

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

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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. Snow has started to fall even in Iwate's flatlands, marking the beginning of winter at last. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Iwate Reconstruction Report

Taipei City

On November 10th, 2015 (Tue), a report on the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Iwate Reconstruction, subtitled "Giving thanks to our allies," was held at The Sherwood Taipei hotel in Taipei. Its purpose was to talk about the reconstruction measures taken so far, and to thank everyone in Taiwan for their help after the disaster.

This was the third overseas location to host such an event about the reconstruction. The first was New York in 2013, and the second was Paris in 2014.

The 200-strong audience included delegates from both Taiwan and Iwate. During the ceremony, Governor Tasso reported on the reconstruction measures Iwate has taken, and offered his thanks

for Taiwan's support. He then presented a memorial plaque to Lee Shih-bing, Deputy Counselor of the Association of East Asian Relations, and Wang Ching-feng, president of the Taiwan Red Cross Organization.

At the reception, guests were served wanko soba, mamebu soup, local sake, and other Iwate specialties. A series of display boards described the reconstruction's progress, and Iwate's collaborator efforts with Taiwan.

During his speech, Governor Tasso said, "I thought that the best way to express my thanks for your support would be to show you the current state of Iwate's reconstruction. I'd very much like to work

together again in the future." The guests were able to see just how determinedly Iwate is carrying out its reconstruction. It was a day on which Iwate and Taiwan's bonds were truly strengthened.

Besides providing assistance immediately after the disaster, Taiwan also contributed a significant amount of aid money, which is being used to build nurseries, kindergartens and emergency public housing.

Additionally, via reciprocal visits on chartered China Airlines flights, homestays programs and so on, Taiwan is conducting enthusiastic exchange on a civilian level. New bonds between the two regions are continually being built.



Governor Tasso making his report



Guests viewing the display boards



Scenes at the reception

ENERGY Support Service

Morioka

At the Mental Health and Welfare Center in Morioka, a new support service has been set up for people who lost family members in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The loss of a loved one can result in long-term depression and denial, leading to complicated grief with severe effects on both the mind and body. These issues require specialized care by trained professionals.

That treatment will be provided with a new program called "ENERGY," which takes place on alternate Saturdays for a total of 5 sessions. It provides psychological and social support to bereaved family members by putting them in contact with psychiatrists, nurses, clinical psychotherapists and other specialists, in order for them to confront their grief and return a sense of normalcy.

It has been four years and nine months since the disaster. Life has irrevocably changed, and unease about the future can bring about feelings of isolation. We welcome anyone who may need these services to make an application.

- ▼Times: In principle, every other Saturday, 5 times in total, 10:00-12:00.
- ▼Location: Mental Health and Welfare Center, 4F (Morioka, Honcho-dori, 3-19-1).
- ▼Applications: Please call to apply in advance.
- ▼Contact: Mental Health and Welfare Center (Ueda/Sasaki), Mon-Fri, 9:00-16:30.
- ☎ 019-629-9617



ENERGY support service

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!



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.

For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and help support us!

Iwate Oendan*

Search

Free to Register!
*Information available only in Japanese

The First City Marathon Since the Disaster

Rikuzentakata

On November 15th, 2015 (Sun), the "Road to Recovery" Rikuzentakata marathon was hosted by the city's Board of Education and Athletic Association. Around 800 participants from in and outside Rikuzentakata ran through the rebuilt city.

The marathon used to take place every year, but it was suspended after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Thanks to the extensive support of sporting goods manufacturer Adidas Japan (Minato, Tokyo), the marathon was held for the first time since the disaster.

Roughly 450 of the participants were from Rikuzentakata, and 350 came from somewhere else. People of all ages competed in one of four courses: 10km, 5km, 3km and 1.5km.

Crowds lined up on the roadside to cheer on the runners, who had messages of support for Rikuzentakata attached to their backs.



The participants at the starting line
(Photo: Rikuzentakata City)

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 49 introduces Mr. Nakamura's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Osaka.

Shortly after graduating, he began working for a Tokyo trading company as an importer of semiconductors and other computer parts.

In April 2013, he moved to Kamaishi to join "Kamaentai," a group that supports the reconstruction and promotes local development.

Currently, as the Managing Director of the newly-established company KAMAROQ, he promotes local products and businesses.

Supporting business in the local community

Mr. Nakamura also works as the Managing Director of KAMAROQ while also supporting the reconstruction and promoting local development as a member of Kamaentai.

KAMAROQ was set up by six people in Kamaishi, with the concept of linking and contributing to local businesses. These include seafood processing companies, Japanese sweet shops, sake makers, soy sauce makers and fishermen.

One project, which is based on sixth-sector industrialization



KAMAROQ
Managing Director

Hiromitsu Nakamura



"Protecting goods is the bottom.
Protecting business is the middle.
Protecting people is the top."

Miyako-Muroran Short Ferry Cruise

Miyako

On November 15th, 2015 (Sun), Miyako City organized a short ferry cruise. It was just one of the events taking place to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the harbor's opening.

The cruise was also intended to promote the upcoming ferry route between Miyako and Muroran (Hokkaido), which is due to open in spring 2018. The ship, Silver Queen (134m, 7,005t), was chartered from Kawasaki Kinkai Kisen (Chiyoda, Tokyo), the company that will run the route. The boat carried 500 passengers for the event; 300 city residents and 200 other participants.

The cruise was a 2-hour return journey from Fujiwara Wharf, in Miyako Harbor, to the coast of Omoto, in Iwaizumi. It was a short but enjoyable trip.

The 325km route between Miyako and Muroran is projected to take 10 hours roundtrip. The service will run once a day. The ferry is expected to have a positive impact on tourism and distribution.



Silver Queen (Photo: Miyako City)

(the policy of combining farming, processing and distribution), is the improvement and sale of a new seafood cake. It's called "Kamaishi Kaiman," and it embodies the taste of the Sanriku coast.

"I want people to have pride in "Kamaishi Kaiman" as a souvenir of the region," Mr. Nakamura said. He pointed to it as an example of how participating businesses can work together to build on their strengths.

Contributing positively

Mr. Nakamura gave his thoughts about local development. "If we increase the number of people who contribute positively to Kamaishi, then the town can continue on, even if the population decreases. It gives children who leave the option of coming back. A good town is full of committed, hard-working people. Kamaishi has lots of these people, and by linking them together, I think we can point the way towards reconstruction."

There are high hopes that this forward-thinking attempt to link local businesses will have a positive effect on local development.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Oct. 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,126
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,165

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 Oct. 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.41415 billion (92,208 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.71038 billion (7,503 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.77931 billion (16,429 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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