

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 87

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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.

The rainy season has spread across Japan, and in Iwate every day is hot and humid, as we wait with baited breath for the coming of summer.

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

Alumni Reunion of the Iwate Reconstruction Support Dispatch Workers Program

Tokyo

On June 9 (Tuesday), a reunion was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building for Kanto residents who had come to Iwate as dispatch workers to help with reconstruction projects since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The event was organized by the Iwate Prefecture Tokyo Branch Office in order to express their gratitude for dispatch workers who had worked in Iwate, and to further strengthen their bonds with Iwate as Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team members.

The event had in attendance 40 alumni of the dispatch worker program from Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba and other neighboring prefectures, as well as 60 others including Tokyo Metropolitan and Iwate Prefectural employees.

Ichiro Nakamura, the Director General of the Iwate Prefecture Bureau of Reconstruction, showed recent images of the coast. "We're still only halfway there," Nakamura said, calling for continued assistance in

rebuilding. "Dispatch workers like yourselves have contributed greatly to our reconstruction efforts, and we hope you will continue to support us."

Jun Kawai, director of the Disaster Recovery Support Division of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of General Affairs, said: "Although it's a challenge finding people to do the work, we would like to tap into Tokyo's potential and continue providing support for the reconstruction." Yoshiharu Ueno, former Vice-Governor of Iwate Prefecture, first Director General of Iwate's Bureau of Reconstruction, and currently the senior managing director at the Japan Finance Corporation, also offered his support.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious Iwatean meal with Rikuzentakata-brand "Takata no Yume" rice, and several Iwate-produced beverages such as saké brewed in Otsuchi. It was a night encouraging these alumni to strengthen the ties they share with Iwate.



Director General Nakamura gives a speech at the reunion



Dispatch worker alumni with Director General Nakamura and others

Examining the Data in Vol. 14 of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report

The Iwate Reconstruction Index Report is published periodically and serves to make it easier to understand the current state of affairs and recent trends in Iwate's reconstruction efforts, particularly in the 12 affected coastal municipalities. Below are outlined the main points from volume 14 of the report (as of May 29, 2015).

Rebuilding Lives

Progress Rate on Public Housing for Survivors: 26%
1,525 Completed Housing Units (574 prefectoral, 951 municipal)
(at the end of March 2015)

1,016 (330 prefectoral, 686 municipal) completed housing units; 17% progress rate
(at the end of December 2014)

The number of residential construction projects completed is 1,525 (574 prefectoral, 951 municipal), which marks a 26% completion rate (20% completed for prefectoral, 31% completed for municipal) on the 5,921 planned number of projects (2,815 prefectoral, 3,106 municipal).

Regenerating Industries

Fisheries Catch in Fish Markets: 138,381 metric tons (81.6% of 3-year average)
(Current total for the fiscal year of April 2014-March 2015)

The total market catch for fish markets for the past fiscal year from April 2015 to March 2015 is 138,381 metric tons. This is 81.6% of the average catch between 2008 and 2010, and is a 27.8% increase from the same time last year. The recovery from the poor saury catch of 2013 is seen as a big factor to this increase.

Ensuring Safety

Progress Rate on Construction Works: 12.3%
Number of Projects Completed: 1,012
(as of the end of March 2015)

Number of Projects Completed: 541;
Completion Rate: 6.5%
(as of the end of December 2014)

The number of residential construction projects completed is 1,012, which marks a 12.3% completion rate on the total planned number of projects, 8,237.

For more information:

Iwate fukkou index

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*Information available only in Japanese.



SMILE 130 PROJECT

The Project is bringing smiles to the faces of all 1.30 million Iwateans and it aims to bring joy to the rest of Japan and the world as a thank you for all the aid we received. The Project aims to enliven and encourage Iwate's prefectural employees and citizens to move forward together toward reconstruction.

For more info on Smile 130's activities, please visit the Iwate Prefecture website:
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/seisaku/smile/index.html>



Omoto Elementary School Sixth Grade Students Promoting Local Products

Iwaizumi

On June 11 (Thursday), 19 sixth grade students from Omoto Elementary School (54 students; principal: Koji Kitada) and Omoto Oushinai Branch School (11 students) in Iwaizumi sold Iwaizumi local goods on their school trip to Morioka's Sakana-cho shopping arcade.

This is the third time students have engaged in this activity, as a part of a desire to show others what Iwaizumi has to offer and promote reconstruction for Iwaizumi and the Omoto area.

Among the 31 products the students were selling were locally manufactured yogurt and drinks, *wakame* seaweed, and shiitake mushrooms.

Many passers-by stopped at their booth to purchase their products upon hearing the students actively promoting Iwaizumi and its goods.

Omoto Elementary School was damaged in the tsunami so classes are being held in a temporary building. Profit from this event was donated to the school by the Iwaizumi city government to help build a new school.



Students promoting Iwaizumi's products (photo courtesy of Omoto Elementary School)

Construction on the new school is hoped to be completed by March 2016.

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 41 introduces Mr. Kazuki Hirota's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Matsudo City in Chiba Prefecture.

When he was a schoolboy, he often spent his summer holidays in his mother's family home in Yamada, Iwate. When he was in high school he played rugby, and after graduating university he started working at a company in Chiba.

Spurred by the disaster, in October 2011 he moved to Kamaishi. Currently he works on promoting rugby and on a project to produce wine in the region, as well as working as a staff member in Horaikan Hotel.

Kamaishi to host 2019 Rugby World Cup

Hirota was working in Chiba Prefecture when the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit. Following this, he moved to Kamaishi, where he had relatives, and currently works in Horaikan Hotel.

He also organizes English conversation classes for elementary and junior high school students in order to allow them to communicate with foreign tourists and puts a lot of effort into community activities, as Kamaishi looks forward to the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

People for

SA NRIKU'S Future

Horaikan Hotel Staff
Hotel Services and Rugby,
Wine and Agriculture Officer
Kazuki Hirota



"Rugby, Kamaishi wine,
and Kamaishi fish."

Reconstruction Work Begins on Benten Shrine a.k.a. Hyotan Island

Otsuchi

Reconstruction plans on Benten Shrine, which is located on Horai Island in Akahama, Otsuchi, have been decided, and a ceremony praying for a safe construction was held on June 16 (Tuesday).

Horai Island was a model for the puppet show *Hyokkori Hyotan-jima*, which was written by the late Hisashi Inoue, and has been regarded as a popular symbol of Otsuchi by the locals, but the island received significant damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

After the disaster, the seawall and lighthouse were rebuilt by the prefecture, and a volunteer-run program called Hyotan-jima Reconstruction Project used donations from around Japan to restore the statue of the goddess Benten last August. They also received support from the Nippon Foundation, and it was decided that reconstruction work on Benten Shrine would start.

Costs for construction for the whole island are around 30,000,000 yen.

There will be restoration work on the shrine, as well as a road connecting the island to the shore, and construction of a new *torii* archway for the shrine. The project is scheduled to be completed at the end of December 2015.



Benten Shrine on Horai Island

"The stadium site is still just an empty field, but I am confident Kamaishi will be able to make it in time, so I'm hoping the whole community will cooperate to achieve this goal," he says.

Raise a glass of Kamaishi wine as
a toast to their reconstruction

Hirota is also involved with *Wain de Kanpai Project*, a local initiative to create vineyards in the tsunami-affected region so that when the 2019 Rugby World Cup rolls around people can toast Kamaishi's successful reconstruction with local wine. "I think the reconstruction is moving forward step by step," he said, when asked what he thinks about the future of Kamaishi. "People may continue to move out of town, but for the sake of those who want to stay, I hope Kamaishi can become the kind of place in which they continue to live."

The coming of the 2019 Rugby World Cup to Kamaishi, as well as projects involved in the lead up to the event, are providing support for both Kamaishi's reconstruction and the continued viability of the region for the future. We hope that these will continue to improve life in the coastal region more and more going forward.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of May 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 May 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.38684 billion (91,483 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.67911 billion (7,337 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.55394 billion (15,622 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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