. Ogasawara says, "There are times where you go somewhere for the first time in a while and you think, 'This place has changed.' But I feel like we don't know how we're rebuilding the area, or what kind of place it'll become. We don't have the whole picture."

"There are activities like ballet for mothers, amateur baseball, and choir, and I want people in Kamaishi to be more familiar with theater. I want Kamaishi to be a place that is able to show others about young people right now. The most important thing in reconstruction is for the people here to feel a drive to keep moving forward. I think the activities of our theater troupe are a way to rebuild people's hearts."

Many people are putting their hopes towards arts and culture in rebuilding the coast of Iwate.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of March 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,163

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 March 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.22276 billion (90,908 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.63144 billion (7,249 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.31317 billion (15,123 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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