

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.

Taro District in Miyako City
Photographed on April 11, 2012



【Spring arrives in the disaster-hit areas】

The cherry blossoms could be seen blooming everywhere in the coastal areas which were hit hard by the earthquake, as these areas welcomed the second Spring since the twin disasters of the earthquake and tsunami.

This edition of the newsletter brings you news from the popular season of *sakura*.



Photograph taken on April 24th in Kamaishi City (Yakushi Park). Kamaishi Port is visible in the background. The cherry blossoms in their full bloom are sure to bring smiles to people's faces during Golden Week.



Photograph taken on April 21st at Ando in Otsuchi Town (school district). The 'koi-nobori' (carp streamers) could be seen flying high and vigorously, as if praying for recovery and the redevelopment of the disaster affected areas.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of April 25th)

- Human Casualties/Deaths : 4,671; Missing: 1,223
- Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; total/partial) : 24,877

【The Destination Iwate Campaign: Expressing gratitude through Iwate's hospitality!】

There have been concerns about the effects of the Great Earthquake on the tourism industry. This prompted the start of a campaign named "Destination Iwate" from the 1st of April. This campaign came on the heels of Hiraizumi's inclusion on the World Heritage Site list; the purpose of the campaign is to bring back the tourists whose numbers went down after the disaster through the cooperation between public and private sectors. The scale of the campaign is the biggest tourism campaign planned in last 32 years.

Mrs. Saito who runs Zuisenkaku, a *ryokan* in Ichinoseki, says that the people of Iwate would like to convey their gratitude to the tourists visiting Iwate through this campaign.



Mrs. Saito adds further: 'We are very grateful for the aid we have received from all over Japan. We would like to express our gratitude through our hospitality.'



>>>For back issue... <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

Iwate Pref. TV Program "Iwate: Step of Hope"
Episode 1: Gratitude through the Hospitality
(Broadcasting Dates: April 9, 11, 12)

Thank you all for your support!!

- ★ Donations for victims (As of 31st March)
Approx. 17.18960 Billion Yen (78,264 donations)
～ To be contributed to victims through local administrations
～
- ★ Donations for the Reconstruction (As of 31st March)
Approx. 17.55003 Billion Yen (4,878 contributions)
- ★ Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of 20th April)
Approx. 4.15000 Billion Yen (6,239 donations)
～ To be used to support the children affected by the disaster～
>>> For Donations/Contributions
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouthou/volunteer.html>

【Reconstruction Committee – Disaster Recovery Activities carried out by each professional organizations】

On March 28th, the “8th Iwate Pref. Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Reconstruction Committee” meeting was held in Morioka City and reconstruction activities were discussed at the meeting.



The following 5 organizations which are also members of this Committee, made presentations about their activities: Iwate Dietitians Association, Iwate Fisheries Association, Iwate Architects’ Association, Yamase Design Conference (NPO), and Iwate Kogyo Club; the presidents of these 5 organizations are also members of the Reconstruction Committee.



Chairperson Ito of the Iwate Dietitians Association



Chairperson Ooi of Iwate Fisheries’ Association

>>>Please see here for details:

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

【“Connections”- A soccer ball which traveled across ocean is found at a beach in Alaska】

According to newspaper reports, a youngster’s keepsake soccer ball was swept away by the tsunami from a disaster-hit town in Iwate and was found at a beach in Alaska after drifting across the Pacific Ocean. Besides the soccer ball, a volleyball was also found; the soccer ball was swept away from Rikuzentakata while the volleyball was lost from Tanohata Village.

These kind of ‘connections’ are sure to boost Iwate’s rebuilding efforts.

【An art installation entitled “Tsunagari” (Connections) was donated to Iwate】

On April 18th, Iwate Prefecture received a gift of art installation made with over 20,000 match sticks from Japan Match Manufacturers’ Association (Kobe City). The object was made with a wish for Iwate’s recovery. This object is on display at Citizen’s Hall on the 1st floor of the Iwate Pref. office.



【Shinpei Goto: Pioneer of Reconstruction～A Tale of an Iwate Hero～】

The restoration of the programmed chartered flight between Taiwan and Hanamaki is still fresh in our minds, as it resumed its operations on 19th April. The flight has brought a new hope to Iwate’s tourism industry which is in a recession due to the earthquake.

When one talks about ‘Iwate’, ‘Taiwan’ and ‘Rebuilding’, one cannot forget to mention one of Japan’s famous statesmen, Shinpei Goto, who was born in Iwate. A special exhibition entitled “Shinpei Goto – the Pioneer of Reconstruction / A Tale of an Iwate Hero” is being held at the prefectural library, which focuses on Goto as he played an important role in the country’s development.

<Outline of the Special Exhibition>

- Venue
Iwate Prefectural Library, Exhibition Corner on the 4th floor
- Schedule
Open until June 10th (Sunday)
※Closed on May 26th (Sat), May 31st (Thu)
- Hours
9:00～20:00



Shinpei Goto’s Statue at the National Taiwan Museum

After serving as the president of Aichi Hospital and head of the Home Ministry’s medical bureau, Goto was appointed as the civilian governor of Taiwan by Gentaro Kodama, the Director-General of Taiwan.



Goto, as the Head of the Imperial Reconstruction Institute

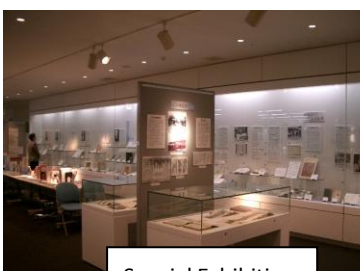
After the Great Kanto Earthquake, Goto worked diligently towards rebuilding as the head of the Imperial Reconstruction Institute. He also emphasized the importance of constructing radial roads along with ring roads and his achievements can still be seen in the form of Showa Street, Yasukuni Street, and Meiji Street.

Besides highlighting Goto’s activities, this special exhibition also introduces several local personalities: Aikitsu Tanakadate, a physicist from Ninohe City in Iwate who is known for his research on the seismic center of the Nobi Earthquake of 1891; and prefectural assembly member Sakae Oikawa who contributed greatly through voluntary medical service in the aftermath of the ‘Great Meiji Sanriku Tsunami.

After experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake, we may be able to learn a lot from figures like Shinpei Goto. om great personalities like Goto.

>>> For the details about the “Shinpei Goto Exhibition” ...

<http://www.library.pref.iwate.jp/oshirase/info.html>



Special Exhibition

