

It has been 8 months since the Great East Japan Earthquake. We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan. We will continue to cherish these bonds. We are moving forward with development plans for cities, towns and villages as we continue to discuss these plans with the local people. Here are some of the recent activities aimed at Iwate's rebuilding and recovery.

【Ground Breaking & a *Kigan* (praying for safety) Ceremony for the Sanriku Railway Line Restoration Construction Project】

A traditional ground breaking ceremony for the Sanriku Railway Line restoration project was held at the Kita-Rais line area in Noda village on November 3rd.

Ever since the start of its operations in 1984 as the first '3rd Sector' railway company, Sanriku Railway has played a vital role as a means of transport for the local people in the Sanriku coastal areas as well as a community foundation for tourism and regional vitalization. Throughout its journey, Sanriku Railway has always been supported by many people besides the local communities.



Disaster-hit tracks of Shimano-koshi Station

Santetsu, as it's called in Japanese, was seriously affected by the tsunami. However, the Santetsu staff decided to give priority to the earliest possible restart of the services; as a result, services were reopened as follows: Kuji-Rikuchu Noda (March 16th), Miyako-Taro (March 20th), Taro-Omoto (March 29th).

In spite of such a relatively speedy restart of the service, trains are available on only 1/3 of the total service area at present. The recovery of Sanriku Railway is a symbol of post-disaster rebuilding and a glimmer of hope for the local population. In order to make the train service operational through the entire area and pass on the passion of its founders to the next generation, we ask everyone for their continued support for Santetsu!

>>>Sanriku Railway
<http://www.sanrikutetsudou.com/>

■“Iwate Pref. sponsored TV Programme-
 “Iwate Kibo-no-Chikara” Watch it online now!



>>>For Details
<http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

【A gift from cartoonists to the children in the disaster hit areas】

On November 9, 4 famous *manga* artists visited the prefectural office and presented a poster supporting the disaster-hit areas to the Governor. The poster includes support messages and illustrations which were published over 14 issues of Tokyo Chunichi Sports after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami; the poster was distributed to various schools in Iwate Prefecture.



From right, Takatoshi Yamada (Major work: Dr. Koto's Clinic), Fujihiko Hosono (Gallery Fake), Governor Tasso, Tooru Fujisawa (GTO), Kazuhiro Fujita (Ushio and Tora)

>>>For poster details:
<http://twitpic.com/7e2ak6>

Thank you all for your support!!

Donations to Survivors (As of October 31st)
 Approx. ¥ 16.29527 Billion (71,327 donations)

Donations for the Reconstruction (As of October 31st)

Approx. ¥ 5.98784 Billion (4,265 donations)

Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of 31st October) Approx. ¥ 2.4260 Billion (3,175 contributions)

>>>How to donate
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=32136>

【Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of 14th November)】

○Human Casualties/Deaths: 4,664; Missing: 1,425
 ○Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; Total/Partial): 24,735

【Customized Temporary Housing Tour】 ~ Helping to improve the housing environment ~

Iwate Prefecture organized a demonstration tour of customized temporary housing at the temporary housing complex in Ofunato City on November 10th.

The purpose of this tour was to give a demonstration about improving the living environment at the emergency temporary housing and also to offer an opportunity to the tenants to communicate with each other. At a lounge in the housing complex, tour staff demonstrated how residents can use common daily life objects to improve living conditions. For instance, using bubble wrap sheet on a window as a protection against cold or using tension pole to create storage space or making use of magnets and hooks to store away small things.

A similar event was organized in Kamaishi City in October and such tours are also expected to be organized in Rikuzentakata and Miyako sometime in November.

External wall insulation construction was completed in October and the construction of vestibules was completed in December, thus providing good protection against the winter cold. Apart from this, the prefecture is also planning to provide heating equipment such as fan heaters, *kotatsu*, etc. through local business enterprises, in accordance with the local weather conditions of each town or city. We hope that these efforts improve the living conditions of the people affected by the disaster.



Demonstration Tour (Staff explains to a participant)
Storage using tension poles (left); Using bubble wrap as a protection against cold (bottom)



いわてと笑顔に Smile with the people of Iwate

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming support we have been receiving from within Japan and overseas.

In order to express its gratitude for the support it has received from overseas, Iwate Prefecture has created the movies with English and French subtitles to convey the recovery and rebuilding efforts of Iwate.

>>>Please click here for the videos
【English】 <http://goo.gl/aOx9O>
【French】 <http://goo.gl/J2R6J>



From the movie "Smile with the people of Iwate"

【Thank you all! We're moving on!】 The character of "Kizuna" (Bonds) written by Seihaan Mori, the chief priest of Kiyomizu Temple

The Kanji letter "Kizuna" (bond) was donated to Iwate Prefecture on November 8th; this *kanji* character was written by the chief priest of Kiyomizu Temple, Seihaan Mori, famous for writing the 'Kanji of the Year.' Priest Mori also happens to be a "Cultural Ambassador for Hope - Paradise Iwate" and he himself selected this *kanji* and drew it in a calligraphy style to express his support for the disaster victims.

This piece of calligraphy was in the possession of Kawatoku Company; however, it was donated to Iwate Prefecture in accordance with Priest Mori's wishes. The calligraphy work is now displayed at the Citizens' Hall at the prefectural office.



Echizen washi paper of the same size (1.5m×1.3m) as the one used to write the 'Kanji of the year'