

Ever since the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011, we have received countless support, both moral and material, from all over Japan as well as the world. We would like to express our utmost gratitude and continue to cherish these newly-developed bonds. Soon a year will have passed since the disaster. On March 11, memorial ceremonies were held throughout the prefecture to console the spirits of the victims and to declare our resolve towards reconstruction. In this newsletter, we will introduce the present conditions of Iwate as it reaches this significant turning point.

Joint Memorial Ceremony Held by Rikuzentakata City and Iwate Prefecture (1)

On March 11, one year since that devastating day of deep sorrow, the "Iwate Prefecture-Rikuzentakata City Joint Memorial Ceremony for the Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" was held.



More than 3000 people including the bereaved family members attended the ceremony, and observed a one-minute silence at 14:46, the time the earthquake occurred. We will march forward towards the reconstruction of Iwate as a whole, keeping the victims' memories of their homeland alive.

Thank You! We're Working Hard! High School Runners from Disaster-Stricken Areas Invited to Tokyo Marathon 2012

One hundred and five high school students from three disaster-stricken prefectures were invited to run in the 10-km race of the Tokyo Marathon 2012, held on February 26. One of the Takata High School students who completed the race said: "After the earthquake, I was thinking about quitting track and field, but then I decided to try it again. The 10-km race was exhausting but fun. The cheers along the course really encouraged me."



Takata High School students, all smiles
after completing the 10-km race
(Hibiya Park)

One hundred and three students completed the race, excepting the two who chose not to run due to leg pain. An exchange party was held in Hibiya Park, the goal of the race. Chisato Fukushima, a sprinter aiming to run in the London Olympics, gave the students words of encouragement and support.

Damage and Casualties in Iwate (as of March 14)

- Casualties: 4671 dead; 1249 missing
- Buildings damaged (residential houses only; totally-destroyed or half-destroyed): 24747

Hirono Town - Community Network Proved Vital in Emergencies

The "Fureai Salon" in the Tamagawa area of Taneichi, Hirono Town, is a place of exchange for the local residents. One of the continual projects of the Salon is making the "Residents' Mutual Support Map," which includes information such as the residences of the elderly living alone, present conditions of the community, and any issues and problems. By sharing such information, the residents become actively involved in the problem-solving of community issues. Photographed here is Yoko Sawamura, a local district welfare officer. She strongly feels that the map-making experience contributed to the prompt and appropriate evacuation by the residents. She states: "Using the information on the map, the volunteers were able to help the elderly and those living alones to evacuate safely, with not a single person getting injured. Pre-developed connection with others in the community is important in times of emergency. I hope to continue watching over the community with a spirit of mutual support."



Hope for the Future

"I hope to continue watching over the community with a spirit of mutual support."

The map-making project is an activity that develops the residents' sense of "connection" into that of "mutual support." The project has spread to 17 municipalities throughout Iwate.

>>>For more details (back volume) <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

Prefectural TV program "Iwate Kibo no Chikara"
Number 37:
Community Network Proved Vital in Emergencies
(Aired on 2/20, 2/21, 2/23, 2/26)

Thank You for Your Support

- ★Donations for the victims (as of 2/29):
about 16, 792,070,000 yen (76363 donations)
*To be distributed to the victims through municipalities
- ★Donations for reconstruction measures (as of 2/29):
17,195,650,000 yen (4844 donations)
*To be used for reconstruction measures by the prefecture
- ★Iwate no Manabi Kibo Fund (as of 2/29):
3,413,630,000 yen (4835 donations)
*To be used to support the children affected by the disaster

>>>To make a donation:

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

Joint Memorial Ceremony Held by Rikuzentakata City and Iwate Prefecture (2)

I wish to express my deepest condolences to the souls of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The disaster took over 4600 lives in our prefecture, mainly in the coastal areas, and despite the utmost search efforts, over a thousand people are still missing.

When I offered a silent prayer in one of the disaster-stricken areas one week after the earthquake, as I closed my eyes, all I could hear were the sound of the waves and the calls of seabirds.

But when I opened my eyes, I was devastated to see destroyed homes, cars, fishing boats, unrecognizable townscape; the enormity of the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami seemed out of this world.

The victims were living their lives as usual, many of them working, at the time of the disaster. Among them were firefighters, fire department workers, and police officers, who helped the residents evacuate; there also were hospital workers who helped the patients evacuate.

Speech by Governor Tasso (digest)

These people were not only dear to their families but also indispensable to their communities and the development of the coastal areas. The loss suffered by Iwate is unfathomable, and when I think of the deep sorrow of the bereaved families, I am filled with bitter grief and a sense of condolence.

The road to reconstruction is full of obstacles, but we shall swear by the souls of the victims that we will march forward and revive from this disaster. We pray that their souls will guide and look over us in our efforts toward reconstruction.

With this oath to rebuild and revive our homeland Iwate and Sanriku by uniting our hearts, I close my speech.

>>>For full text:

http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0212/fukkou_net/tsuitou_shikiji.html

Please come to these events in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area!

Reconstruction Support Events from March to May

Dates	Event	Place	Details
Fri. 3/9 - Sun. 5/6	Photography exhibition "Sanriku Reconstruction Towards Hope: Iwate One Year Since the Disaster"	24th Floor Corridor, Fuji Television (Minato-ku, Tokyo)	A photography exhibition of disaster-stricken areas. Through various images such as aerial photos of towns before and after the disaster, see how these areas are moving forward towards reconstruction. (Admission ticket to "Hachitama" Observatory necessary)
Wed. 3/14 - Tues. 3/20	"Iwate wo Genkini!" The 41st Grand Iwate Expo	8th Floor, Nihonbashi Takashimaya (Chuo-ku, Tokyo)	A week featuring the best of Iwate's food and craft. Enjoy products such as Iwate's sweets, processed marine products, and craftworks.
Fri. 3/23 - Sun. 3/25	Japan Fishing Festival International Fishing Show 2012	Exhibition Hall, Pacifico Yokohama (Yokohama, Kanagawa)	The largest fishing festival in Japan. This year, the "Tohoku Reconstruction Support Products Booth" will open in the "Fresh Fish Gourmet Park" which is popular every year. Admission: 1200 yen at the door (free for junior high school students and under); 1000 yen advance ticket

>>> For other reconstruction support events: <http://goo.gl/g7bMk>

Iwate Governor
as
Editor-in-Chief

Comic Iwate Volume 2 Published

Volume 2 of Comic Iwate, a comic book on Iwate by cartoonists with ties to Iwate, will go on sale nationally on Friday, March 30. Like Volume 1, it will introduce the charms of Iwate such as its nature, culture, and lifestyle to readers throughout Japan, with the support of comic artists with ties to Iwate.



■Jointly published by: Iwate Prefecture and Iwate Nippo

■Price: 735 yen (tax included)

■Cartoonists (title of major work)

◇Takao Saito (Golgo 13)

◇Sensha Yoshida (Utsurundesu)

◇Koi Ikeno (Tokimeki Tonight)

◇Norifusa Mita (Dragon Zakura)

◇Aruto Asuka (Gogai! Iwate Chaguchagu Shinbunsha)

■Other contents:

"Cheer for Iwate" Illustration by 9 cartoonists such as Kaiji Kawaguchi (Chinmoku no Kantai); "Support Activities Information" by cartoonists; "Iwate Comic Map"

>>>For more details on Comic Iwate:

<http://goo.gl/RsqV1>

