

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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September 15, 2015

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 rice plants are ripening to a carpet of gold that spreads across the landscape amid the rains of this autumn season.

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

The 4th Tohoku Geopark Forum

Kuji

On August 28th and 29th, 2015 (Fri-Sat), the 4th Tohoku Geopark Forum (organized by the Iwate Sanriku Geopark Promotion Conference) was held in Kuji. The event brought people involved with Tohoku Geoparks together in order to encourage cooperation and to further promote the region. Around 200 people attended.

In the keynote speech, Professor Setsuya Nakada of the University of Tokyo's Earthquake Research Institute gave his thoughts about the Sanriku Geopark in comparison with other Geoparks around the world. At the following workshop, attendees discussed the park's challenges and had an active

exchange of ideas for promoting Tohoku's Geoparks.

On the second day, attendees joined one of three excursions to the Sanriku Geopark. At each Geosite they heard from a local guide and saw Sanriku's magnificent scenery with their own eyes.

The event will give a boost to the five regions aiming to be certified as Geoparks (Shimokita Peninsula, Mt. Kurikoma Area, Mt. Chokai & Tobishima Island, Mt. Zao and Mt. Gassan), and raised expectations for the reconstruction and its effect on tourism to the Sanriku Geopark.



Professor Nakada giving his lecture



Attendees listening to a guide's explanation



The Sanriku Food Court in KAMAISHI & B-1 Grand Prix!

Kamaishi

On August 29th and 30th, 2015 (Sat-Sun), crowds of people attended a local food festival called the "Sanriku Food Court (Gurutto Shokudo) in KAMAISHI & B-1 Grand Prix", which was held at Sea-Plaza-Yu in Suzukocho, Kamaishi.

The event's aim was to share information about the Sanriku Coast, which is in the midst of reconstruction following the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami. This was the first time the event was held in the Sanriku region, and was accredited by the Ai-B League, organizers of Japan's largest town-revitalization event "B-1 Grand Prix."

There were 15 stalls altogether: three from Kamaishi, one each from Iwaizumi, Miyako, Otsuchi, Sumita and Ofunato, and seven others from all over the country that have attended

the B-1 Grand Prix before. Each stall showed off the gourmet food of their region, and the visitors ate their fill.

A display of Kamaishi's traditional Tiger Dance and a performance by the city's wind orchestra brought a lively atmosphere to the event.



The event venue



The Tiger Dance

Marine Tourism Yamada is Back!

Yamada

News
from
Sanriku

Due to the heavy damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, "Marine Tourism Yamada" had to put its activities on hold. However, the entire roster of activities has now started up again, including cruises in the Yamada Bay, walks on the uninhabited Holland Island, and trying your hand at oyster and scallop farming while hanging out with local fishermen.

※Available April-October / Reservations required one week in advance.

【Contact】Yamada Town Tourism Association ☎ 0193-84-3775



Limited Time Only! Direct Bus Service Between Miyako and Kamaishi

Miyako, Yamada, Otsuchi, Kamaishi

On September 5, 2015 (Sat.), the Coastal Regional Development Bureau of the prefectural government started a direct bus service (run by Iwate Kenpoku Bus) between Miyako and Kamaishi.

The JR Yamada train line (Miyako Station to Kamaishi Station) was suspended as a result of the damage it received from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. This has been quite an issue with residents and tourists, who say that it's very inconvenient trying to travel up and down along the Sanriku Coastline. With the approach of the fall tourist season, this bus service will make transportation between the northern and southern areas of the coast more convenient.

This service will be available for a limited time this year on weekends from September 5 (Sat.) to November 29 (Sun.), as well as on November 2 (Mon.). Reservations are not required. A one-way fare for middle school students and up is 1,500 yen, and 750 yen for elementary school students and younger.

The trip lasts 1 hour and 50 minutes, and there are 2 round-trip buses a day. The bus stops in front of Kamaishi Station, Sanriku Hana Hotel Hamagiku, Michi-no-Eki Yamada (a rest stop), Yamada

Tourism and Products Center Totto (only for Miyako-bound buses), Miyako Station, and Jodogahama Park Hotel.

From Kamaishi to Miyako, there is a 15-minute stop at Yamada Tourism and Products Center Totto. You can purchase scallops, oysters and other special local products from the Sanriku area.

Buses from Miyako to Kamaishi also stop for 15 minutes at Sanriku Hana Hotel Hamagiku. From the garden terrace of the hotel, you can enjoy the view of the Namiita Coast.

While improving the convenience of travel between Miyako and Kamaishi, the direct bus service also provides a transportation system that connects the Sanriku Railway North and South Rias lines. It is hoped that this will have a positive effect on tourism around the whole Sanriku coast of Iwate Prefecture.

■Contact■ Iwate Kenpoku Bus Miyako Eki-mae Information Desk

☎ 0193-62-3620

Iwate Kenpoku Bus Miyako Office ☎ 0193-64-6060

Kamaishi		Bus Stop	Miyako	
10:15	16:00	Kamaishi Station (eki-mae)	9:40	15:40
10:55	16:40	Sanriku Hana Hotel Hamagiku	9:00	15:00
11:05	16:50	Michi-no-Eki Yamada	8:35	14:35
11:30	17:15	Yamada Tourism and Products Center Totto		
12:05	17:55	Miyako Station (eki-mae)	7:50	13:50
12:25	18:15	Jodogahama Park Hotel	7:30	13:30



Bus leaving Kamaishi Station



View from the bus

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 44 introduces Ms. Rieko Hiradate's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Otsuchi.

After graduating from university, she found a job in Morioka as a cameraman assistant.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, she signed up for a project related to Otsuchi's ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

In May 2013, she returned to Otsuchi, where she began to work with much determination with KAI OTSUCHI. She is currently actively working with projects related to ICT.

Contribute to the region with ICT

At the time of the disaster, Ms. Hiradate was working in Morioka. The difference between the inland areas and the disaster-stricken areas on the coast was striking, and had her wondering what she could possibly do to help out the coastal regions. It was then that she heard that Otsuchi was looking to recruit an intern for an ICT-related project. Deciding that this was a good opportunity to use her experience with photography and design, she signed up for the position.

People for SANRIKU'S Future

KAI OTSUCHI Co. Ltd.

Chief Director

Rieko Hiradate



"Making Otsuchi an ICT education hub!!"

In July, 2015, KAI OTSUCHI received a request from Otsuchi to develop a smartphone app called "Otsuchi Oh! TSUCHI!!" The app provides tourism information about Otsuchi, as well as evacuation guidance in times of emergencies.

Aim to make the town into an ICT education hub

Besides the app, Ms. Hiradate is also using design software to convert Otsuchi's rebuilding plans into 3D. She is enthusiastic, saying, "I think we're just starting to see the visible effects of the reconstruction work. It's not easy to get to Sanriku from Tokyo, but I think it's possible to use networks to build the region. There are a lot of 'ICT towns,' but there are very few ICT education hubs. Otsuchi has put together an ICT association, so I want Otsuchi to become an ICT education hub in the future."

There are high hopes for this modern and unique form of community development.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of August 31, 2015

- ▶Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,164

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 August 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.431 billion (91,932 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.68777 billion (7,429 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.68855 billion (16,125 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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