News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 141 September 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.

A Pre-event for the Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project

KAMAISHI

On August 18th (Sat), a pre-event was held in Kamaishi to celebrate the start of the Sanriku **Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project** in TETTO (a nickname for the Kamaishi Civic Hall) with around 700 attendees.

The Sanriku Project is being held to show off the progress of the reconstruction of the coastal areas. It also aims to share disaster risk reduction tactics so that such a disaster will never happen again – a way for us to express our gratitude for the outpouring of support from the world over.

From June 1st next year, the prefecture will host this event in all 13 coastal towns for 68 days. At the pre-event, Governor Tasso and several students from Otsuchi High School vowed to contribute to disaster risk reduction by passing on lessons from the disaster to the world and future generations. Afterward, several local performing arts and other entertainment were performed to help reaffirm people's resolve to rebuild.





Tora-mai performance on the stage

2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project 2019.6.1 SAT-8.7 WED Bringing together the Sanriku coast of Iwate, Japan, and the rest of the world. Going even further, as one.

■Venue■ The 13 towns of Iwate's coastal region Miyako, Ofunato, Kuji, Rikuzentakata, Kamaishi, Sumita, Yamada, Iwaizumi, Tanohata, Fudai, Noda, Hirono

We've published a promotional video on our official website



Governor Tasso and students make their declaration

Opening Day at the Kamaishi-Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium

Construction has been completed on the Kamaishi-Unosumai Reconstruction Stadium in Kamaishi, which will be used to host matches for the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

The area has gained attention for being a symbol of disaster risk reduction after students of Unosumai Elementary School and Kamaishi-Higashi Jr. High



The complete Kamaishi-Unosumai

We are recruiting members for the lwate

Reconstruction Supporters Team!

School were able to evacuate from the tsunami quickly and safely.

On August 19th (Sun), an opening ceremony of the stadium was held under the name "Libogen Drink Opening DAY" with a kick-off speech from Ms. Rui Doguchi (2nd-year student at Kamaishi High School).

She passionately announced that



Kick-off Speech by Ms. Rui Doguchi

"Kamaishi will connect with the world and express appreciation to all the support from across the world.

A memorial match between the Kamaishi Seawaves and Yamaha Júbilo rugby teams was held. With the completion of the stadium, Kamaishi is now ready to kick off into a new era as a rugby-centric city.



The memorial rugby match





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 Iwate Ooendan

Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

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

Earthquake and Tsunami Memorial Museum RIKUZENTAKATA

JR Yamada Line – A trial run ' conducted from Mivako to Kamaishi

a trial run was conducted on August 21 (Tue).

examine the durability of the new rails and bridges.

As of July 18 (Wed), construction has finished on new

train tracks at the Otsuchi Bridge by the JR East Japan on

the JR Yamada Line (55.4 kilometers from Miyako to

Kamaishi). The entire rail line is now connected; therefore

This trial run with a diesel-engine train was held to

The tsunami from the 2011 disaster swept away roughly

8.5 kilometers of the original tracks and damaged six

bridges and seven stations. Sokei station, Tsugaruishi

station, Orikasa station, Namiita-Kaigan station, and

Unosumai station are being rebuilt by JR East Japan, and

are scheduled to finish reconstruction by the end of

Inspections of the completed railway facilities will begin in October, and a final safety and trial run will be

conducted in January 2019. The Sanriku Railway will then

operate training tests in February of that same year.

JR YAMADA LINE

A nickname for the facility has been decided for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Memorial Museum undergoing construction in the Takata-Matsubara district in Rikuzentakata City. Out of 893 public proposals, the nickname "Iwate TSUNAMI Memorial (Museum)" was chosen based on a name submitted by Ms. Yuka Sugano (1st-year student at Rikuzentakata High School).

Ms. Sugano originally submitted the name as "Tsunami Memorial Takata Museum" for the future children to reflect on the disaster.

Based on this original proposal, the prefectural government made minor adjustments such as converting the kanji characters for "tsunami" to the alphabet "TSUNAMI" for better recognition from overseas visitors.

The facility will be built within a new michi-no-eki (roadside station) in the Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Memorial Park and aims to open by September next year prior to the start of the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Kamaishi.



Visual art of the Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Memorial

Messages for the Future



(Photo: Noda Town Tourism Association) Noda Town Tourism Association – Director

Ms. Haruko Kitada

Be prepared for situations after the disaster

I evacuated with my children and instinctively thought we won't be able to return home for at least two days. Because we might have to spend a few days in evacuation shelters, I also brought a few toys for my children as we evacuated.

Fortunately, we had 40 minutes to prepare prior to the tsunami, but I think it's best always to be prepared and able to at least have a minimum amount of supplies ready to bring with you in case you have to live in a shelter. 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.

Keep things well-stocked

Disasters, especially earthquakes, can happen at any time.

September.

Since the disaster, I make sure to have my cellphone fully charged, and also to keep the gasoline of my car full.

In addition, most roads were inaccessible soon after the disaster and it was a hassle to do grocery shopping. Always make an assumption that food will be one of the hardest things to obtain so having a good stock of several days' worth will give you peace of mind.



Tsunami monument of observatory (Tofugaura coast) (Photo: Noda Town Tourism Association)

Disaster guide tours for visitors information

Noda Town recorded a seismic intensity level of 5-lower during the 2011 disaster. Soon afterward, an 18-meter maximum height tsunami struck the area, destroyed a third of the town's neighborhood, and left extensive damage to the fishery and commerce industries.

The Noda Town Tourism Association provides disaster guide tours for visitors to reflect on the disaster as much as possible, learn the threat of a massive tsunami, and also see the progress of the reconstruction.

Available times: 8:30 - 16:00 (Consult in advance) *Due to events in August, please consult in advance if you'd like a tour in this month

Number of people: Approx. 40 (1 tour bus worth) Duration: Around 1 hour Price: 3000 yen per hour per guide

■Contact Us■

Noda Town Tourism Association TEL: 0194-78-2012 (within the Noda Town Chamber of Commerce)

Trial run with a diesel-engine train (Photo: JR East Japan - Morioka Branch) MORIOKA

August 25^{tn} (Sat) - The Iwate Prefecture "Tasty Iwate! Grand Prix 2018" was held on at Aeon Mall Morioka, in Morioka City.

The purpose of the event is to promote the development of vertical integration in Iwate (the co-operation between agriculture, commerce, and industry). Three new special awards were created for this year's event with the aim of expanding demand for agricultural and fishery products from Iwate Prefecture. These awards were given to those who used products of Iwate to create something that capitalized on the special characteristics of Iwate products, in addition to receiving exceptional public recognition.

31 organizations exhibited 32 products, and beginning with the grand prize winner, Fujiyu Jozu's (Ltd.) "5 Grain Ama-koji", the organizations from the disaster-affected coast won many prizes. You could really feel the rebirth of the coast that day. [Coastal region main prize winners]

Grand prize winner5 Grain Ama-Koji, Fujiyu Jouzu (Kamaishi City)Sobacchi Special Award"Rice flour pasta snack set"
Hikoroichi Farm (Rikuzentakata City)2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk
Reduction & Reconstruction Project
special award · Excellence award"Northernmost Yuzu and Moromi dressing"
Yagisawa Store (Rikuzentakata City)Santetsu Special Award ·
Merit Award"Toma San Sauce" Katatsumuri General
Incorporated Association (Ofunato City)





Grand prize winner "5 Grain Ama Koii"

Group photo of the contestants

Young people from Tanohata perform

traditional entertainment on the national stage! TOKYO

20th of August (Mon) - "Our Japan Festival 2018" (Sponsor: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Traditional Performing Arts Association) was held at the Nippon Seinen-kan Hall in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

As part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics culture program, eight groups of children across the nation have taken up the work of passing down our traditional entertainment.

From Iwate Prefecture, the Omiya Kagura dance troupe from Tanohata Village were able to participate in the Reconstruction Support category. The Omiya Kagura dance has been designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Asset of Iwate, unique in its high tempo, dynamic dance and 3-beat rhythm. At the event, eight children from the Omiya Kagura Preservation Society skillfully performed the "Aya Asobi" musical dance to pray for the prosperity of their descendants.

Groups from Hokkaido, Saitama, Aichi, Shimane, Nagasaki, and Kumamoto also participated. In addition, an overseas group living in Tokyo also performed classical Indian dance, communicating the charm of their home town.



Performing Omiya Kagura (Photo source: NPO Japan Folk Performing Arts Association)

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



• 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





Inside Akkado

"Akkado," Japan's Longest Limestone Cave

Located 18km north of Ryusendo cave, one of Japan's 3 major limestone caverns, lies the Akkado cave. This national natural monument measures 23,700 meters in length, making it Japan's longest limestone cavern. With more than 1,000 multiple branching paths, it is often called the "labyrinthine limestone cavern". The general public can go about 500m into the cave from the entrance, including a "labyrinth exploration area" within the cave. Children love to explore the labyrinth in complete darkness.

■Operating period Middle of April - late of November (closed for winter) ■Business hours■ 9:00 ~ 16:00

(In August, hours are lengthened from 9:00 - 16:30) ■Fee■ Adult (High school students and older) ¥1,000 Elementary/Middle schoolers ¥600/ children are free

Addresselwate, Shimohei-gun, Iwaizumi-cho, Akka, Hikage 161-1

■Inguiries■ Akkado Tourist Development LLC **2** 0194-24-2011

This series, "People for Sanriku in Iwate", introduces unsung heroes working diligently towards the reconstruction in Sanriku's disaster-hit regions. It follows on from the "People for Sanriku's Future" series. In part 86, we'll meet Mr. Yuta Shimoji.

Mr. Shimoji is originally from Okinawa.

After graduating from a university in Tokyo, he often **Iwate** thought about leaving his job working as a teacher in the metropolitan area. While he was traveling on his motorbike he visited Ofunato City, and in November 2016, was hired by the city's Community Building Corps. He now works on community plantations and implementing ICT (Information and Communication Technology) locally.

A wide range of activities from agriculture to ICT.

As a member of the Ofunato City Community Building Corps, Mr. Shimoji runs a "community plantation" in which everyone can experience what it's like to grow vegetables and other agricultural experiences.

Mr. Shimoji also makes use of the skills he acquired before moving to Ofunato by helping local industries effectively implement ICT, in addition to running events in which he teaches programming among other things.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of August 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 200,000 articles to read http://iwate-archive.pref.iwat

e.ip/



Sanriku's Future! Check out our website for more!

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.53917 billion (22,114 donations) st 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 Watch videos on the news and People for

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Ofunato City, Community **Building Corps (ICT** Implentation) Mr. Shimoji Yuta



"I can do my work anywhere as long as there is internet access. I also teach people how to use smartphones, tablets, etc. I call it my "Anything ICT Class"."

IWAIZUMI

KUJI

ΜΙΥΑΚΟ

KAMAISHI

Akkado 👍

Ryusendo 🌢

MORIOKA

HANAMAKI

Mr. Shimoji lives a busy day-to-day life, "In winter, when everyone takes a break from the fields, I change the programming and configuration of a deer detecting sensor developed by the Regional Revitalization Research Institute in order to control damage from wildlife. I then go out on fieldwork to check if they actually caught a deer."

Developing local businesses

"I've been to many different places on my motorbike, but wherever I went, I couldn't really find any like-minded people. Ofunato, however, is full of great people; I've found lots of people on the same wavelength as me. Though there are many wonderful places out there, as great as they may be, they won't all necessarily suit you personally. Passing through somewhere on a trip isn't enough to know; you need to live somewhere for at least a year before you understand what makes it great, I think. I think I'll continue to work on the program and develop net-connected business in the area."

With Mr. Shimoji's work as our model case, we have great expectations for the future of the Ofunato Community Building Corps.

Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.64607 billion (96,061 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.93886 billion (8,679 donations)

As of August 31, 2018

I support everyone!