

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 88
July 15, 2015

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 sun beats down on our skin, letting us know that summer is here. And you know what that means: the excitement of the summer festivals held throughout all of Iwate!

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

Live Diving and Fishing Performances Started by the Ama of Kosode

Kuji

Kuji City's Kosode Beach was the location of the NHK morning drama Ama-chan, and July 1, 2015 (Wed.) marked the first day for live diving and fishing performances by the ama* of the northern coast.

The ama use a traditional fishing technique where they dive into the sea to pick up sea urchins lying below. With just one breath, they dive more than 10 meters deep into the sea, put around 10 sea urchins into a backpack called "yatsukari," then swim back up to the surface.

The temperature of the waters remains quite chilly even in July, the height of summer. That didn't bother the ama, clad in a kasuri-pattern kimono-style jacket and Japanese tabi socks, who dove into these waters to catch sea urchins that are perfectly in season. The audience that had gathered was waiting to greet their return to the surface with great applause.

The ama then cracked open the sea urchins that they caught on the spot and sold them for 500 yen each, giving visitors

a chance to enjoy fresh, delicious sea urchins.

A stone monument was installed with an engraving exclaiming the area as the setting for the drama Ama-chan and as the "Road of the Northern Coast Ama." The mayor of Kuji and about 30 professionals in the Kuji tourism industry were in attendance at the unveiling ceremony on July 4 (Sat.), where they celebrated the birth of a new tourist spot.

*Ama: female divers who often harvest sea urchins

Live Diving and Fishing Performances

Period: July to the end of September (summer only)

Times: Saturday and Sunday, 10:20- /11:20- /14:20-

*On the weekdays, groups of 10 people or more require a reservation

Cost: 500 yen per person

Contact: Kosode Ama Center

TEL: 0194-54-2261 (9:00-17:00)



The ama of the northern coast during a live performance



Ama selling freshly caught sea urchins



The unveiling ceremony of the stone monument

Furusato Tax in Rikuzentakata Re-opens, Establishment of the Tax Website Taka-Furu

Rikuzentakata

On July 1, 2015 (Wed.), the Furusato Tax* was re-established in Rikuzentakata, which had no choice but to halt those activities after the impact received from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

In its efforts toward reconstruction, Rikuzentakata has set up a Furusato Tax website called "Taka-Furu", which has gathered together many local goods. These will be given as gifts to those who donate over a certain amount to the city.

Rice and seafood goods are among the 76 selections prepared as donation gifts. A local vocational center specializing in giving jobs to people with disabilities in the city was tasked with packaging and shipping the products, so not only does this initiative promote local goods to the rest of the country, but it also plays a role in supporting the independence of people with disabilities.

The Furusato Tax will support children, revitalize the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries, encourage people to move to the area, aid community activities and NPOs, and in many ways make a great contribution to Rikuzentakata.

There is a Furusato Tax set up in each of the municipalities along Iwate's coast.

*Translates into "hometown tax" and is a quid pro quo system in which people can pay taxes (which can actually be seen more of as a donation) to municipalities or prefectures they don't live in exchange for local goods from that area.

Photo courtesy of Rikuzentakata City



Abalone from Hirota Bay



Rikuzentakata Brand Rice Takata no Yume (left)
Assortment box of seasonings (right)

Rikuzentakata Furusato Tax

Search

A New World Heritage Site is Confirmed!

The Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site is a part of the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution," a group of 23 sites important to the iron and steel manufacturing, shipbuilding, and coal mining industries. They were just recently registered as a joint World Heritage Site.

In Iwate, its registration follows the World Heritage Site of Hiraizumi's back in June 2011.



Kamaishi

News from Sanriku

The Season for Wild Hoya, the Pineapple of the Sea

The season for wild hoyo is fast approaching. Hoya are caught using a traditional diving technique, called Nanbu-Moguri, in which divers plunge into the sea with a copper helmet.

They dive 20-30m down into the waters of the wild hoyo, and pick them up one by one. Hoya are said to taste the best around August.



Hirono

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Yamada Children's Exchange Center

Yamada

The Yamada Children's Exchange Center (unofficial name) had its groundbreaking ceremony on June 28, 2015 (Sun.) at Yamada's Central Community Center. The center was drawn up by the Yamada Children Community Development Club after much discussion with the community and public administration.

The exchange center will have a play area and a library, and there are plans to make the facility available to the locals as well. It will be located in the center of the town.

About 120 people were in attendance for the ceremony, which consisted of members of the Children Community Development Club and others involved with it from both within and outside of the town. The design of the center was presented at the ceremony, and a groundbreaking ritual occurred to pray for safety during the building's construction.

The center is the result of an idea dreamed up by the Yamada Children Community Development Club (formed by NGO Save the Children Japan with the children from Yamada), and is built with the help of donations from Suntory Holdings Limited, which has paid for the construction fees in full. When construction on the facility is completed, they plan to present it to the town of Yamada.



The groundbreaking ceremony
(photo courtesy of Yamada Tourism Association)

International Exchange of Music and Arts Between Otsuchi and Taiwanese High School Students

Otsuchi

On June 29, 2015 (Mon.), students from Liou-Guei Senior High School in Kaohsiung, Taiwan visited Otsuchi and met with the students of Otsuchi High School (Principal Masaaki Odashima, 238 students total) for a music and arts exchange.

Kaohsiung received damage from a typhoon that hit in 2009. Students of Liou-Guei Senior High School planned this event with Otsuchi because "We want to share the experiences we've had as survivors of similar disasters, and we want to support the disaster affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami."

233 students from Otsuchi High School and a total of 75 people from Liou-Guei Senior High School (students from the choir group and taiko club, teachers, and other related people) attended the event.

The Taiwanese students wore their vivid traditional clothes and had a taiko and choir performance, and in response, the students from Otsuchi had a brass band performance and performed the local traditional Tiger Dance. Through displays of their respective cultures, they were able to cross over language barriers and deepen the exchange between the two countries.



High school students from Liou-Guei Senior High School in Kaohsiung, Taiwan
(photo courtesy of Tsuchioto Project)

Big Summertime Events

7/25

SAT

Taneichi Seaside Park Fireworks Show

Hirono

Taneichi Seaside Park (Hirono)

A fireworks display on the endlessly white, sandy beaches of Taneichi Seaside Park. The reflection of the fireworks on the sea looks magical.

Contact ■ Planning Committee: 0194-65-5916

7/30

THU

Port Call to Sailing Vessel Nipponmaru

Miyako

Fujiwara Wharf (Miyako)

The sailing vessel Nipponmaru will enter Miyako Port.

Contact ■ Miyako City Industry Promotion Department
Industries Support Center: 0193-62-2111

8/3

MON

Sanriku-Ofunato Summer Festival

Ofunato

Within Ofunato

One of Tohoku's biggest beach festivals with 8,000 fireworks lit into the sky and a parade with the Tanabata naval fleet.

Contact ■ The Ofunato Chamber of Commerce & Industry:
0192-26-2141

8/1

SAT

Morioka Sansa Odori Festival

Morioka

Morioka City Chuodori Street (Morioka)

One of the festivals that represents the Tohoku region.

Summer nights in Morioka are filled with about 20,000 dancers, 2,000 flutes, and several thousands of taiko drums.

Contact ■ Planning Committee: 019-624-5880

8/4

TUE

8/2

SUN

The Northernmost Ama Festival

Kuji

Around Kosode Beach (Kuji)

Held with the magnificent view of the northern part of the Rikuchu Kaigan at the beautiful Kosode Beach.

Live diving performances by ama, stalls selling cheap sea urchin soup (ichigo-ni), traditional arts performances by the local children, and so on.

Contact ■ Planning Committee: 0194-52-2123

8/7

FRI

Kesen-cho Kenka (Fighting) Tanabata Festival

Rikuzentakata

Within Kesen-cho (Rikuzentakata)

A lively festival where people latch onto festival floats made of cedar logs over 50 years old and crash into other festival floats.

Contact ■ Rikuzentakata City Tourism and Local Products Association: 0192-54-2111

8/8

SAT

Kamaishi Yoisa Festival

Kamaishi

Main street (Kamaishi)

Summer in Kamaishi equals dancing with loud, enthusiastic shouting!

Contact ■ Planning Committee Office: 080-8218-0098

8/14

FRI

Yamada Fireworks Show

Yamada

Around Yamada Fish Market (Yamada)

A fireworks show held during the Obon holiday.

There will be food and drink stalls as well as stage events at the venue.

Contact ■ Yamada Town Youth Leagues of Societies of Commerce and Industry: 0193-82-2515

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of June 30, 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 June 30, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.39738 billion (91,638 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.68654 billion (7,378 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.63508 billion (15,843 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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