

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 and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. We will continue to cherish these bonds.

The first snow of the year fell in Morioka on the night of Nov. 15, the same day as last year and seven days earlier than in the past. We're now in season for snow, although compared to the inland, the snow and cold weather are not as bad in the coastal regions with their temporary housing districts. Here are some of the recent activities of Iwate's reconstruction efforts.

Prefectural Round-table Discussion Held in the Disaster Areas

On December 1, the prefecture held a round-table discussion with disaster survivors living in temporary housing in the Heita district of Kamaishi City. The talk was entitled, "**Ganbaro, Iwate! Prefectural Government Round-Table Discussion and Opinion Exchange.**" After the discussion, **Governor Tasso** visited temporary housing in the area and **spent the night.**



Gov. Tasso in temporary housing



Gov. Tasso receiving an explanation at the temporary housing district

The governor stayed in the temporary housing because he wanted to know how life truly was for the many survivors living there.

"While I got to see how our cold-proofing efforts for temporary housing are working out, it pained me to see how difficult life here is for the survivors. It confirms my feeling that the prefectural government needs to work closely with and support the survivors," stated the governor.

The government will continue to work closely with the survivors and support the restoration of the lives and livelihoods of every single survivor as they work hard as the main actors in the reconstruction.

Iwate Prefectural Museum – Recovering Artifacts

Many of Iwate's museums, libraries, and other cultural facilities were damaged by the earthquake and tsunami. The tsunami in particular washed away many of our cultural artifacts.

This spurred the Iwate Prefectural Museum to start an artifact restoration project. They are delicately removing dirt and mud from ancient texts and organic specimens to restore these precious artifacts.



Hope for the Future

"I hope to be able to pass the restored objects on to the next generation, along with our dedication to them."

"I am extremely honored to be a part of a project that will leave a legacy to people in years to come," says restoration staff Masako Goto. "I do my work with pride."

"All of the artifacts damaged by the tsunami were one-of-a-kind, precious objects," says Katsuhiro Sasaki, a specialist curator at the prefectural museum. "I hope to leave the restored objects to the next generation, along with the dedication of this era."

>>>For more information ... <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

From the prefectural TV show

いわて希望のちから

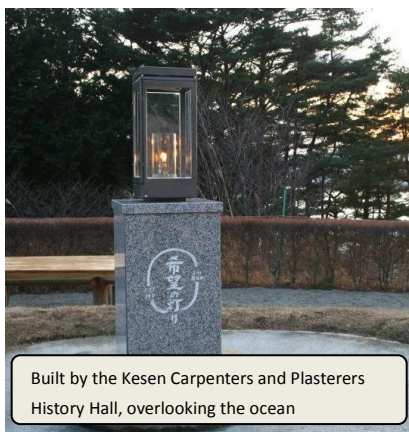
"Iwate Kibo no Chikara (The Power of Hope)"

Episode 28 "Recovering Artifacts"

(Broadcast on Dec. 12, 13, 15, 18)

"Thank you! We'll do our best!"

From Kobe to Rikuzentakata – the "3/11 Flame of Hope" is Alighted



Built by the Kesen Carpenters and Plasterers History Hall, overlooking the ocean

On December 10, a gas lamp called the "Flame of Hope" was alighted in a clearing on high ground in Rikuzentakata City. It was given to the region by Kobe City, which was struck by the Hanshin Earthquake of 1995.

The flame was brought over because of an NPO called "Flame of Hope for the 1/17 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake" (Representative: Masami Horiuchi) that oversees the lamp in Kobe and also sent relief supplies to Rikuzentakata during the disaster.

The flame stands as a memorial to the victims and as a hope for our reconstruction. Citizens of both cities stood before the flame and vowed to face this crisis together.

About Additional Donation Distributions

The prefecture will be **distributing additional donations** to survivors in order to buy heating appliances for the winter cold and to cover various necessary costs for the end-of-year holidays. Donations will be distributed through local municipalities.

Graph of Donation Benefits

Death or missing person	¥73,000 per person
House completely destroyed	¥73,000 per house
House partially destroyed	¥73,000 per house

★**Donations for Survivors** (as of Nov. 30)
Around ¥16.54219 billion (72,499 donations)

-To be distributed to survivors through their local municipalities

Thank you for all of your support!

The 2016 National Athletic Meet will be held in Iwate

It was uncertain whether the **2016 National Athletic Meet** could be held in Iwate because of the disaster, but “it has been determined that **it would be line with public opinion to hold the meet as a symbol of our reconstruction and restoration,**” said Governor Tasso.

It would be difficult for the prefecture to operate the meet completely while also carrying out reconstruction efforts in progress, so it is aiming to have a base of support from prefectural citizens, businesses, and organizations to create an Iwate-style National Athletic Meet.

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of Dec. 14)

- Human casualties – Deaths: 4,665
Missing: 1,380
- Buildings destroyed: 24,736 (residences only, total/partial damage)

★**Donations for reconstruction projects** (as of Nov. 30) ★**Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations** (as of Nov. 30)
Around ¥6.04298 billion (4,402 donations) Around ¥2.66761 billion (3,574 donations)

Iwate Prefecture is looking for fixed-term staff for its reconstruction

Iwate Prefecture is carrying out many projects for its reconstruction, including restoration to its public works facilities.

However, the prefecture needs to hire additional fixed-term workers for this effort and other prefectural government issues, as there is a shortage of staff due to temporary increases in duties.

>>>For more details
... <http://goo.gl/AgzAG>

■ Application Period

December 14, 2011 (Wed) -
January 13, 2012 (Fri)

Mail or hand in applications directly

■ First-stage test

- Date: January 29, 2012 (Sun)
- Place: Iwate Prefectural University, Common Lecture Hall
- Results: February 9 (Thu)

■ Second-stage test

- Date: Between February 18, 2012 (Sat) - February 27 (Mon)

You will be informed of the date if you pass the first stage.

- Place: Iwate Pref. Gov't. Morioka Branch Building
- Results: March 2 (Fri)

1. Job types, desired numbers, work area

- 【General office work】 20 people
→Mainly in coastal area organizations or the main pref. office
- 【Public works】 40 people
→Mainly in coastal area organizations or the main pref. office

2. Requirements

- 【General office work】
Must have been born on or before April 1, 1994
- 【Public works】
Must fulfill one of the following:
(1) Be a 1st or 2nd Class Public Works Execution Managing Engineer
(2) Have real-world experience equivalent to the 2nd level of the Public Works Execution Managing Skills Test

3. Term Limit

April 1, 2012 – May 31, 2015 (3 years)

For Sanriku's Reconstruction

In order to raise momentum for the genuine reconstruction of the Sanriku coast, Iwate Prefecture has created a symbolic logo, pictured at right. Created by calligrapher Shoko Kanazawa, the logo is being used in events and PR publications. The characters mean “Sanriku Reconstruction”.

The prefecture will continue to hold various events and fairs to gather support.

It has also created a “Sanriku Reconstruction” Facebook page as a place for supporters to share ideas and information about Sanriku.



The Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Fair at Aeon Laketown Shopping Center



>>>Sanriku Reconstruction Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/iwate.sanrikufukkou>