

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside 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.

May is here. Spring weather is slowly warming up the disaster-affected coast, with cherry blossoms and other flowers blooming before our eyes. During this season of new growth, the coastal regions keep moving towards reconstruction. We will now bring you news from Iwate's reconstruction.

(Right: Ofunato's Reconstruction Yatai-Mura (Food Stall Village); photo taken April 2013)



Construction Starts on Mass Relocation Sites in Kuji City



Ground-breaking at the prayer ceremony in Kuki, Kuji City

Many people in Japan have now heard of Kuji City through the broadcast of the NHK serial drama, "Ama-chan," which takes place in the city. On Thursday, April 18, construction started on mass relocation sites within the city as part of the Disaster Prevention in Fishing Settlements Initiative. There was also a ceremony held to pray for the safety of the project.

The construction will be in the Tamanowaki and Kuki districts, and are the first places where construction has started in the city. Even though Kuji is located on the northern end of Iwate's coast, it still took immense damage from the earthquake and tsunami, and many area residents need to be relocated to higher ground. This construction project will create residential districts on higher ground, and is planned to be

completed by the end of August of this year. Public housing for disaster victims and private housing will be built once construction ends.

Real steps of the reconstruction are being taken right before our eyes.

Meeting for the Reconstruction Headquarters Council

The first Iwate Reconstruction Headquarters Council Meeting of the fiscal year was held on Tuesday, April 30.

This council decides the direction of Iwate's reconstruction measures and policies, and Governor Tasso sits at the head of the organization. The following topics were discussed and authorized at the meeting: "Current State of the Initiatives of the Reconstruction," "Status Report of Policies and Projects of the

Reconstruction Implementation Plan," "Revision of Phase 1 of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan," "Results of the



Reconstruction Awareness Survey (preliminary report)," and "Status Report of the Main Initiatives of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan." (※Information on the Awareness Survey can be found on the back page)

"Sandwich Man" Pair Visits Iwate Prefectural Office

On Wednesday, March 1, Mikio Date and Takeshi Tomizawa of the popular comedy duo "Sandwich Man" visited the Bureau of Reconstruction in the Prefectural Office to deliver a donation to the Iwate Learning Hope Fund.



This donation was gathered from the proceeds of the pair's "The Tohoku Spirit Fund" and "The Tohoku Spirit Goods." Sandwich Man has donated to the reconstruction many times over, and this time they gave to the Iwate Learning Hope Fund. This fund is for Iwate children who lost their parents in the disaster (including pre-school-age children), and supplies students (even those who have moved out of the prefecture) with the funds necessary for their studies and daily lives until they become adults.

☆☆Now recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!☆☆



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members of the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team in the Greater Tokyo Area. Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate and upcoming events in the Tokyo area. Registration is free!

⇒ For more information, please see the [Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team Homepage](#) (Iwate Prefecture, Tokyo Branch Office).

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of April 30, 2013)

Human Casualties Deaths: 4,672 Missing: 1,150

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial damage): 24, 928

⇒ For more information on the damage, please see the [Iwate Disaster Information Portal](#) website.



Thank you for all your support!

★ Donations for survivors (as of March 31, 2013)

Around ¥17.74605 billion (84,963 donations)

★ Donations for reconstruction projects (as of March 31, 2013)

Around ¥16.50305 billion (5,992 donations)

★ Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of March 31, 2013)

Around ¥5.37932 billion (9,411 donations)

To assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities



⇒ For donations, please see the [Iwate Disaster Information Portal](#) website.

Iwate has received support from so many people. (Pictured: Some organizations that donated in April)



AEON Co. Ltd



AEON Tohoku Shops Association



Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
SOCIO-ROOTS Fund



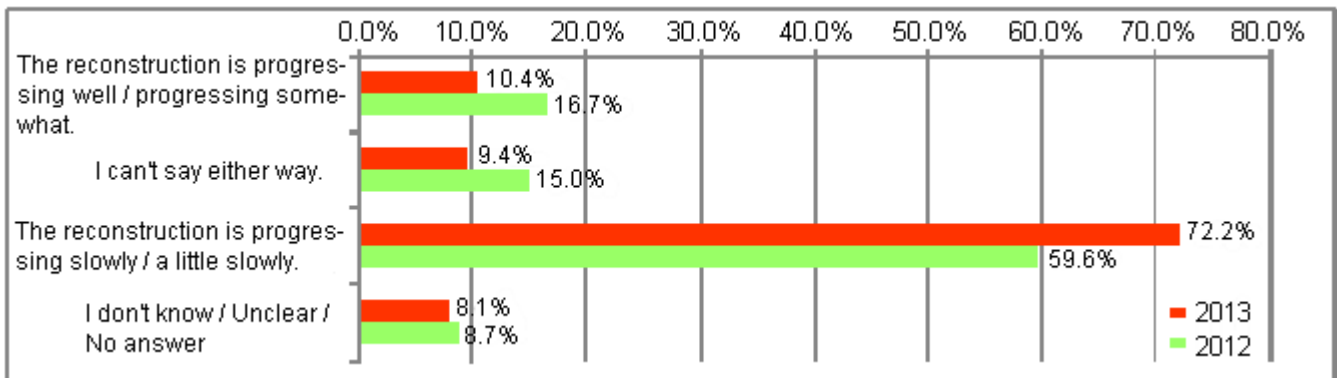
Shin-Yokohama Rotary Club

※ We have received aid from people both domestically and internationally that are not pictured here. We thank you all for your kindness and gratitude.

Results of the 2013 Reconstruction Awareness Survey

On Tuesday, April 30, the results of the 2013 “Awareness Survey Regarding Iwate Prefecture’s Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami” (from hereon, “Awareness Survey”) were published. The survey took place from February to March 2013, and these are the preliminary findings. The survey was outlined in the Reconstruction Plan created in August 2011, and asks how prefectural citizens feel about the status and progression of reconstruction measures, policies, and projects, and also gauges how much is known among the general public about the restoration and reconstruction. It is conducted once a year.

Within the results, there was an increase of 12.6 percentage points from last year among responders who indicated that they feel that the reconstruction of the prefecture as a whole is not progressing as fast as it should. However, most of the other questions saw very few changes in their answers.



Results from the “Iwate’s Restoration and Reconstruction as a Whole” section of the 2013 Reconstruction Awareness Survey

The prefecture will review its policies as necessary based on the results of this survey and the results of investigations into the state of reconstruction initiatives. For more details on the survey, please visit the [Iwate Reconstruction Net](#) website.



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★ We welcome any comments or questions regarding the *News from Iwate’s Reconstruction*

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◆ News from Iwate’s Reconstruction Archives → [Iwate Reconstruction Net](#)

◆ Notice: We’re planning a redesign for the next issue (May 15).