



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.

Memorial ceremonies were held in various locations within Iwate on March 11, the second anniversary of the disaster, in coordination with the Tokyo ceremony held by the national government. At 2:46 p.m. (the moment the earthquake struck), Iwateans held a moment of silence, and, remembering those who lost their lives in the disaster, renewed their resolve for reconstruction.

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

Joint Memorial Ceremony Held by Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town: Part 1

March 11 saw the Memorial Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Jointly Held by Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town.



At the ceremony, representatives of the families of the victims dedicated a list of the names of those who had died, and speeches were made by Governor Tasso (see next page), the Mayor of Otsuchi and others. Representatives of the families, as well as local children, also made memorial speeches and offered flowers. After the ceremony had ended, attendants came up one by one and offered flowers and their prayers.

In Iwate, last year ("the First Year of Reconstruction") saw the groundwork laid for the reconstruction, and this year ("the Year of Accelerating the Reconstruction") will see the reconstruction proceed faster, with programs for the future being established.

More information on the Memorial Ceremony can be seen here:
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=44607&ik=0&pn=14>

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of February 28, 2013)

Human casualties/deaths: 4,672;

Missing: 1,151

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,916

Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damage, etc.):
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taioujoukyou/index.html#new>

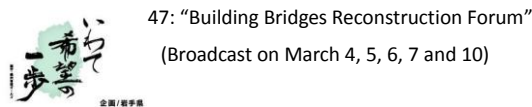
Building Bridges Reconstruction Forum

Both within and outside of Iwate Prefecture, we have held "Building Bridges Reconstruction Forums" which were attended by representatives of the academic, industrial and government sectors, as well as NPOs. An opinion-exchange on the theme of "Reconstruction by All of Iwate" took place at the Miyako City location. As we drift further both in space and time from the disaster, memories of it are dimming. In order to prevent understanding of and support for the reconstruction from disappearing, communication of information is becoming more and more important for Iwate's recovery.



Jun'ichi Kano of the Iwate Fukko Collaboration Center
(Iwate Renkei Fukkō Sentā)

For more info (or previous episodes), see <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>
Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"



47: "Building Bridges Reconstruction Forum"
(Broadcast on March 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10)

Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors (as of January 31):

Around ¥17.53962 billion (83,816 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects (as of January 31):

Around ¥16.43662 billion (5,857 donations)

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

Around ¥5.00599 billion (8,858 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!

[Joint Memorial Ceremony Held by Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town: Part 2 – Governor Tasso’s Address \(abridged\)](#)

At this, the Memorial Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Jointly Held by Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town, I express my tremendous sorrow for all those who lost their lives on that awful day that changed everything two years ago today.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami claimed the lives of 4,672 people in Iwate.

Counting out the 11th day of every month, we have come to the second March 11th since that day, and the wounds of the families who have lost their loved ones, remained unhealed, with the memories of those loved ones becoming deeper and deeper. My heart goes out to those who have lost their loved ones.

Further, 1,151 people in our prefecture remain missing, despite their families’ earnest prayers for their safety over these two years. I sympathize deeply with these families.

We must never forget the tremendous hardship that the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami wrought upon us, and so must pass the memory of it on to future generations. Additionally, we must always think of the hometown we shared with those victims, and work to realize an Iwate and Sanriku that protects life and lives in harmony with the sea and the land; all Iwateans must struggle together, united towards reconstruction. This I solemnly pledge before the spirits of those who lost their lives.

Now, a combination of the many strong bonds formed within Iwate and around Japan, as well as all over the world, with the latent strength of those men and women who have stood up to be the leaders of the reconstruction, has produced a powerful movement within the daily life, work and study of those living in Iwate’s disaster-affected areas.

As a prefecture, we must work together with local municipalities and with the national government, and coordinate with numerous bodies in order to ensure safety through the installation of anti-disaster facilities. We will continue to work toward the restoration of livelihoods in areas like the fisheries industry, rebuild lives through the construction of houses, promote renewable energy and make Iwate a hub of scientific research. By working for a better future in this way, we will hasten the reconstruction.

I swear before the spirits of those who have died that we will realize the “Land of Hope – Iwate” that provides hope to all of its citizens, uniting the strength of the entire prefecture in order to work for the reconstruction of the entire prefecture. This we do with a spirit of gratitude for the aid that has been given, and in recompense of this aid.

I humbly offer this memorial speech, and pray that the souls of those who lost their lives to the disaster may be at peace, and continue to watch over us.



For more information, see: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4441&of=1&ik=3&pnp=4353&pnp=4441&cd=44578>

◆ 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>

[Videos Created in Thanks for Aid in the Reconstruction](#)

Iwate Prefecture has created a series of videos to convey the message of *Arigato* (“thank you”) to everyone who has helped in Iwate’s recovery. Videos 13 to 18 are out, so why not take a look?

<http://www.iwatekara.jp/thanks/thanks13.html>

Video No. 13
Yamada Junior High School,
Yamada Town



Video No. 14
Sanriku Railway,
Kuji City



Video No. 15
The Reconstructed Oyster Hut,
Yamada Town



Video No. 16
Iwate Prefecture Rugby School for Junior
High Students



Video No. 17
Library in the Forest,
Otsuchi Town



Video No. 18
Massaki Youth Baseball Team,
Ofunato City



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◆ News from Iwate’s Reconstruction Archives → <http://bit.ly/qBFB0z>