

We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which struck on 11th March 2011. The precious bonds created during this time, will be always cherished. A year has passed since the disaster and the rubble and debris have been mostly removed to a temporary site, resulting in creating vast vacant lots of land. Although the road to recovery is quite tough, the people of Iwate remain united in their efforts to rebuild and reconstruct Sanriku area and Iwate.

We hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts. Here is some of the latest news from Iwate.



Photo: Otsuchi Town in Mar. 3rd

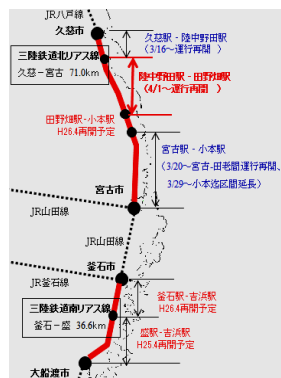
Sanriku Railway restarts its service between Rikuchu-Noda and Tanohata Station



A ceremony was held on April 1 to celebrate the restart of operations between Rikuchu Noda and Tanohata Stations of Sanriku Railway Kita-Rias Line.

Sanriku Railway was damaged extensively due to the tsunami as some of the station buildings and tracks were swept away by the tsunami. Despite the huge scale of the disaster, railway operations were partially restored just 5 days after the disaster, with the policy of 'starting the restoration from wherever they could'. The train operations were resumed gradually, but 2/3 of the track was still out-of-service.

The resumption of the operations at Rikuchu-Noda and Tanohata means that **80% of the Kita Rias track has been restored** within 1 year of the disaster. It is hoped that the resumption of train operations will boost the recovery efforts. All the parties involved are working hard towards a complete resumption of train operations which is expected to be accomplished completely by April 2014. We hope that you will continue to support us in this endeavor.



«Sanriku Railway:
Road to Recovery»

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of April 11th)

- Human Casualties/Deaths: 4,671; Missing: 1,225
- Buildings Destroyed: (Residences only; Total/Partial): 24,869

Child Care-Net: Bringing Smiles to the faces of families

Due to the damage wrought by the earthquake and tsunami, the number of open spaces where children can play freely, has decreased in the coastal areas. There have been calls for "children's events" or play facilities in parks from local mothers.

Faced with these difficult circumstances, some of the child-care support organizations in Iwate joined together to organize excursions and sports meets in 8 cities and towns (20 places) through the "Demae Pokopoko Programme" which uses outdoor events to support child care; this programme was outsourced to the NPO Child-Care Net by Iwate Prefecture and was started in September 2011.



Ms. Izumi Ryokawa (in the picture) of Iwate Child-Care Net says: "I want to see children happy and I hope that the happy faces of the children would will also make grown-ups happy". >>>For

Issues) ... <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>
いわて希望のちから Iwate Pref. TV Program "Iwate: Power of Hope"
Episode 41~Bringing smiles to children and their families~
(Broadcasting Dates: March 19, 20, 22, 25)

Thank you for your support!!

- ★ Donations for victims (As of February 29th)
Approx. 16.79207 Billion Yen (76,363 donations)
~To be contributed to the victims through municipalities~
- ★ Donations for the reconstruction (As of February 29th)
Approx. 17.19565 Billion Yen (4,844 donations)
- ★ Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of March 19th)
Approx. 3.86400 Billion Yen (5,213 contributions)
~To be used to support children affected by the disaster~
>>> For Donations/Contributions
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

【Iwate Reconstruction Forum in Tokyo】

Iwate Reconstruction Forum was held on March 26th.

The Forum was organized with a two-fold purpose: to express Iwate's gratitude to the people of Tokyo and surrounding areas for their support, and to discuss various issues and future activities related to Iwate's recovery from the disaster.

Iwate Prefecture appreciates all the help and support given to its reconstruction projects and hopes that this support will continue in future.



【Encouragement Ceremony for Dispatched Staff】

An 'encouragement ceremony' was held on April 2nd for staff who have been dispatched to Iwate Prefecture from various local governments across Japan, in order to help Iwate with its reconstruction and recovery efforts.

Iwate welcomed 139 new staff members from 33 different local governments including 4 designated cities. Governor Tasso in his speech encouraged the new staff to 'work hard for Iwate's speedy recovery from the disaster'.



Governor Tasso addresses the newly dispatched staff



Newly appointed staff of the Reconstruction Bureau

【Iwate Nomono Food Expo at Ueno Station】

As a part of its promotion of the Destination Iwate Campaign, a food fair of delicacies produced in Iwate will be held at Ueno Station.

The first 50 visitors will receive 300g of Iwate's fine quality rice 'Hitomebore' if they buy something at Nomono Expo. In addition to this, visitors to the Expo can also enjoy a variety of the following recipes and local sake wine made using local products at the Nomono Café.



Photo: Koiwai Dairy Farm

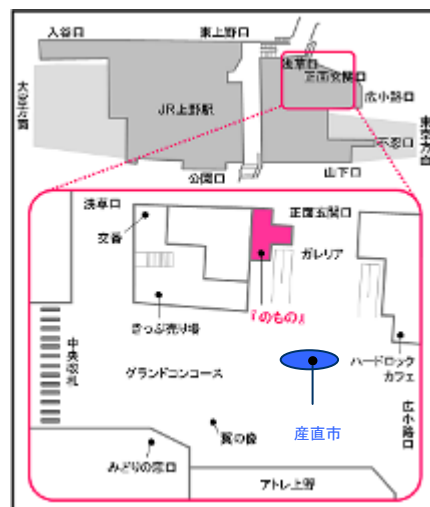
"Iwate Nomono" Menu

- Koiwai Milk Soft Ice Cream
Ice cream made from the milk delivered directly from Koiwai Dairy Farm with a rich and refreshing sweet taste.
- Gouda Cheese from Koiwai Dairy Farm
This cheese is made by letting it age for more than 8 months at Koiwai Dairy Farm. The cheese has a gentle milkiness which follows its mellow but rich taste.
- Ika Tokkuri (Yamada Town's "Kikura Shoten")
Ika Tokkuri are famous bottle shaped containers made of sun-dried squid trunks; these bottles are symbolic of the wisdom of past generations. The sake (rice wine) kept in an 'ika tokkuri' absorbs the light flavor of squid and one can actually take a bite of the bottle while enjoying a drink. You do not have to be a big drinker to enjoy this kind of fun.
- Local Sake (produced by Akabu Brewery and other breweries in Otsuchi Town)
A limited edition of "Special Junmai-shu Hama-Musume Sakura Label" rice wine, along with other local sake brands from Iwate, was created as a part of the Destination Iwate Campaign; you can enjoy this variety of sake with a sake tasting set.

- Organized By
East Japan Railway Company,
East Japan Railway Trading Company,
Prefecture of Iwate, The Bank of Iwate, Ltd.
- Event Schedule
Open until May 8th (Tuesday)

Information about Nomono (Iwate Product Shop)

- Business Hours
Sales: 11:00~22:00
Cafe: 7:00~22:00
(Sales and Café will be open until 21:00on Saturdays and others holidays)
- Grand Concourse, Outside Ueno Station
Central Ticket Gate (Inside Galleria)



>>>For Details about Nomono ...
<http://www.jreast.co.jp/nomono/>

※ The products in the shop are subject to change.

