

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 134  
February 2018 Edition

## 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.

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

## The Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum

MORIOKA - OFUNATO - RIKUZENTAKATA

Three cities, Morioka, Ofunato, and Rikuzentakata, hosted an Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum (organized by Iwate Prefecture and the Iwate Tomorrow Design Organization). The forum was held to further learn about the reconstruction progress, to prevent memories of the disaster from being forgotten, and to promote the local regions to encourage more recognition.

### Overall 200 people participated

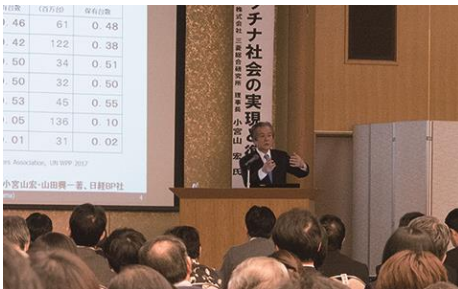
The general conference was held in Espoir Iwate (Morioka) on the 27th (Sat) with an overall 200 local and non-local participants. Participants engaged in envisioning the prefecture's ideal future with the reconstruction.

Governor Tasso addressed the conference with, "Seven years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. With this forum's commencement, I once again commit to further endeavor towards a prosperous future for Iwate."

A lecture by Mr. Hiroshi Komiyama from Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. followed afterwards. He strongly urged the importance of also building a "platinum society" in which residents can express themselves freely with a better quality of life. Then, a choir group from the Kozukata High School performed four songs as emotional support to the survivors of the disaster. Their beautiful, clear voices filled the hall and moved the audience.

At the end, a panel discussion was held regarding community involvement

in the local regions and to define its roles during a disaster. Four special guests were invited as keynote speakers of the discussion: Mariko Yamazaki, manager of the Chuetsu Organization for a Safe and Secure Society in Niigata Prefecture, Keiichi Sasaki, chairman of the Ando District Neighborhood Association in Otsuchi Town, Yutaka Ninomiya, executive manager of the Kamaishi Regional Coordinator's Council (aka Kamaentai) in Kamaishi City, and similarly from Otsuchi Town, Executive Director Yushi Oyama from the Office of Disaster Investigation.



Lecture from Mr. Komiyama



Speakers during the panel discussion



Governor Tasso poses for a photo with the Kozukata High School Choir Group

### Status Report of the Inland and Coastal Regions

On the 26th (Fri), a status report of the inland region was held in Morioka City. Several themes were discussed during the report, such as the current situation of the disaster-affected areas, the physical and mental care of the survivors (by Yoko Hanasaki, technical manager and executive health manager of the Ofunato Health and Welfare Environment Center), and on activities in a temporary housing complex with community support (by Takashi Kikuchi, former head of the Hirata 6 Housing Complex Association in Kamaishi City).

Disaster Support Members from Nagano,

Hokkaido, Saitama, Tokyo, and Okinawa prefectures also presented their report.

For reports of the coastal region held in Ofunato and Rikuzentakata, support staff from Osaka presented on disaster recovery. Then, President Toru Hiji of Kyassen Ofunato Co., Ltd. talked about the efforts made in building a new urban area, and Representative Director Nobuaki Sasaki (from SAVE TAKATA Co.) discussed how he was further beyond the reconstruction.

There was also a tour to visit the Ofunato seawall construction site and repair works of the Suzaki River.

Additionally, at the Tochigasawa Apartment (maintained by the prefecture) in Rikuzentakata, an opinion exchange meeting was held with members of the apartment's neighborhood association.



An opinion exchange meeting at the Tochigasawa Apartment

## 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. (Information only available in Japanese.)

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

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Iwate Ooendan

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## Construction starts on the last remaining public housing in Kamaishi

KAMAISHI

On January 19 (Fri), 2018, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the future site of the Hamacho Public Housing for Disaster Survivors in the eastern district of Kamaishi City, to pray for its safe completion. Within the city, this will be the last of the scheduled construction, including the other 47 housing complexes (total 1,316 homes) built, with assistance from the prefectural government. This last housing complex will be a 5-story steel-framed concrete structure standing on a 7-meter raised ground.

Construction will be completed by December of this year on 31 units (including 1LDK and 2LDK type rooms). By the end of January 2018, construction has finished on 1,214 units out of total 1,316 (92.2%, includes buildings the prefectural government was responsible for).

The remaining 5 complexes (102 units) will be done in order of April, May, and October 2018. The city would have accomplished all construction of the public housing complexes for disaster survivors when this final project concludes in December.



Concept art of the complex  
(Photo: Kamaishi City)



Ground-breaking ceremony at the construction site  
(Photo: Kamaishi City)

## New tunnel opens in Kuzakai on border of Morioka/Miyako

MORIOKA/MIYAKO

Tunneling work of a new route connecting Morioka and Miyako in an effort to support reconstruction was completed, and an opening ceremony was held on January 11, 2018 (Thu). The tentatively named Kuzakai Tunnel connects both cities at their border, making it the prefecture's longest tunnel at 4,998 meters. The current route uses National Highway 106, which has multiple sharp curves/slopes and difficult conditions on heavy snow days. However, once this new tunnel is accessible, travel times are expected to shorten from 9 to 3 min.

The tunnel is expected to ensure safer traffic, speed up access for reconstruction efforts and emergency services, improve logistics, increase cultural exchange opportunities, and create a much smoother link between the inland and coastal regions.

At the ceremony, held inside the tunnel, several activities entertained the participants, with children splitting open kusudama (decorative paper ball), a mikoshi parade of the sake barrel followed by a kagamiwari ritual to open the same barrel, and a kenbai dance performance by the Tashiro Nenbutsu Kenbai Preservation Committee of Miyako.

There is still much work to do, such as applying concrete pavement and building tunnel facilities, but the overall construction is expected to finish by 2020.



Opening ceremony inside the tunnel (Photo: Miyako City)

## A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in Iwate Prefecture 2011.3.11

Miyako

What happened that day? In this section, we will be looking back at the disaster in each coastal town.



A large tsunami hits the Taro region  
(Photo: Iwate Construction Corp. Council)



Aftermath of the disaster  
(Photo: Tohoku Regional Development Bureau)

- Tsunami Height
  - 16.3m Taro Coast
  - 11.6m Miyako Bay
  - 21.8m Omoe Coast
- Deaths 420
- Missing 94
- Destroyed Buildings 4,005



### ■A Town of Tsunami Disaster Prevention - The Damage in Taro Region

The Taro region (formerly Taro Town) was the hardest hit amongst the Miyako City coastal area. This region is known for frequently suffering from tsunami in the past. Based on these experiences, the #1 (1,350m), the #2 (582m), and the #3 (501m) breakwaters were constructed. In addition to adding another 2,433m tide breakwater, other precautionary measures were implemented, such as educating the importance of disaster preparation and carrying out tsunami evacuation drills.

Despite all efforts, the force of the tsunami was so unexpectedly tremendous that it broke through all the breakwaters and struck the city. Most of the buildings were washed away, and many souls perished in the waves.



The Taro Tourist Hotel preserved as a commemoration of the disaster



The Sanno Park built in the Taro region

## Noda Middle School students visit Taiwan

NODA

For five days between January 6 (Sat) and 10 (Wed) 2018, a group of students from Noda Middle School visited Taiwan. The visit was part of the build-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & Paralympics. Disaster-hit towns are conducting exchange with foreign countries, in order to thank them for the help they provided in the wake of the disaster.

Four students participated in the trip. There were three second-years, Sota Nozaki, Yushin Hashimoto and Himika Osawa, and one first-year, Hina Futamata. The students expressed their gratitude to the Taipei Zhongzheng Rotary Club, who donated taiko drums to Noda Middle School, and the Taipei Fu Ling Rotary Club, which donated instruments and sports equipment to Noda Elementary School. They conducted further exchange by visiting the Taiwan Athletics Association and the National Training Centre, and conducting interviews with the athletes. In the future, there are plans to invite a group from Taiwan to visit Noda. The students would show them the progress of the reconstruction, and give them a taiko drum performance.

(Photos: Noda Board of Education)



A student conducts interviews at the National Training Centre.



The students meet the Taipei Fu Ling Rotary Club.

## Tickets for the 2019 Rugby World Cup™ in Japan Iwate Citizens' Preferential Ticket Lottery Applications Begin

The 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan will take place in September 2019. Applications for the Iwate Citizens' Preferential Ticket Lottery will be accepted from March 19 (Mon). The World Cup is held once every four years. It's the most prestigious tournament in the rugby world, and it attracts keen attention from around the globe. This is the first time it has been held in Asia. 20 teams will compete in 48 matches in 12 host cities. The ticket lottery is for people living in Iwate, who want to buy tickets for the Kamaishi matches.

The Kamaishi Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium (name TBC) will be the only venue hosting matches in an area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. On September 25, 2019 (Wed) it will host Fiji vs Uruguay, and on October 13 (Sun) it will host the highest qualifying African team vs the Repechage winner.

The Iwate Citizens' Preferential Ticket Lottery Application Period:

March 19 (Mon) 2018 – April 12 (Thurs) 2018

To apply, visit: [tickets.rugbyworldcup.com](http://tickets.rugbyworldcup.com)

Lottery Results Announcement: April 26 (Thurs) 2018



The Countdown Board and Rugby Sobacchi, in Morioka Station



## Sanriku Event Information



3/4

Sun

### The 16th Horsehair Crab Festival MIYAKO

Venue: Miyako Fish Market

In Miyako, you know winter is here when you can eat horsehair crab. This festival will have crab sales, crab fishing and a crab auction, as well as free crab soup (for the first 300 people).

A shuttle bus will operate between Miyako Station and the venue.

Inquiries Miyako Tourism & Culture Exchange Association  
☎ 0193-62-3534

3/10

Sat

### Rikuzentakata RIKUZEN Winter Fun at the TAKATA Carpentry Museum

Venue: Kesen Carpentry and Folklore Museum

This event will feature a plethora of exciting attractions, including a limited giveaway of local food, candlelight decorations and a mini folk concert. A free shuttle service to the venue will operate from locations like Capital Hotel 1000 in the city centre's main square.

Inquiries Kesen Carpentry and Folklore Museum  
☎ 0192-56-2911

3/10

Sat

### Hirono Makiba Observatory – HIRONO Night's Sky Workshop

Venue: Hirono Makiba Observatory

At the Winter 2007 Continuous Night Sky Observation Festival, this was chosen as Japan's best place to view the night sky. Using its reflecting telescope, you can see numerous astronomical objects. The theme of this workshop is, "Winter and spring constellations, and the Milky Way in winter. Let's enjoy the galaxy!"

Inquiries Hirono Makiba Observatory ☎ 0194-77-3377  
Ohno Furusato Official Residence ☎ 0194-77-3202

3/11

Sun

### Sanriku Railways' "Disaster Education Train" Deadline: March 5

In order to coincide with Memorial Day on March 11th, IGR Tourism and Sanriku Railways are collaborating on a public "Disaster Education Train". There are two courses, both departing from Morioka. On the first course, passengers will change onto the special train at Kuji, on the North Rias Line. On the second course, passengers will change at Sakari, on the South Rias Line. Sanriku staff will offer a guide service on board.

North Rias Line Course

~Views of the northern sea. Step-by-step towards restoration~  
Morioka (7:32 departure) → Ninohe → Noda [disaster guide] → Kuji: Sanriku Railways' "Disaster Education Train" → Taro area [views from the train window] → Jodogahama → Miyako → Morioka West Exit (19:25 arrival)

Inquiry: IGR Tourism ☎ 019-601-9991

South Rias Line Course

~Gazing into the future, from the path of the reconstruction~  
Morioka West Exit (7:30 departure) → Rikuzentakata [Takata Matsubara, an old roadside station] [Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Memorial] [The Miracle Pine] → Kesen Carpentry and Folklore Museum / The Light of Hope → Seagull Terrace → Sakari: Sanriku Railways' "Disaster Education Train" → Kamaishi → Yamada / Whale & Sea Science Museum → Miyako → Morioka West Exit (19:45 arrival)

3/18

Sun

### Central KUJI "Thank you" Market

Venue: Central Kuji

A sale taking place in the 70+ shops in central Kuji. As you shop, you'll get raffle tickets, so you could win extra prizes!

Inquiries Kuji Chamber of Commerce  
☎ 0194-52-1000



Sanriku and Ofunato are hosting the 21st Camellia Festival to coincide with the peak of spring. You can enjoy the colours, forms and smells of the season at this flower show, featuring 600 camellias of 550 different types, from 13 countries around the world.

The 21st Sanriku & Ofunato Camellia Festival

Dates: Feb 10 (Sat) – March 18 (Sun)

At the "World Camellia Gallery at Goishi", next to Ofunato's most well-known tourist spot, the Goishi Coast, you can enjoy camellias from around the world. The venue will host the "21st Camellia Festival" between February and March, to coincide with the peak of the camellia season.

Mr. Hayashida, the gallery's director, said, "Wild camellias are plentiful in the Ofunato region. In the past, besides using the flowers, people would also extract oil from the seeds, and use it in their cooking. At the "World Camellia Gallery at Goishi" you can enjoy camellias during the winter, but as we approach the flower's peak season, I'd particularly like to invite people to visit." Various events will be held each Sunday during the festival, such as a fun stamp collecting and quiz activity. Participants will be entered into a lottery, and each month five lucky people will go home with a special prize.

Festival Events

Feb 25 (Sun): Camellia oil extraction workshop / tofu vegetable chowder and camellia dumpling giveaway / camellia crepe sale

March 4 (Sun): Flower planting workshop / local confectionery sale / tea service

March 11 (Sun): Flower planting workshop / Camellia oil extraction workshop / camellia crepe sale

March 18 (Sun): Camellia cuisine giveaway

\*Planned for March: Camellia oil hand massage / Camellia handicraft workshop

Dates: Feb 10 (Sat) – March 18 (Sun)

Opening times: 9am – 5pm

Venue: World Camellia Gallery at Goishi

Address: Ohama 280-1, Massaki-cho, Ofunato, Iwate

Admission: Adults / High School Students ¥500; Elementary / Junior High Students ¥300

Inquiries: Camellia Festival Executive Office (Agriculture and Forestry Division; Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Department; Ofunato City Government)

☎ 0192-27-3111 (Internal line: 7123)



A camellia in the peak season

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 79 introduces Ms. Shoko Sato's efforts.



Fisheries Division, Ofunato City Government
Local Revitalization Volunteer Group
Ms. Sato Shoko

Ms. Sato is working hard to promote her new home city. "I think a lot of people heard Ofunato's name after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but there's still a lot they don't know. The image of the disaster is strong, so they get the impression that the city's still in a lackluster state. In fact, the fishermen are working with a huge, positive energy, and there are boats coming in all the time. I want to show people that side of Ofunato," she said.

Ms. Sato also gave her impressions of Ofunato, as someone who has worked in numerous places both domestically and abroad. "The food, starting with the seafood, is delicious, and the people are warm and kind," she said.

First-hand information about the reconstruction

On her hopes for Ofunato's future, Ms. Sato said, "I know I'm only looking at things a personal, narrow viewpoint, but I think it's so valuable to connect the hardworking people in the fishing industry to people from outside the city. I think that the best way to achieve revitalization is to keep all the old traditions, while introducing new things."

Ms. Sato's enthusiastic effort to spread information about Ofunato paints a picture of a city moving forward towards reconstruction.



I want to make it a town where you can enjoy the sea.

I want to promote an energetic Ofunato

Ms. Sato currently works in the Local Revitalization Volunteer Group, run by the Ofunato City Government's Fisheries Division. She meets fishermen, takes photographs of their nets, scallops, wakame seaweed and sea pineapples, then posts them on sites like Facebook, alongside the fishermen's unfiltered comments.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate

As of Jan 31, 2018

- Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,672 Missing: 1,121 (related) 466
Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,079
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, 2018

- Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.634 billion (95,447 donations)
Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.8421 billion (8,481 donations)
Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.24540 billion (21,305 donations)
This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives:

http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/



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