

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.

Following the 3rd Kamaishi Sennin Tōge Marathon on October 28, November 11 saw the 26th Miyako Salmon Half Marathon. Participants ran across Miyako, which is in the process of reconstruction following last year's disaster, and received hearty support from onlookers along the road. We will now bring you news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Ōtsuchi Town on October 19



Reconstruction roads progressing quickly

A critical element in the reconstruction of Iwate's damaged coastal areas is the construction of roads that connect the Sanriku coastal region from north to south, as well as east-west roads that connect coastal areas to inland areas. The process of building these "reconstruction roads" is continuing.

November 4 saw the opening ceremony for construction of the Kamaishi-Hanamaki Road, Kamaishi-West Kamaishi section. Construction was expected to take around four years to begin, but it was ready to begin within one year. Various landowners and important personnel from Kamaishi, Iwate, and around Japan were in attendance at the ceremony, where they expressed hope that the project would be completely safely and quickly.

November 25 will see the opening of the stretch between Miyamori Interchange and Tōwa Interchange on the Trans-Tōhoku Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line. It is the first opening of a "reconstruction road" to traffic, and will be four months ahead of schedule.

It is hoped that these projects will help speed up the recovery of the disaster-hit coastal areas.

Notable steps made recently on reconstruction roads

Date	Road	Event (Section of Project)	Place
Nov. 4	Kamaishi-Hanamaki Road	Opening ceremony (Kamaishi-West Kamaishi)	Kamaishi City
Nov. 8	Miyako-Morioka Trans-prefectural Road	Central Pile-Installation Ceremony (Miyako Neichi-Hakoishi)	Miyako City
Nov. 18 (planned)	Sanriku Coast Road	Opening ceremony (Miyako Central-Tarō)	Miyako City
Nov. 25 (planned)	Trans-Tōhoku Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line	Opening to traffic (Miyamori IC-Tōwa IC)	Hanamaki City, etc.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of November 9, 2012)

Human casualties/deaths 4,671; Missing 1,192
Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,242
Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damage, etc.):
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taidoujoukyou/index.html#new>

Education supporting the Reconstruction

Ōtsuchi Town lost many things in the disaster. The *taiko* drums, flutes, and costumes used in the traditional tiger dance (*tora-mai*), were washed away by the tsunami or destroyed in fires, and there were concerns that the tiger dance tradition would die with these instruments.

The town's Kirikiri Junior High School is working hard to protect such local traditional arts. Students learn about the tiger dance, as well as the deer dance (*shishi-odori*) and Shinto ritual dance (*kagura*), and by performing these arts they build stronger ties with their region.

Ōtsuchi's hopes for preserving its local traditions rest on these junior high school students.



Yoshitaka Numata, Principal, Kirikiri Junior High School

For more info, check here: <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>
Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"
Ep. 32: "Kirikiri Junior High School's Efforts!"
(Broadcast on November 12, 13, 14, 15, 18)



Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors (as of October 31):
Around ¥17.47754 billion (82,159 donations)
Distributed to disaster victims by local administrations
Donations for reconstruction projects (as of October 31):
Around ¥16.34869 billion (5,579 donations)
For prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects
Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of October 31)
Around ¥4.79745 billion (7,837 donations)
To assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities
Donations:
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

Several coastal hotels reopen!

On November 7, Kamaishi City's Rikuchū Kaigan Grand Hotel opened its doors for the first time in 18 months.

The 7-story hotel was damaged up to its second floor by the tsunami waters, but served as an emergency evacuation site for employees of surrounding businesses.

November 21 will also see the re-opening of Tanohata Village's Hotel Ragasō.

The 10-story hotel took tsunami damage up to its third floor. The new guest rooms start from the fourth floor up.

Additionally, Rikuzentakata's Capital Hotel 1000 aims to open next June, and a hotel in Ōtsuchi Town's Namiita Kaigan area is also planned to open next spring. A new business hotel also opened in Yamada Town this August.

It is hoped that by rebuilding damaged accommodation facilities we can revive our tourism industry and work gradually toward a full reconstruction.

Community Development and Housing Reconstruction Plans

Quickly rebuilding the homes of disaster survivors is one of the most important issues of the reconstruction effort. The reconstruction-focused community development has progressed to a point where we can now start to rebuild houses, so Iwate has established the Community Development and Housing Reconstruction Headquarters. October 31 was the official first meeting of its members.

From the transactions of the office meeting:

Status report of public residential works for post-disaster reconstruction

Area	No. of homes	Current status	Start date (plan)	Planned completion date
Hirata, Kamaishi	126	Removal of existing buildings	September 13, 2012	October 2013
Noda, Kamaishi	32	Construction begun	September 13, 2012	June 2013
Kirikiri, Ōtsuchi	34	Announcement of bid	October 2012	June 2013
Noda, Noda	8	Preparing to begin construction	Nov. 2012	March 2013
	22	Planning	Dec. 2012	June 2013
Yashikimae, Ōtsuchi	150	Plan agreed on; now in preparation stage	Spring, 2013	Spring, 2014

Information: <http://ftp.www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4357&of=1&ik=3&pnp=4353&pnp=4357&cd=42367>

◆ Iwate Reconstruction Net also reports on Iwate's reconstruction, so why not check it out?

→ <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39696&ik=0&pnp=14>

The 26th Miyako Salmon Half Marathon

The 26th Miyako Salmon Half Marathon was held on November 11. Last year, as a result of the disaster, the half marathon section was closed, but reopened this year with a new course. Miyako's citizens packed the sidewalks to watch the race, and there was a real sense of recovery from last year's disasters.



Photos provided by:
Miyako City Hall



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