Typhoon No. 10 - Record-Breaking Rainfall Brings Great Damage to the Coast

Just before 6 PM on August 30th, 2016 (Tue), the large and powerful Typhoon No. 10 made landfall in the Ofunato area. In 1 hour, there was 80 ml of rainfall in Miyako and Kuji, and 70.5 ml in Iwaiizumi. In Miyako, winds reached a maximum velocity of 37.7 meters per second.

20 people were found dead in the overflow of the riverbanks, with 4 missing (as of September 13, 2016). In addition, roughly 1,100 people were left stranded in Kuji and Iwaiizumi due to landslides. Many homes were completely or partially destroyed, with floods both above and below floor level.

Residents had no access to electricity, water, and telephones, as many of these utilities were significantly damaged during the disaster.

As for the road network, 122 spots along 55 roads (including the main national highway) were damaged. Roads were quickly repaired, so everything was reopened along route 106 (between Morioka and Miyako) by 5 PM on September 10th, 2016 (Sat). However, there are still roads with traffic restrictions, and work is underway to finish repairs as soon as possible.

The total cost of Typhoon No. 10's damage within the prefecture is ¥89.996bn. This includes damage to road construction and other civil engineering projects, as well as agriculture, forestry and fishing industries. The total is expected to increase after upcoming inspections.
Results from the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey #2 for 2016

Iwate Prefecture conducts the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey in order to periodically measure Iwate’s reconstruction progress from the earthquake and tsunami. The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every three months. Here are some key points extracted from the results of the second survey this year (conducted in July 2016).

Have the lives of the survivors recovered?  
“Fully recovered” or “Mostly recovered”: 73.8% (last time: 73.2%)  
There was praise for the ongoing relocation of people into new homes. However, there was also concern regarding support for the elderly in their new homes.

How do you feel about the recovery of the local economy?  
“Fully recovered” or “Mostly recovered”: 57.0% (last time: 54.3%)  
Some people have noted that the local economy has gradually been improving. However, there is also concern at the amount of young people leaving the prefecture, the decreasing population, and the insufficient number of care workers.

How do you feel about the disaster mitigation measures?  
“Satisfactory” or “Mostly satisfactory”: 42.2% (last time: 38.8%)  
Some were happy at the steady progress on the sea barrier construction and coastal roads. However, others said that, as 5 years have passed since the disaster, we need to worry about the obstacles preventing the rebuilding of our communities.

Thanking the world during the Flag Handover Ceremony

On August 22nd, 2016 (Mon), the handing over of the Olympic flag to Tokyo took place at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Closing Ceremony. During a performance that shared Tokyo/Japan with the whole world, people entered the field of the venue and lined up to form the word for “Thanks” in Japanese, English, French, and Portuguese.

This “thanks” was meant to show gratitude for 3 things - for the help received from all over the world after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, choosing Tokyo as the next host for the Olympics, and for the amazing Olympic games at Rio de Janeiro. About 10,000 children and students from 27 schools in the 3 disaster-affected prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima) and Tokyo attended the event. From Iwate, students from Otsuchi Gakuen (Otsuchi) and Takata High School (Rikuzentakata) participated.

They will appear during the Paralympics Closing Ceremony on September 19th (Mon) as well.

Donations towards damage caused by Typhoon No. 10

Iwate Prefecture (Donation period: September 5, 2016 - October 31, 2016)  
【Japanese Red Cross Society Iwate Prefecture Branch】
< Iwate Bank Main Branch >
Account Number: Futsuu 0500445  
Account Holder: Nihon Sekijuuji Iwateken Shibushibuchou Tasso Takaya  
Community Chest of Iwate Prefecture>
<Yucho Bank>
Account Number: 00130-2-387497  
(019-ten touza ginkou)*This info is needed when using other bank’s ATMs or internet banking.
Account Holder: Iwate Kyoudou Bokinbai Taiifuu 10gou Ooame Saigai Gienkin  
< Iwate Bank Main Branch >
Account Number: Futsuu 2241853  
Account Holder: Shikai fukushi houjin Iwateken Kyoudou Bokinbai Iwateken

Young students from Otsuchi Gakuen lining up to form letters (photo: Otsuchi Town)

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of August 31, 2016

- Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123
- Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075

To make a donation to aid in Iwate’s reconstruction:

Thank you for all your support!  
As of August 31, 2016

- Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.5313 billion (93,724 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.77904 billion (7,837 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.51776 billion (18,168 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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