

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 54
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Iwate Prefecture

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 are halfway through December and the affected areas are facing the third winter since the disaster.

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

Free Furisode Kimono Sets for Coming-of-Age Ceremonies in the Affected Areas

Otsuchi

On December 5 (Thursday), an event was held to provide free furisode, or long-sleeved kimonos, to 20-year-olds in the affected areas approaching their coming-of-age ceremonies in January. It was held in Shiroyama Park Sports Hall in Otsuchi.

The event was organized by the kimono company Daishin Honda (head office: Chuo Ward, Osaka), and this is the third year it has been held. Some 280 kimono sets, including kimonos, obi, shawls, hair ornaments, zori, bags, etc., were given free of charge to about 180 newly 20-year-old residents of Rikuzentakata, Ofunato, Kamaishi, Otsuchi and Yamada.

"After the disaster we wanted to help in any way we could as a kimono company," said Norio Shimazaki, General Affairs Director of Daishin Honda. "These young people only get one chance in their lives to have a coming-of-age ceremony in full furisode attire. We hope we can help even a little to make that day a precious memory for them."

The young adults were counseled by the staff to select kimono that suited them. Everyone seemed to be anticipating their ceremonies next January.



Selecting a kimono



Trying a kimono on with advice from the staff

Reconstruction Works in Osawa Start in Yamada!

Yamada

On December 9 (Monday) a ceremony was held to pray for the safety of reconstruction projects in the Osawa area of Yamada, which was badly affected by the disaster.

Osawa faces Yamada Harbor and is rich in oysters and scallops, with fisheries as its main industry. However, the tsunami obliterated its fisheries infrastructure and fish farms.

The reconstruction projects involve relocating the fishing infrastructure to higher ground, raising the ground level, and constructing evacuation roads in the area.

The land-raising and relocation projects are due to be completed by fiscal 2015. This marks an important step in moving toward a safer Osawa with a booming fisheries industry.



The Osawa area in Yamada Town



Yamada Harbor, with its rich aquaculture



Yamada's mayor performs the rite

Iwate Hope Channel



Governor Tasso brings you reconstruction news live from the Governor's Office, followed by information on the rich charm of Iwate! The next broadcast is December 27 at 16:30. Don't miss it!

For more information:

Iwate-Kibou

Search

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.

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

Iwate Ooendan

Search

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

Free to Register!

3-km Belt-Conveyor to Ship Large Volume of Sediment

Currently in the Affected Areas

Rikuzentakata

The First Oyster Hut in Rikuzentakata

Construction on a suspension bridge for sediment transportation is proceeding on the south side of the Kesen Ohashi bridge near the Miracle Lone Pine in Rikuzentakata.

A belt-conveyor will be set up on the bridge, to allow the movement a large amount of dirt and sand produced in the building of houses in the Imaizumi area of the city. The belt-conveyor will be around 3 km long to stretch from the Imaizumi area to the banks of the Kesen River. The bridge's main column in Kesen River will be 42.6 m high, and the bridge is due to be completed and opened in March 2014.

Removal of dirt from the Imaizumi site by truck was estimated to take around 10 years, but with this belt-conveyor the time can be shortened to as little as 3 years.



The belt-conveyor suspension bridge currently under construction

This is hoped to help speed up housing construction.

On December 1 (Sunday) the "Hirota Bay Oyster Hut" opened in the Otomo district of Rikuzentakata City.

Oyster Huts are small shops that deal in fresh oysters, and this is the first in the city. In addition to providing locally produced raw and fresh oysters, they also do delivery.

"Hirota Bay is spread out before us, and we want to bring its delicious, fresh oysters to all of Japan," said the oyster farm manager Fujita and his staff member Kajiwara.



"Hirota Bay" Oyster Hut

Otomo suffered significant damage from the disaster, and is scheduled to be moved to higher ground. It is in this place that the Oyster Hut was born, a place where people can enjoy locally grown fresh oysters.



Fresh oysters from Hirota Bay

Opening hours: 11:00~19:00
Rikuzentakata-shi, Otomo-cho, Ryogae 21
TEL: 090 - 8784 - 2114

*Reservations must be made 2 days in advance

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 11 introduces Ms. Reina Otsuki's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Funakoshi, Yamada, after graduating the Faculty of Policy Studies at Iwate Prefectural University she rejected an offer in the inland region in order to work in Yamada. While at the Youth Division of the Yamada Commerce & Industry Association, she helped found Gotokumar Aquaculture. She is a Yamada-born, Yamada-raised native who truly loves her hometown.

As Operations Manager of Gotokumar Aquaculture, she currently travels to various places promoting Yamada's delicious products.



Gotokumar Aquaculture
Operations Manager
Reina Otsuki



All we can do is thank everyone for their help and continue to move forward. Yamada has delicious fruits of both the sea (clams, abalone...) and the land (matsutake mushrooms). I hope lots of people come to visit us!

promote Yamada and work to export Yamada's products. This was the birth of "Gotokumar Aquaculture", which sells local Yamada goods.

When they approached Otsuki and asked for her help, she thought "I have to do something for Yamada; I can really make a difference here," and decided to join Gotokumar.

I hope to tell the children, and the whole country, about how great Yamada is!

Otsuki works mainly in the business operations end of Gotokumar. "I sometimes worry that the image of a barren, abandoned Yamada is becoming normal to me," says Otsuki. "The town's population is decreasing, but I want the kids to learn to appreciate their hometown, and eventually stay here. I want to both travel outside Iwate to promote our town, and interact as much as I can with the townspeople to make Yamada into a town full of smiles and laughter," she continued, expressing her hopes for the town's future.

Gotokumar Aquaculture
Iwate-ken, Shimohei-gun, Yamada-cho, Chuo-cho 5-4
TEL: 0193 - 77 - 4312

It's precisely because of the disaster that we have to do our best for our hometown

Returning to Yamada after 3/11, she worked as a school support staffer for one year, teaching and playing with the kids in the affected Funakoshi Elementary School and Oura Elementary School.

Around that time, 5 store owners got together and decided that because of the disaster they must

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Nov. 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,143
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,023

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation, go to the Iwate Disaster Information Portal:

Iwate Pref Bousai

Thank you for all your support!

As of Oct. 31, 2013

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.85943 billion (87,052 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥18.62150 billion (6,307 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.03353 billion (10,956 donations)

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

We've got a brand new website! Why not check it out at: <http://iwate-fukkoudayori.com>

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