

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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.

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

Volume 142
October 2018 Edition

The second "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018

KAMAISHI

September 16th (Sun) - The second "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" seminar of 2018 was held in Kamaishi City.

Following the opening speech by Governor Takuya Tasso, Kaori Kuroda (Secretary General and Director General CSO Network) gave the keynote speech; "Thinking about SDGs – Sustainable Community Developments".

Ms. Kuroda explained the "leave no one behind" ideology of the UN International SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) announced in 2015, and listed the 17 goals themselves. She also shared examples of sustainable development within Japan, and talked about how important it is to work together with a wide range of organizations to create a sustainable society.

The latter half of the seminar consisted of a panel discussion on the topic of "Sustainable Community Development".

The panelists were key proponents of community development in the Kamaishi area: Mr. Kazunori Ishii (Kamaishi City General Affairs & Planning Division, Open City Promotions General Director), Mr. Yutaka Hiradate (RAY LAB, CEO), Mr. Yuuta Kanno (NPO Katariba, Tohoku Recovery Division Director), and Ms. Eri Hosoe (Kamaishi Local Venture, Nebama MIND).

They talked about their own efforts towards achieving SDGs, while exchanging

opinions with each other.

Following this, relating to various issues in the Sanriku region, Ms. Kuroda accepted comments on how we might advance efforts in the region from the viewpoint of SDGs, furthering the discussion.

Positive questions came from the attendees, deepening the understanding of SDGs. It was a fulfilling day, thinking of the future of the region.



Governor Tasso gives the opening speech



Ms. Kuroda gives the Keynote

Miyako City Center's "East Pia" enters service

MIYAKO

October 1st (Mon) – A ceremony was held for the official opening of the Miyako City Center facility "East Pia Miyako", comprised of the Miyako City Hall main building, Health Center, and Civic Center.

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the former Miyako City Hall's first floor was completely submerged in water, while the Health Center was completely destroyed. The lesson from this: that we needed to "build a town stronger

against disaster", thus the site was relocated before rebuilding.

The new compound is adjacent to the south side of Miyako Station, and connected by a passageway to make it conveniently accessible from the station. It is also equipped with an emergency power generator, emergency supplies warehouse, equipment warehouse, solar power generators, and more. In the event of a disaster, this area will take on the role of

evacuation center, and also become the base for disaster support.

Furthermore, the Civic Center has prepared a "Disaster Prevention Plaza" where visitors will find records and lessons learned from past earthquake disasters, an exercise studio, a music studio, a multipurpose hall, and more. It is expected that "East Pia Miyako" will become a hub for local activities.



The completed "East Pia Miyako"



Opening ceremony tape-cut (Photo: Miyako City)



Civic Center "Disaster Prevention Plaza"

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 Rikuzentakata Open City Festival!

RIKUZENTAKATA

September 29th - 30th (Sat & Sun) – The Rikuzentakata Open City Festival (Machi-biraki Matsuri) was held this weekend in the city center, Takata.

The festival was held to commemorate the opening of the Takata South Main Road, which spans the city center, as well as the completion of a bus terminal and transit area to be used by the JR Ofunato Line (Rapid Transit Bus = BRT) and other local buses.

On the 30th, Rikuzentakata Mayor Toba opened the commemorative ceremony by saying he was committed to making a town they will love and be proud of. Elementary, middle, and high school students from the city came together to say "Thank you for the last 7 and a half years. We're home now, Takata!"

A ramp in construction from last year has seen Abasse Takata shopping mall, the addition of playground equipment at the "Machinaka-Hiroba", a municipal library, community center "Honmaru no Ie", and a new co-op store "Machinaka Terrace" built in the city center. Development continues to progress, with 25 shops, restaurants, and other businesses that have been rebuilt.



Students announce that the city is open!



The completed transit area (Photo: Rikuzentakata City)

The return of the "Hikifune Matsuri / Tugboat Festival", the first since the earthquake.

OTSUCHI

September 21st - 23rd (Fri - Sun) – The Hikifune Matsuri was held in Otsuchi over three days.

The festival rites of Otsuchi Inari Shrine and Kozuchi Shrine are performed together at the event, which also includes a parade led by a Mikoshi float followed by local dance groups like Dai Kagura, Shishi Odori, and Tora-mai.

The Mikoshi is then traditionally then placed upon a boat, which is the main event during the Hikifune Matsuri festival. The boat then sails around the Otsuchi bay as a prayer for a big catch and safety on the sea. The boats and participating folk entertainment groups suffered tremendously due to the earthquake and tsunami, and were left with no choice but to suspend the event. Eight years later, they're back where they left off.

On the day of the festival, thirteen boats decorated with colorful flags departed from the Otsuchi fish market, with the Omeshi (boat) carrying Otsuchi Inari Shrine's Mikoshi at the center. After a ritual was performed at the Horai Island (the town's defining feature) the boats circled the bay, and the festival goes celebrated the return of a treasured event in their area.



Mikoshi atop the Omeshi (Photo Source: NPO Otsuchi-cho Tourism and Exchange Association)



Tugboats circle the bay

Messages for the Future

Otsuchi

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.

NPO Oraga Otsuchi Yumehiroba
Rep. Director/ CEO

Mio Kamitani



Learning from various cases of disaster stricken areas.

Say you were to ask someone how they suffered from the 2011 disaster. It could be someone who was at home, near the coast, or even was just by the coast that day by chance; if you have 100 people, you'll get 100 different stories about how it all transpired. Each person would have a different story about how people evacuated – some helped the elderly while evacuating, and others who managed to escaped, but faced difficulty returning to their homes.

Since you can't know when or where an earthquake will occur, you will have to make numerous decisions in order to protect your

own life. When passing on our knowledge of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, it is of utmost importance that we listen to as many tales of that day as possible.

What we can learn from the issues left behind by the earthquake

The earthquake and tsunami left behind the huge issue of recovery, forcing us to consider how leadership would look during this new era.

We have since received business and leadership training and, along with passing on our experience of the earthquake, we are doing our best to learn as much as we can from disaster, especially the issues that they cause.



Training workshop (Photo source: NPO Oraga Otsuchi Yumehiroba)

Otsuchi Recovery Tourism
(Training, observation tour, local storytelling guide)
information

Around 60% of the central Otsuchi area was destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Our goal is to guide you to reflect upon all your experiences and the person they have created thus far, "you". Our training program takes residents who resolved to keep on living here, and brings them together with those who are still not sure what they want to do in life. This helps us realize our human potential, gives us a new motivation, and helps us reflect upon our way of living and our relationships with the people most important to us.

- Newcomer training ■ Business training
- Leadership training ■ Educational tours
- Tours of the damaged areas
- Local storytelling guide

■ Inquiries - Reservations ■

NPO Oraga Otsuchi Yumehiroba
Homepage

<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S17875250/>
E-mail: mioinusa@gmail.com

Ofunato serves pacific saury in support of those affected by the torrential rain in western Japan

OKAYAMA

On September 24 (Mon, a national holiday), members of the "City of Gourmet Fish: Ofunato" Executive Committee (run by Ofunato City and citizen volunteers) visited Mabi in Kurayashiki City, Okayama Prefecture. The purpose of the visit was to serve pacific saury in an effort to support and cheer up the region heavily affected by the torrential rain and flood that hit western Japan in early July. The friendship between the two regions began in 2005 when members of the Ofunato softball team stayed in residential homes in Mabi to participate in the national athletic meet in Okayama. Ofunato City has also received a large amount of support from the town during the 2011 disaster.

Boasting the top haul of pacific saury in honshu (main island of Japan), serving the fish for support was a unique way for Ofunato to return the favor and also praying for a quick recovery of those affected by the disaster. On the day of the event, 600 fresh pacific sauries were delivered straight from Ofunato harbor. Professional grillers, who rushed in to help from Saku City in Nagano Prefecture and Shin-onsen Town in Hyogo Prefecture, proudly served the savory fish with their certified (by Ofunato) skills. From citizens of Ofunato, a total of ¥316,323 in disaster aid funds was donated to the affected regions.



Charcoal-grilled pacific saury being served (Photo: Ofunato City)

2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Project 2019.6.1 SAT-8.7 WED

Various events across the Sanriku coast of Iwate!
Come by for a chance to attend a symposium in disaster risk reduction and reconstruction, enjoy festivals, listen to good music, visit geo parks, try local food, experience region-specific tourism, and more.

Display Booth at the Tourism EXPO Japan TOKYO

From September 20 (Thu) to 23 (Sun), one of the world's largest travel conventions, the 2018 Tourism EXPO Japan, was held at the Tokyo Big Site (in Koto Ward, Tokyo) where roughly 130 or more countries, regions, and tourist destinations of Japan gathered to promote various forms of tourism. A record 207,000 visitors came to the event.

The 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Project also had a booth setup to promote its 2019 events and tourism information of the Sanriku area. A presentation of the project's concept along with the best tourist spots of the coast was projected on a large screen on the day of the event. To further promote the event, visitors of the booth were also able to take a look at several Iwate-Sanriku traditional folk performing arts costume displays, buy local merchandise, make a Sanriku Railway brand cardboard train, look at panel displays, try the new VR-experience of the Sanriku Geopark, and create their own scallop "ema" to display at the Sanriku Railway Koishihama station.



Display booth at the EXPO



Unicchi promoting Iwate and Sanriku

~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
- ③ Disaster aid that turned to friendship (*kizuna*)
- ④ For those who need special care
- ⑤ Response to an unprecedented event
- ⑥ Hometown (*Furusato*) Iwate- Sanriku

