

Foreword



On March 11, 2011, a great many precious lives and property were stolen from us by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the massive tsunami and aftershocks that followed.

In Iwate Prefecture, 4,672 people along the southern coast were killed, and there are still 1,130 people missing. The most extensive damage occurred mainly in the coastal areas.

On April 11, 2011, one month after this great disaster, turning toward reconstruction, we formulated the “Basic Policy for Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.” This policy puts in place two principles: first, to ensure the survivors’ livelihood, education, and work, as well as to protect the pursuit of happiness for each individual; and second, to keep the love the victims had for their hometown.

Based on this policy, we established the “Iwate Prefecture Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction Plan” in August 2011. The entire plan runs from 2011 until 2018, for a total of 8 years. As a prefecture, we are determined in saying that this is the last tsunami that will steal lives. We aspire to protect lives, live together with the sea and land, and rebuild our hometowns of Iwate and Sanriku. We will use all of our power to promote reconstruction on the principles of “ensuring safety,” “rebuilding lives,” and “reclaiming livelihoods.”

In the aftermath of this earthquake, we have received support from many different people. From within Japan and also from abroad, people have sent a vast amount of supplies and donations. Many have also visited the disaster-affected areas to serve in rescue operations and help victims. I would like to once again express my gratitude for this global goodwill and support.

In March 2015, Sendai will hold the 2015 UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This conference is very important for Iwate, as it puts us in the position to not only express our gratitude for the assistance we have received, but also to show the world the advanced case studies of Iwate’s reconstruction and disaster risk reduction efforts, and to ask for continued support from the international community.

In an effort to contribute to the improvement of disaster risk reduction around the world, we have compiled in this booklet lessons learned in light of the earthquake and tsunami, as well as proposals for disaster risk reduction and cases of reconstruction in Iwate Prefecture, which has been so badly affected by the disaster.

In Iwate, we hope to contribute to the improvement of disaster risk reduction at home and abroad, and we turn toward realizing our dreams of rebuilding to catch up to the future, while placing importance on the underlying strength of our hometowns and the power of connections. We ask for your ongoing support and cooperation as we continue to work together, united.

Takuya Tasso, Governor of Iwate Prefecture

達増拓也