News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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



Volume 122

February 15, 2017

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.

Construction work is continuing on the coast despite the cold weather, and there's a real sense of progress.

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

Construction of Iwate's Largest Seawall Almost Complete

Rikuzentakata

The Prefectural Government has almost finished construction of the largest seawall in Iwate. The 12.5m tall, 2,000m long wall is located in Rikuzentakata, which suffered severe damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The previous seawall had two sections, a 3m wall on the ocean side, and a 5.5m wall on the inland side. However, both were destroyed by the 17m tsunami wave, which

also wiped out a pine grove and sandy beach. Construction of the new seawall, which began in March 2013, is now 90% complete. It is also made up of two sections. The first, next to the ocean, is 3m tall and 1,900m long. The second, which stands behind the first, is 12.5m tall and 2,000m long. Its dimensions are based on the typical height of tsunami

The next step is to build more seawalls at

that occur here every few decades.

regular intervals, which will eventually join up with the floodgates in Kesen River. Construction is due to be completed by March 2020.

Work is also progressing on a new sandy beach in front of the first wall, and a pine grove behind it. Construction of the "Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park", on the inland side, is due to be completed by March 2021.



The new seawall, next to the "Miracle Pine"



Construction of the floodgates in Kesen River



A view of the wall from above

Advance Screenings of the Iwate Reconstruction Dramas

6 locations

Iwate has created two dramas, "Japan's Smallest Bookstore" and "Winter Firefly", which tell stories from the reconstruction.

Advance screenings will be held in the prefecture before their television broadcast. Admission is free, but reservations (via the web, fax or postcard) are required.

Advance screening schedule

■ Ofunato

Time: March 4th (Sat) 13:30 Venue: Rias Hall

■ Kuji

Time: March 5th (Sun) 13:30

■ Kitakami

Time: March 5th (Sun) 13:00

Venue: Sakura Hall

Venue: Amber Hall

■ Miyako

Time: March 7th (Tue) 18:30 Venue: Miyako Public Hall

■ Ichinoseki

Time: March 8th (Wed) 18:30 Venue: Ichinoseki Culture Center

■Morioka

Time: March 10th (Fri) 18:30 Venue: Morioka Civic Cultural Hall



■Inquiries

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Mail:info@iwatefukkoudouga.jp

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

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

Free to Register!



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

Search

New Restaurant Facility Opens in Kamaishi

Kamaishi

On January 27th (Fri), 2017, an opening ceremony was held for "Kamaishi Isaribi Kamariba", a new restaurant complex. It's located in a central district of Kamaishi, which suffered damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The city hopes for this district to be a busy shopping hub.

The facility is a single-story, lightweight steel structure, with 3 connected sections and a total floor space of 394 m2. Its name, "Kamariba", was made by joining the phrase "Come to Kamaishi" with the word for "place".

The facility consists of 12 restaurants, which will open one-by-one before the end of April. Seven of these are run by disaster victims, including three that ran businesses in Kamaishi's well-known "Nonbe Alley", a drinking

area that was destroyed in the disaster. The remaining five restaurants are new businesses (including one yet to be decided).

The new facility will take over Nonbe Alley's role as one of Kamaishi's busiest areas.



The newly-built "Kamariba"

Hokugen Yuzu Apple Juice Now On Sale



On February 14th (Tue), 2017, a new product called "Hokugen Yuzu Apple Juice" was announced and put on sale. It's a blend of juices from Hokugen yuzu (a citrus fruit) and Yonesaki apples, which are both grown in Rikuzentakata.

The product was developed by the Ofunato Agriculture and Forestry Promotion Center, in order to raise awareness of Hokugen Yuzu, increase tourism, and expand the market for products made in the Kesen region. It was developed with the assistance of Megumi Onodera, head of Megumi Planning, and manufactured by Fureai Ichiba, a local farming association.

The product's only ingredients are Rikuzentakata's Hokugen yuzu, Yonesaki apples, and Kesen honey. The acidity of the yuzu matches the apple's

sweetness perfectly, giving the juice a rich, yet refreshing taste.

The price is ¥324 (including tax) per 200ml bottle. The juice is now on sale at farmer's markets and other stores in Rikuzentakata.



Hokugen Yuzu Apple Juice

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 67 introduces Mr. Kazuya Yoshino's efforts.

Originally from Kamagaya, Chiba.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami occurred, he was working at a website design company in Tokyo. He learned what happened in the disaster area by reading blog posts. In April 2011, he volunteered in Rikuzentakata and met many people. After returning home, he decided to get more involved and moved to Otsuchi in May that year. Since October 2016 he has been working on "Otsuchi Gourmet News", a magazine that comes with food.

A magazine connecting producers and consumers

"Otsuchi Gourmet News" is a quarterly magazine packaged together with food items. Subscribers are sent local foods like scallops and oysters, as well as a written description of their producers.

Mr. Yoshino puts a lot of effort into promoting local







Aramaki (NPO) Editor, Otsuchi Gourmet News

Kazuya Yoshino



"Don't say there's nothing special here!"

food. "Otsuchi people like to say there's nothing special in this town, but that's not true. Sanriku's seafood has a really good reputation in Tokyo and other prefectures. People should be proud of it," he said. The goal of his hard work is to get people to think, "I didn't realize my town was this wonderful!"

Mr. Yoshino spoke about the importance of building a bridge between producers and consumers. "Showcasing the producers is reassuring for consumers. It's a chance for people to learn about the ingredients, and rethink their opinions toward food,"

Think of Otsuchi as your home

Mr. Yoshino also spoke with enthusiasm about educating people, to help preserve the city's beautiful environment for the next generation.

"Lots of people visited after the disaster, but 6 years on we've become quite isolated. I hope "Gourmet News" can help renew that connection, so people can think of Otsuchi as another place to call home," he said.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Jan. 31, 2017

▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123

▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,077

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 Jan. 31, 2017

<u>Donations for survivors:</u> Around ¥18.5302 billion (94,345 donations)

<u>Donations for reconstruction projects:</u> Around ¥19.8551 billion (8,065 donations) <u>Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:</u> Around ¥8.7314 billion (19,643 donations)

> X This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

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