



Photo taken from temporary housing location GreenPia Sanriku Miyako (January 2012)

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.

So, it's the start of a new year. Governor Tasso visited the affected area on the first day of work as he did last year. If 2012 was the "First Year of Reconstruction", 2013 will be the "Year of Promoting the Foundation of the Reconstruction", in which we hope to redouble our efforts in moving toward our reconstruction. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

**Currently in the Affected Areas:
The Second New Year since the Disaster**

It's the second New Year since the disaster. In temporary housing in the affected areas, pine decorations could be seen decorating doorways just like last year. New Year's Day had calm weather, and people were able to watch the first sunrise of the New Year.



Going into the Lunar New Year, we can look forward to the Mizuki Dango festival, which prays for an abundant crop. Brightly colored dumplings (dango) will decorate branches of dogwood (mizuki). For more information on Mizuki Dango, see:

<http://www.bunka.pref.iwate.jp/seikatsu/syougatu/index.html>

New Years Celebrations have even Continued since before the Disaster

On January 13 Miyako City held its "Salmon Festa". It has replaced the former "Sake Matsuri" that was held on January 3 until the disaster. Even with the disaster, the festival was held at the same time last year, and visitors engaged in rice-bun throwing (mochimaki, left photo) and



a salmon-catching game (sake no tsukami dori), which took place in a specially-built water tank (right photo). The Miyako Fisheries High School also performed taiko drumming (Miya Sui Daiko).

All of the affected areas entered the New Year with a spirit of strong resolve to make this a year where we move forward with the foundation of the reconstruction.



Supporting the Reconstruction with Design

Because of the destruction caused to local industries in coastal areas, it became a challenge to handle even the designs for packaging. This is where the Iwate Design Network Volunteers or "i-DNet" came in. They were formed by four entities including the Iwate Industrial Technology Junior College, hoping to aid the reconstruction through the ideas of industrial design students.



We thought it would be great if we could help out even a little We helped in the production of a new confectionary product

Ayaka Sasaki and Yuka Ogata, pictured above, helped with development at i-DNet

For more info (or previous episodes), see <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty> Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope" No. 40: "Iwate Design Network Volunteers i-DNet"



(Broadcast on January 14, 15, 16, 17, 20)

Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors (as of October 31):

Around ¥17.47754 billion (82,159 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects (as of October 31):

Around ¥16.34869 billion (5,579 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of December 31):

Around ¥4.96900 billion (8,687 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>

Iwate Reconstruction Supporters registration page → <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0777/ooendan.html>

We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members of the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters" in the Greater Tokyo Area. Members will receive a membership certificate, and will be e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, upcoming events in the Tokyo area and much more!

Iwate's Efforts: Hosting Reconstruction Forums

Coming up on the second anniversary of the disaster, there will be Reconstruction Forums held in Iwate Prefecture, Tokyo, and the Kansai region. The goal of these forums is to inform people about the reconstruction efforts, and to encourage planning and aid from here on out.

- Kansai: "Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Forum"
Date: Saturday, January 26, 14:00-17:10
Place: Takatsuki City, Osaka Prefecture
(Kansai University Takatsuki Muse Campus)
- Tokyo: "Tohoku Network Reconstruction Forum"
Date: Wednesday, February 6, 13:00-16:00
Place: Roppongi, Minato Ward, Tokyo
(National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies)
- Iwate: "Building Bridges Reconstruction Forum"
Date: Saturday, February 9, 13:00-16:55
Place: Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture
(Iwate Prefectural University, Miyako Junior College)

To register, or for further details:

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=43317&ik=0&pnp=14>

Information for Disaster Survivors

The application period for support money for rebuilding survivors' lives (basic support money) has been extended

The "support money for rebuilding survivors' lives" system is a Japanese government initiative providing emergency aid to those who lost their homes or otherwise suffered greatly in the disaster.

The deadline to apply for the basic support money has now been extended to 37 months from the day of the disaster, or April 10, 2014.

Please consult with the municipal office of the area in which you were resident at the time of the disaster.

For details of the support money system, etc., please see: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=43202>

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of December 31, 2012)

Human casualties/deaths: 4,672;

Missing: 1,171

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,871

Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damage, etc.):

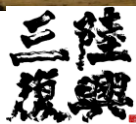
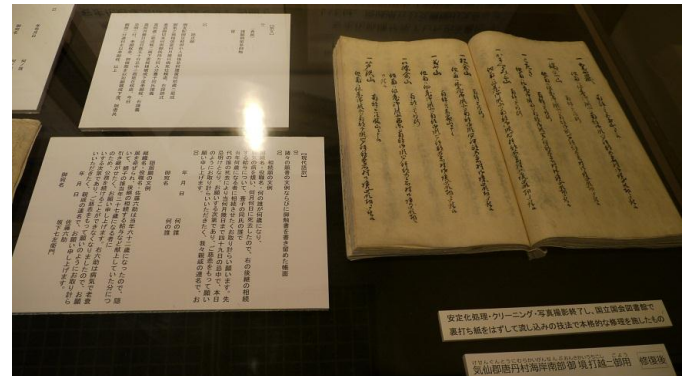
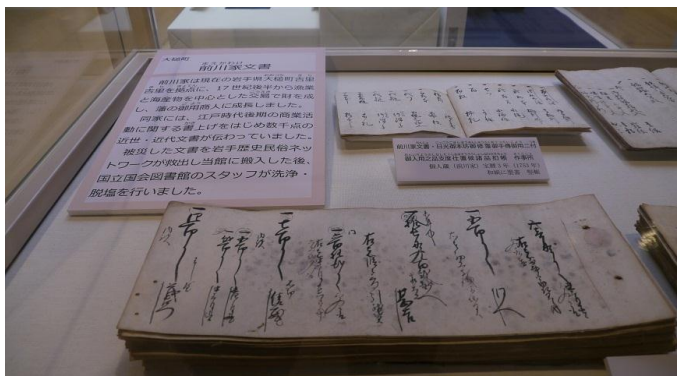
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taioujoukyou/index.html#n>

◆ 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>

Exhibit: "3.11 – The Museum and the Great Tsunami of the Heisei Era"

Iwate Prefectural Museum is currently holding an exhibit called "3.11 – The Museum and the Great Tsunami of the Heisei Era". Artifacts and documents recovered from the disaster are on display thanks to the cooperation of various organizations, with the themes of gratitude and recovery. The exhibit will run until March 11.



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◆ News from Iwate's Reconstruction Archives → <http://bit.ly/qBFBoz>