

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 136
April 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.

Executive Committee for the "2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project" Formed

Morioka

The "2019 Sanriku Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project" aims to thank people for their support with the reconstruction, and to spread information about the disaster, both domestically and abroad, to prevent it fading from people's memories.

On March 23rd, 2018 (Fri), a general meeting of the preliminary and executive committees was held in Morioka. There, Governor Tasso, the mayors of various towns, and other related parties decided on an overall plan.

The project will take place between June 1st (Sat) and August 7th (Wed) next year. 13 cities and towns on the coast will serve as the main venues, while inland municipalities will offer their cooperation.

The overall plan covers a variety of events across the region, including a symposium on disaster risk reduction and reconstruction, a Sanriku music festival featuring traditional performing arts, a beach festival where people can enjoy local seafood, storytelling events on Sanriku Railway trains, and more.

The Sanriku region will attract a lot of attention in 2019. The Sanriku Railway will

expand its operations to cover the entire coast from Kuji to Sakari (in Ofunato), the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Memorial Museum will open in Rikuzentakata, and Kamaishi will host two games in the 2019 Rugby World Cup. The number of people these projects attract is expected to provide a boost to the regional economy.



A press conference with Governor Tasso and local mayors



Governor Tasso and local mayors express their commitment

Breakwater Completed at Kamaishi Bay Entrance

Kamaishi

Roughly 1,540m of the 1,960m breakwater at the Kamaishi Bay entrance was destroyed or damaged by the tsunami. However, repair work began in February 2012, and the completed structure was presented to the media on May 30th, 2018 (Fri).

The reconstructed breakwater has a 300m submerged opening at its centre, for admitting large ships. The barrier extends north for 990m, and south for 670m, for a

total length of 1,960m. It rises to 6m above sea level, and extends down to 63m below sea level, making it the deepest breakwater in the world.

The aim of the construction work was to build defences that would protect against tsunamis even stronger than the one caused by the 1986 Meiji-Sanriku earthquake. Extra-friction mats were added between the foundations and caisson (blocks of reinforced

concrete), making the structure sturdier than it was before the 2011 disaster. The sections of the breakwater which weren't destroyed have also been reinforced.

Thanks to the breakwater, the bay will become calmer, making the loading and unloading of container ships much easier. This is expected to develop Kamaishi's status as a logistical hub.

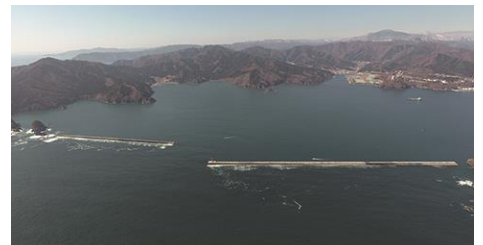
(Photo: Kamaishi Harbor Office, MLIT)



The completed northern section



Reporters atop the northern section



The entire breakwater

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and Help Support Us!

Free to register!



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:

Iwate Ooendan

Search



"The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Memorial Museum" Finalizes its Name

Rikuzentakata

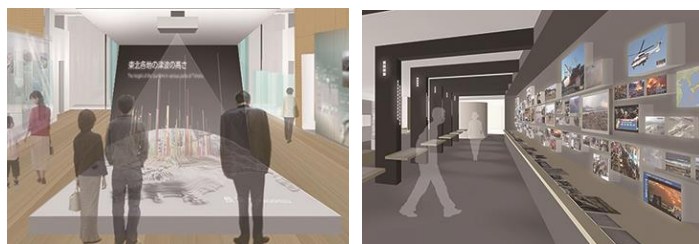
On March 26th, 2018 (Mon), the prefectural government announced that the official name of the memorial facility under construction within Takata-Matsubara Memorial Park will be called "The Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Memorial Museum".

The museum, a collaborative project between the national, prefectural and city governments, will be located at the reconstructed Takata-Matsubara Rest Stop within park grounds. It will preserve the facts about the precious lives lost, explain how we can use our knowledge of the disaster to prevent future loss of life, and show how the community is overcoming disaster via its determined reconstruction.

The museum's themes are protecting life, living with the land and sea, and how to prevent a similar disaster from happening again. There are 5 zones, with titles like "What Actually Happened?", "Taking Lessons from the Past", and "Working Towards Reconstruction". Each exhibit will include objects, explanatory panels and audio-visual media.

The prefectural government aims to open the facility before the 2019 Rugby World Cup in September next year. It's currently accepting suggestions for a nickname for the museum; the winner is scheduled to be announced in June.

Nickname suggestions > <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/anzen/machizukuri/38466/063848.html>



Mock-ups of museum exhibits

The Fourth "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" Seminar of the 2017 Year

Morioka

On March 17th, 2018 (Sat), the 4th "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of the 2017 financial year took place in Morioka.

The seminar is organized by Iwate Tomorrow Design, a local industrial-academic-governmental group. It has been held since 2015, with the aim of teaching people about the reconstruction, and promoting human resources development. This time, there were keynote speeches and a panel discussion on how to create opportunities for exchange via the transportation network.

In the first keynote speech, Kenichi Honma, head of the Iburi General Subprefecture Office in Hokkaido spoke about the new possibilities for exchange arising from the Miyako-Muroran ferry route. In the second speech, Jun Matsumoto, CEO of Michinori Holdings, spoke about the importance of transport companies working together to increase visitors in the region.

Afterwards, Mr. Honma and Mr. Matsumoto were joined by Yoshiaki Okada, head of Kawasaki Kinkai Kisen Kaisha's ferry department, and Ichiro Nakamura, director of the Sanriku Railway, for a panel discussion. They exchanged opinions about how to best use new transport networks to support the reconstruction.



One of the keynote speeches



The panel discussion

Messages for the Future

Taro
Miyako

Disaster Prevention Guide
Miyako Tourism & Culture
Exchange Association

Kumiko Motoda



Tsunami Tendenko

On the Sanriku coast, there is a saying: "tsunami tendenko". It literally means, "If a tsunami is coming, flee any way possible", but the phrase also includes a second meaning: "You are responsible for your own safety".

The first thing a person can do to prevent the worst outcome of a tsunami is protect their own life.

For that reason, it's important that families speak to each other regularly about the actions they'll take in the event of a disaster.

Disaster Awareness Saves Lives

When a tsunami is approaching, people panic. In that state, something as simple as the direction a parked car is facing, which affects the time it takes to drive away, can be the difference between life and death.

In a disaster, you might need help, but be unable to call out for it. If that happens you may be able to use sound or, depending on the time, light, to signal your location.

This means that using a mini-flashlight or whistle as a keychain might end up saving your life.

This isn't specialist knowledge. Understanding basic information like this is very important.



<Disaster Prevention Guide Info>

■ Standard Course: 30 - 60mins

An explanation of the breakwater, and a viewing of the Taro Tourism Hotel tsunami video.

■ Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Tour & Workshop: 90 - 120mins

An explanation of the breakwater, a viewing of the Taro Tourist Hotel tsunami video, and a walking tour of a real evacuation route.

* Appointments are required for tours of the Taro Tourism Hotel

■ Inquiries & Bookings ■

Miyako Tourism & Culture Exchange Association

TEL: 0193-77-3305 FAX: 0193-65-7501

(Operating hours: 9:00 - 16:00)

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami caused severe damage to the Iwate coast. As the reconstruction proceeds, lessons learned from the disaster are being passed along in the coastal communities. There will be a big earthquake again in the future, and natural disasters can strike at any time. In order to prepare for these incidents, we will introduce some of these lessons.

A Communal Sports Facility - Yume Arena Takata Opens

Rikuzentakata

Many citizens of Rikuzentakata longed for a reconstruction of the many heavily damaged sports facilities (such as the gymnasium and pools). In March 2018, construction of the Rikuzentakata Community Center/ B&G Oceanic Center completed with an opening ceremony held on April 10 (Tue).

Built on raised ground, the new facility was named "Yume Arena Takata" through a public proposal. It includes a 2-court basketball/multipurpose hall, a gymnasium equipped with a training room to host other sporting events such as judo or kendo, and a 25-meter long, 6-course heated swimming pool.

A universal design to convey the city's concept - where normalization doesn't exist- was adopted in building the new sports facility. There are high hopes for the arena to be a long-term gathering spot for the still-recovering residents of the city and revitalize the community through sports and cultural exchange.

A wine-tasting event for a new type of wine from Noda

Noda

On March 25, 2018 (Sun), a wine-tasting and showcase event were held in the Eboshi-so Inn (Tamagawa, Noda Village) for a new wine, made from crimson glory grapes produced by the Suzumi-no-oka Winery. About 150 participants, ranging from parties involved in the wine-making, such as farmers of the grapes, and also a few from the general public were invited.

At the event, two sample wines, red and rose, of the "Shizuku Marine Rouge" (manufactured in 2017) and a sample of the "Shizuku Marine Rouge 2016", which have been matured in a wine barrel for eight months in the mine tunnel of the village, were served. Participants enjoyed a taste of the new wine as they sampled Sanriku's seasonal food.

The original wine was made using a low heat pasteurization method which results in a type of "raw wine" with 100% pure flavor of the grapes. Many wine enthusiasts enjoyed the brand as the same wine, both red and rose, was sold out when it was first sold in April 2017.

(Photo: Noda Village Tourism Association)



The newly opened Yume Arena Takata



The 25-meter long heated swimming pool



The wine bottles on display



Members of the Suzumi-no-oka Winery



Sanriku Event Information



5/3

Thu • Hol

The 14th Shukunohe Sea Urchin Market Hirono

Location: Shukunohe Cargo Sorting Facility

This is a popular sea urchin market organized by local fishermen. Along with fresh sea urchins, you will find hoyo (sea pineapple), disk abalones, and special booths with ichigoni (seafood soup). *Open from 8:00am, until supplies last

Inquiries

Contact: Taneichi Fisheries Association
Shukunohe Executive Committee
☎ 0194-75-3611

5/4

Fri • Hol

The Goishi Coast Tourism Festival Ofunato

Location: Goishi Coast Resthouse/Bus Parking area

5/5

Sat • Hol

A festival held at the Goishi Coast, one of Sanriku's most picturesque landscapes, to celebrate the spring season. Enjoy lots of fresh seafood, such as charcoal-grilled scallops or hoyo, a delicious Goishi Seafood Hot Pot, local performances, stamp rally and more.

Inquiries

Contact: Goishi Coast Tourism Festival Executive Committee
(Office of Ofunato Tourism Promotion)
☎ 0192-27-3111

5/4

Fri • Hol

Ryusendo Festival Iwaizumi

Location: Ryusendo

5/5

Sat • Hol

Ryusendo is one of Japan's three biggest limestone caves. The Ryusendo festival is one of four festivals held here to give thanks for the clear cave waters. You can enjoy a variety of local performances, and participate in the mochi-tossing event to win a prize.

Inquiries

Contact: Ryusendo Office
☎ 0194-22-2566

5/6

Sun

The international passenger ship, Star Legend Miyako

Location: Miyako Harbor

As its first port of call in Japan this year, the Star Legend will stop at Miyako Harbor. It's been ten years since the last cruise ship, Amsterdam, visited in 2008. At the welcoming ceremony held at the port, there will be booths selling local products and performances of traditional dance & music.

Inquiries

Contact: Miyako City Tourism Ports and Harbor Division
☎ 0193-68-9091

5/13

Sun

2018 Baeren Beer Festa in Noda Noda

Location: Noda Town Hall

The Baeren Beer Festa is being held once again in Noda Town. Besides draft beer fresh from the keg, you can enjoy a radler made with locally obtained crimson glory grapes. There will also be various food booths to accompany your drinks.

Inquiries

Contact: Baeren Beer Brewery
☎ 019-606-0766

5/22

Tue

Unotori Shrine Grand Festival Fudai

Location: Unotori Shrine

Unotori Shrine is known to provide good fortune for successful matchmaking, childbirth, seafaring, and a big catch. A grand festival will be held here following the lunar calendar (formerly April 8). Visitors can enjoy many festivities, such as the Unotori Kagura dance, one Japan's many Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties.

Inquiries

Contact: Unotori Shrine Office
☎ 0194-35-2339

