News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 140 August 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 first "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018

July 17th (Tue) – The first "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018 was held in Morioka City. Hosted by "Iwate Tomorrow Design", a collaborative industrial-governmental-academic group, this year marks the event's fourth consecutive year. This event was open to the public as part of the program for the Iwate Meeting on International Disaster Risk Reduction and Crisis Management research, which took place between the 17th to the 20th.

The first half of the event saw Governor Tasso and Kamaishi Mayor Noda give keynote speeches under the theme of "Restoration and Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami". Detailing how the situation has been dealt with over the last 7 years, the Governor and Mayor shared their experiences from Kamaishi City and from the Prefecture's points of view.

To follow, Arnold Howitt (Senior advisor at Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for

and Yoshihama IC to Kamaishi South IC!

Democratic Governance and Innovation) spoke about the importance of having strategies prepared for times of emergency in order to help rebuild as quickly as possible.

During the second half, under the theme of "crisis control and prevention, lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake", Shuzo Koshino (Iwate University Regional Disaster Prevention Research Center. visiting professor), Masahiko Mochizuki (Former CEO of Sanriku Railway), and Mio Kamitani (Chief of Secretariat at Oraga Otsuchi Yumehiroba) gave accounts of their experiences during the disaster.



Governor Tasso gives a keynote speech

After these accounts, Arjen Boin (Professor of Public Institutions & Governance at the Institute of Political Science at Leiden University) gave a presentation on ways to assist decision-making in times of disaster, as well as ideas for a cooperative framework.

This day served to remind us that in recovering from the disasters of the past, and in preparing for the disasters of the future, it is imperative that we build a network of cooperation and support with as many people as possible, both inside and outside Japan.



Commemorative photo with attendees

A further 3.5km extension along the

Karakuwa-Takata highway (between

A 6.5km road extension was officially opened on July 28th (Sat) between Rikuzentakata IC Osabe and Rikuzentakata IC along the Karakuwa-Takata highway stretch of the Sanriku coastal highway.

August 11th (Sat) saw the opening of 5km extension along а the Yoshihama-Kamaishi highway between Yoshihama IC (from Ofunato city) to Kamaishi South IC (to Kamaishi city). After their opening ceremonies, these roads were available for use.

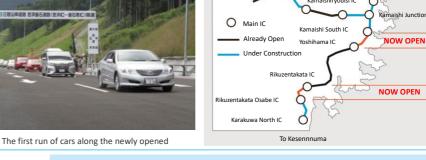


Karakuwa-Takata highway opening ceremony

The opening of these two lengths of track brings the connected area between Rikuzentakata and Kamaishi to 40.2km, which will lead to more efficient transport of marine products from the Sanriku area. These improvements are also expected to promote the fishing industry, make tourism more widely accessible, and further increase tourism in general.



Karakuwa North IC and Rikuzentakata Osabe IC) and a 9km extension along the Yoshihama-Kamaishi highway (between Kamaishi South IC and Kamaishi Junction) are planned to be opened within the current fiscal year. To Otsuch Tono IC Kamaishi North IC Kamaishiryouisi IC



We are recruiting members for the lwate **Reconstruction Supporters Team!**

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





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:

Roads open from Rikuzentakata Osabe IC to Rikuzentakata IC,

Iwate Ooendan

Tokyo University Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute International Coastal Research Center rebuilt

The Tokyo University Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute's International Coastal Research Center (Otsuchi-cho, Akahama) suffered devastating damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. However, on the 20th of July (Fri), a commemorative ceremony was held to celebrate the reconstruction of the facility at a location nearby, on higher ground.

Originally built in 1973 along the Otsuchi bay, the research facility didn't stand a chance against the tsunami as it reached its top floor (3F), washing away research equipment, valuable stored data, as well as three of their oceanographic ships. The third floor was repaired after the disaster and research resumed.

The newly constructed facility is three floors of reinforced concrete. The research and experiments building has been provided with facilities and equipment to support ocean research, in addition to accommodation for researchers, among other things. As a joint-use center facilitating collaborative research projects, the center will accept researchers from both inside and outside the country to study the effects of earthquakes and tsunami, marine ecosystems, and more.

Current plans are to convert the former research center into an experimental breeding facility, though it will also have an "ocean study room" that will be open to the public. The plan is for it to not only be something that attracts national and international researchers, but to make it a place where people can come together.





The reconstructed International Research Center

The previous, disaster-struck facility.

Three village road routes open,

connecting coastal and inland areas

TANOHATA

July 8th (Sun) – A ceremony was held at the Okanyo-Kitayama Line's Ichi-no-watari crossing to celebrate the opening of three road extensions along the Tanohata Okanyo village road (5,714m) Kitayama Line, the already completed Akedo village road (1,859m) Kitayama Line, and the Kitayamazaki Line village road (455m).

The road extensions have been carried out as an effort to eliminate isolation in coastal areas during times of disaster and to secure civilian evacuation routes among the aforementioned villages. The national highway 45 (Ichi-no-watari area) and the Iwaizumi-Tanohata Fudai Line prefectural road (Kitayama area) have also been connected by an approximately 11.5km long dual carriageway.

Around 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including both local residents and those who were involved in the development of these roads. At the ceremony, Mayor Ishihara of Tanohata in his speech said "The routes have been completed – these roads that we have hoped for will bring an end to the isolation of settlements in times of disaster." The Kacchi Deer Dance Preservation Society performed, praying for safety on these roads. While ensuring access between coastal and inland areas, it is expected that these newly opened roads will also become new tourism routes from inland to scenic coastal areas such as Kitayamazaki.





Cutting the tape at the opening ceremony (Photo Source: Tanohata Village)

Map outlining the newly opened routes

Messages for the Future

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami caused severe damage to the lwate 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.

Yamada

Shinsei Yamada Shopping Center Cooperative Association Office Director

Ms. Momoyo Shiiya



Be brave enough to run away

When an earthquake has occurred, or disaster of any kind is expected, it is important to be brave enough to run away. It may be the first thing you would think to do, but depending on how fast you move, even the smallest difference of time can cost you your life.

Speaking from experience, it is very easy to think "it's probably safe here", and I believe there are people out there who don't want to bother with evacuating. However, we must call out to each other and make the decision to run.

Do not determine the safety of the situation by yourself

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, it took approximately 30 minutes for the tsunami to reach our shores. For that reason, people who already evacuated thought "I might still make it (if I go back)", and returned to their homes for their possessions, ultimately sacrificing themselves.

Even after evacuating, do not make your own judgement regarding the safety of the situation. It is of utmost importance that you wait for the rescinding of the alarms before anything.



The tsunami-struck Yamada Bay, overlooking Ogurayama

Recovering Town & Food Samples Walking Tour Information

An earthquake storyteller guide from the shopping center will walk with you around the Rikuchu-Yamada Station area that was once a bustling town center, and now still recovering.

We will prepare three food activities unique to Yamada to enjoy along the way. After the activity, please enjoy some food samples.

<Examples of food activities & samples>

*The content will change depending on the season and day.

Yamada specialty "Yamada Sembei" frying activity

- Oyster and scallop shelling
- •Morning harvest shabu-shabu

Flattening squid

Operating period: Year-round Minimum number of participants: 4 people Necessary time: About 1 hour and a half Fee: ¥1,300 per person

■Inquiries/Applications■ Shinsei Yamada Shopping Center Cooperative Association Office Tel: 019-377-3732 Summer 2018 – Fun Activities at

Nebama Beach

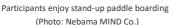
KAMAISHI

From July 28 (Sat) to 29 (Sun), an event called the "Summer 2018 – Fun Activities at Nebama Beach (hosted by Nebama MIND Co.)" was held at the Nebama Beach and in the nearby park area of the Unosumai District of Kamaishi City.

The beach lost most of its sand from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, therefore while it is not open to the public as a beach yet, event organizers were able to obtain swimming permission for this special day. After declaring the importance of beach safety, children thoroughly enjoyed swimming and the many activities held at the event.

Participants were able to try out stand-up paddleboarding, hop on a rescue boat, or enjoy snorkeling at the beach. Also, workshops such as picture-frame making out of various beach objects and paint-your-own daruma were available by the beach. It's been eight years since the beach was last open to the public, so participants were delighted to spend time at the Nebama beach. In 2017, the Prefectural Government contemplated whether it was technically possible to restore the lost sand of the beach. After observing that constructing a fixed, artificial sand was possible, construction of a new artificial beach began in 2018.







Children make their own original picture frame (Photo: Nebama MIND Co.)

The Sanriku North Rias Direct Rail Now in Operation

JR Yamada Line / Sanriku Railway North Rias Line

From August 3 (Fri) to August 6 (Mon) and August 10 (Fri) to August 13 (Mon), a direct rail line (with no transfers) that connected the JR Yamada Line (from Morioka to Miyako Station) and the Sanriku Railway North Rias Line (from Miyako to Kuji Station) began its operation for a limited time.

The rail line was a joint collaborative work between JR East Japan Morioka branch and Sanriku Railways to boost further recovery efforts of the coastal regions from the 2011 disaster. The line, which railcars from both companies take turns during the service, was first established in 2014. But it was on a brief hiatus due to the landslide that affected the JR Yamada Line in 2015. It's taken three years to reopen the line, even for a limited time.

During its limited operation, the train leaves once a day from Morioka Station and Kuji Station. Many railway fans gathered to take unique pictures of the train (and the view from the train) running on a different company's rail line. The rail car, "Kenji (model Kiha-58)", that JR has been using is due to end its service in September so this will be the last time for it to run on the Sanriku Railway line.



Railcars from both companies pass by each other at the Taro station (run by Sanriku Railways)



A Sanriku railcar crosses the bridge on the JR Yamada Line

"Hope" An archive of the earthquake and tsunami in Iwate



(http://iwate-archive.pref.iwate.jp)

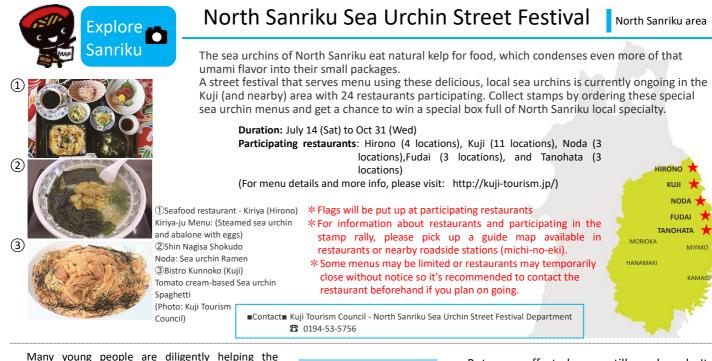
 Over 240,000 written materials and pictures related to the disaster

• A record of steps taken during disaster by each organization in chronological order

 Archive of local newspaper articles moments after the disaster

Resources are organized in six categories:

- (1) Preparation
- (2) The power of connection
- ③Disaster aid that turned to friendship (*kizuna*)
- ④For those who need special care
- ⑤Response to an unprecedented event
- 6 Hometown (Furusato) Iwate- Sanriku



Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. This section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful feelings every month. For Part 85, we will introduce Ms. Kanae Chiba's efforts.

Chiba is a native of Iwaizumi Town.

After high school, she continued her studies at university then returned to Iwaizumi.

Wanting to work locally, since 2012, she found work at the Association of Iwaizumi Tour Guide established that same year. Now, as she works as an office worker at the association, provide tour guide support, and also train future tour guides, she does her best to promote lwaizumi.

From typhoon disaster to reconstruction

In the middle of recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, Iwaizumi was struck by another disaster in August 2016 when Typhoon Lionrock hit the region and left extensive damage.

Regarding the reconstruction, Ms. Chiba states, "There aren't a lot of areas facing the coast in Iwaizumi so I believe we are recovering quite well from the tsunami damage compared to other affected regions. As for the typhoon damage, some buildings have been restored and it feels like the town's been recovered on the outside.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2018

▶ Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,673 Missing: 1,115 (related) 467

▶ 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



Check out the Iwate Earthquake and Tsunami Archive ~Hope~ Over 20,000 articles to read http://iwate-archive.pref.iwat

e.jp/



Watch videos on the news and People for Sanriku's Future! Check out our website for more!



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parts of the region

and the progress of the

reconstruction!

But many affected areas still need work. It will be a while to recover completely in regards to daily life." She continues to look forward to the future restoration of the town.

Sharing the charm of Iwaizumi with our own words

As the town continues to recover from the typhoon, Ms. Chiba actively promotes the appeals of Iwaizumi as a staff of the Association of Iwaizumi Tour Guide.

"In Iwaizumi, we have the Ryusendo, which is considered one of the three biggest limestone caves in Japan. Then we have the beautiful nature such as the ocean and the mountains. At the association, we work in five different groups such as the Ryusendo Cave group, the "Machinaka group" (to help promote interaction between townspeople), and the Ocean group to retell stories of the 2011 tragedy but at the same time the beauties of the ocean. In each group, we have expert guides who can passionately talk about Iwaizumi.

There are many ways to promote the town, but I feel that hearing the raw voices of the tour guides and learning from it is one of them." She diligently works to support tourism for Iwaizumi, not just by increasing numbers, but by having tourists leave the town with a good impression.

Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2018

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.64415 billion (95,996 donations) Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.93828 billion (8,657 donations) Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.52739 billion (22,024 donations)

> ※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

News from Iwate's Reconstruction Web

