

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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



Volume 44  
(July 15, 2013)

Iwate Prefecture

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.

In this long rainy season, we wait for the refreshing onset of summer. The affected areas continue to move toward reconstruction. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## Thinking about Our Future

### Young people's opinion exchange meeting held Miyako

On Saturday, June 29, a workshop for high school students in the affected area and students of universities and colleges of technology from within Iwate was held in Miyako City. The workshop was jointly organized by Iwate Prefecture and the Iwate Higher Education Consortium.

The aim was to allow young people to get together and think about the future of the reconstruction in the

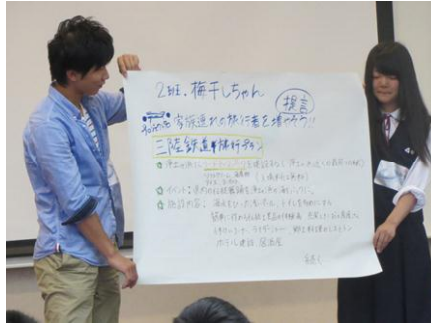
affected areas, to express their opinions as young people, and reflect on the prefecture's policies.

There were 92 participants, including 66 high school students (35 boys, 31 girls) and 26 university and other students (13 boys, 13 girls). They broke into groups of 13, and after group-work they summarized their conclusions and each group made a presentation.

We are examining these and other opinions as part of the realization of the "Sanriku Creation Project" and this will play a part in the second phase of our Reconstruction Implementation Plan.



The workshop



Group presentations

Some proposals raised for the Sanriku Creation Project:

Sanriku Industry Promotion Project

- Utilize the treasures of Sanriku (sea produce, culture, tourism, people, nature)
- Create people to take on these industries later (fisheries, preservation and development of traditional arts)

Regional Community Planning Through New Exchanges Project

- Increase the numbers of tourists, and how to turn these into long-term residents
- A convenient transport infrastructure to come to these towns is critical

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. This new section "People for Sanriku's Future" will introduce these young people and their powerful feelings from this volume on.

Part 1 introduces Ms. Miki Kashiwazaki's efforts.



Sanriku Hitotsunagi Nature School  
Miki Kashiwazaki

she had grown up in destroyed by the disaster left her speechless, she told us.

After the disaster, she made up her mind to stay in Kamaishi, in order to be close to her family, and to see if there was anything she could do to help. Currently she is working hard every day, primarily giving children a place to go and play after their parks were used to build temporary housing, as well as showing her desire to increase the number of visitors to her hometown.

*I want people to come and see the energy of Kamaishi for themselves.*

"Although I lost a lot, including friends and relatives, I was able to meet the people who came to help us, and that reassured me that I was not alone, and there are people here for me," she told us, smiling. "Everyone please come to Kamaishi, and see how full of energy the town still is, and please continue to be a friend to our community."

#### Profile:

Born in the Katagishi area of Kamaishi City, after graduating high school she went on to university in Hokkaido. Upon graduation, she organized a children's camp at Kuromatsunai Bunanomori Nature School in Suttso, Hokkaido, among other activities. Following the disaster in March 2011, she returned to Kamaishi. She currently works for the Sanriku Hitotsunagi Nature School on projects such as "Building a Place for Children".

*In an instant, this place that I knew just became completely different.*

The day after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck, she and a coworker left Hokkaido for Kamaishi. With the expressways closed, they were relieved to finally get to Kamaishi. Seeing the town



"I want to make more Kamaishi fans!"

**We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!**

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and help support us!



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

**Free to Register!**

# Reconstruction becomes a reality throughout the coastal region

## Tanohata Salmon Hatchery completion ceremony

On Tuesday, July 9, Tanohata Village held a completion ceremony for construction of its new salmon hatchery, which was all but destroyed by the tsunami.

This hatchery is planned to be shared with neighboring Fudai Village, and will be used to raise around 12 million young fish that will be released next spring.

Since the salmon catch is a key part of our fisheries industry, news that it is moving towards recovery is good news indeed.



The completion ceremony in progress

## Prayer ceremonies for safety in Miyako and Otsuchi

Reconstruction works (ground leveling, building houses on higher ground, etc.) in various parts of the badly-affected coastal regions have begun. On Saturday, June 29 in Otsuchi Town and on Wednesday, July 3 in Miyako City's Taro and Otobe areas, ceremonies to pray for the safety of these various works were held.

Although it took a while to acquire the necessary land, etc., works on the reconstruction are finally coming into full swing.

## Beginning of work on public housing in Iwaizumi

Wednesday, July 3 saw the start of construction work on a public housing project in the Omoto area of Iwaizumi Town.

The project will see the construction of a 2-story apartment building with 16 apartments made of reinforced concrete, and 20 2-story wooden non-detached houses in 4 blocks, for a total of 36 new homes. The project is aiming for completion in February of next year.

## Restoration works around Shimanokoshi Station on Sanriku Railway's North Rias Line

Works on the Sanriku Railway North Rias Line's Shimanokoshi Station, which lost both its main building and land bridge in the tsunami, continue in earnest. It is hoped that in April 2014, the currently inactive 10.5-km stretch between Tanohata and Omoto Stations will be fully up and running again.



Work on the land bridge between Tanohata and Shimanokoshi Stations.  
※The substructure is completed, and work on installing the beams has begun.

# Seatopia Naado fully reopens its doors

Miyako

On Saturday, July 6, Miyako City's facility for comprehensive cultural exchange activities, "Seatopia Naado", finished its disaster restoration works, and opened to the public once again.

Seatopia Naado first opened in 2003. In 2005 it was designated as a "roadside station" and a "port oasis". It has functioned not only as a facility for locals but also as a hub for the Miyako area's tourism industry.

In the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 2011, Seatopia Naado suffered tremendous damage, and faced continuous closure until in March 2012 it was able to resume operations in a temporary facility. It's full re-opening has been keenly anticipated.

At the opening ceremony, Miyako Mayor Masanori Yamamoto gave a speech in which he stated "I think Seatopia Naado can become a symbol of Miyako City's reconstruction. The sale of many agricultural and marine goods will contribute to the revitalization of our region, and so I hope lots of people will visit here."

At the commemorative events held in front of the facility "minced salmon cutlets" and "sea urchin rice", which will be

entered in a national seafood competition, were sold, in addition to a farmer's market with cherries, blueberries and lots of fresh vegetables. Visitors crowded to the area.

Outside there was a stage set up, and celebratory performances of local traditional "Yamaguchi Daiko"-style Japanese taiko drumming and by folk singer Naoko Odashiro earned great applause from the crowd.

Reopening before the summer travel season, Seatopia Naado will become a tourism hub for Miyako once again, as well as serving as a "kitchen" for Miyako's citizens.



The bustling "Naado" shop



Yamaguchi Daiko performance

## Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of June 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,146
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,928

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

Iwate Pref Bousai

Search

## Thank you for all your support!

As of June 30, 2013

**Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.78929 billion (85,910 donations)

**Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥16.53294 billion (6,199 donations)

**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥5.80522 billion (10,554 donations)

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

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Vol. 44. July 15, 2013.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives:

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Search

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE