## News from Iwate's Reconstruction

Ganbaro, Iwate! Let's stick together, Iwate!



Volume 106 June 1, 2016

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming 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. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Days

until the National Sports Festival 122

until the 143 National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

Morioka

# Opening of the Iwate Inland Survivor Support Center

On May 20th, 2016 (Fri), the Iwate Inland Survivor Support Center opened its doors in Zaimoku-cho, Morioka. The center was built to support the reconstruction of homes for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami who have taken refuge inland or to other prefectures.

The center will contact disaster survivors who have evacuated to temporary living arrangements or left the prefecture, both by telephone and in person, in order to ascertain their future plans. By providing consultation services, it aims to further encourage

the reconstruction of residential homes.

There are 7 staff members stationed at the center who are certified mental health welfare professionals, social workers, or consumers' affairs consultants. In addition to providing telephone and in-person services, they can also explain the procedures for building a home, or assist people in finding their own property.

Takuya Kimura, the director of the Bureau of Reconstruction, made an address at the opening ceremony. "We want to do our very best to evaluate

the living conditions of the survivors, and proceed as quickly as possible with the rebuilding process."

At the end of April 2016, there were a total of 4,728 evacuees, of which 1,409 were living in temporary housing arrangements.

It is hoped that the rebuilding process will go smoothly from here on, and that the victims will be provided with support in their everyday lives.

Address: Morioka-shi, Zaimoku-cho 3-5 ■Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Closed on Sundays and holidays) Contact: 019-601-7640



The newly opened Iwate Inland Survivor Support Center

Information materials available in the center



# What can you get with 100 yen? The 100-yen Market!

On April 30th, 2016 (Sat), a 100-yen market event was held at the temporary shopping area "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" in Ofunato. bustling The event was with bargain-shoppers looking to grab a deal.

The 100-yen market is an event where all of the stalls in "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" sell their products to customers for 100 yen. This is the 5th time it has been held.

The stalls were selling many kinds of

things, from seafood products, snacks, daily necessities, and fresh food... all for 100 yen! At one point, 2-in-1 packs of fresh scallops and strawberries went on sale for a limited time - for 100 yen.

The "Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street" is scheduled to close down at the end of this fiscal year, but there are still many exciting events in store for the locals, such as a kids' event in August.



Families browsing stalls at the 100-ven market event (Photo: Ofunato Dreams Shopping Street)

## Spreading the joy. Giving thanks. The Land of Hope National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

Ofunato Kuii 🕻 Morioka Miyako Hanamaki 🤇 Kamaishi Hiraizumi Ichinoseki

Event ► Ground golf Dates ► September 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat) – 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Venue ► Sakarigawa Riverside Park Demonstration sport ► Marathon: August 7<sup>th</sup> (Sun) / Walking: October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sun) Contact 🛱 0192-27-3111 (Ofunato)

### **Ofunato INFORMATION**

Ofunato is a city located in the southern coast of Iwate Prefecture with a population of approximately 38,000 people. Its main industry is the fishing industry, as it is located right by the Sanriku fishing grounds, one of three of the world's leading fishing areas. In addition to an abundance of freshly caught pacific saury, mackerel, squid, and salmon, this geographically unique, serene bay also cultivates oysters, scallops, wakame seaweed, and sea squirts.

Also in town is the Goishi Coast, a nationally-designated place of scenic beauty. A particularly breathtaking sight is the Anatoshiiso, a unique rock formation that was eroded away by ocean water, leaving three large, gaping holes in its wake.



## Senza Festival on Horai Island,

and the return of the Hyotan-jima Festival

On April 29th, 2016 (Fri), reconstruction was completed on Oyashiro (on Horai Island in Akahama, Otsuchi), which the late Hisashi Inoue modeled his puppet show "Hyokkori Hyotan-jima" after. A ceremony called Senza-shiki was held to celebrate the relocation of the statue of the goddess Benzaiten back into the shrine, and the Hyotan-Jima Festival, which was put on hold just after the disaster, was held for the first time in six years.

The torii gates and main building of Benten Shrine on Horai Island were completely destroyed during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but thankfully, the statue of Benzaiten, the guardian deity of the ocean, had not been washed away. The local residents created a program called the Hyotan-jima Reconstruction Project to repair the statue and rebuild the shrine.

During the ceremony, the statue was carried from Akahama Yahata Shrine to the Akahama Fishing Harbor area, which served as the venue of the event, where there were performances of traditional dances such as tora-mai, shishi-odori and kagura.

At the simultaneously-held Hyotan-jima Festival, there oyster-shelling and were seaweed packing contests, and prayers for the recovery of Horai Island.



Relocating the statue of Benzaiten (Photo: Otsuchi)

Rikuzentakata

From March 26th, 2016 (Sat), four restaurants in Rikuzentakata began offering a fire-roasted and shabu-shabu set for scallops and wakame seaweed (called "Hotawaka Gozen") as one of Iwate's first "New OMOTENASHI Local Gourmet" dishes. This was developed as part of a campaign to attract visitors to the area with delicious local food.

Four fresh scallops caught in Hirota Bay are prepared in three different ways - raw and wrapped in konbu seaweed, fire-roasted and deep-fried. These are then presented on a three-tiered stand, or Three-story Scallop Tower. Wakame seaweed dipped in boiling broth (shabu-shabu), a local favorite, and Takata no Yume Rice, a rice brand from Rikuzentakata, are included in the set as well. Each restaurant adds on their unique dessert. The whole meal is brought on a wooden tray made of local Kesen cedar.

The specialties of Rikuzentakata are served all on one tray.

May 10th (Tue) marked the 1,000<sup>th</sup> sale of the set. It is gaining attention as Rikuzentakata's newest tourism asset, in addition to the city's famous Miracle Pine.



Rikuzentakata's Fire-roasted and Shabu-shabu set for Scallops and Wakame Seaweed

For more information:

Scallop and Wakame Set Search

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful feelings.

Part 56 introduces Ms. Seika Utsunomiya's efforts.

### 

#### Originally from Miyako.

She wanted to work in the railway industry, so after she graduated high school, she joined a private railway company in the Kanto region as a station attendant.

She had been feeling an urge to return to her hometown, when she heard that Sanriku Railway was hiring. She decided to go home and has been employed at Sanriku Railway since April 2016

Currently, she is working at the ticket counter and store in Miyako Station, and working on operations for trips to Kuji. Since May, she has been training to become a train conductor on the Ozashiki Train.

#### Things I realized only after I left

"Even while I was working in the Kanto region, I'd come back home to Miyako once a month, so I was watching the city change. New buildings have appeared, and I feel like reconstruction is well on its way," says Ms. Utsunomiya, who returned to Miyako after 3 years of living away from the city.

People for Future

Otsuchi

The Sanriku Railway North Rias Line Operations Train Conductor Cadet Seika Utsunomiya



"The Sanriku Railway is packed with loads of fun! Come join us!" "Tokyo and Miyako each have their own good points. I was born and raised in Miyako, but there were great things about the city that I didn't realize until I left. It's been five years since the disaster, but there are so many people who are hurting. I really want the people of Miyako to be well again," she says, talking fondly of her hometown.

### I'll do my best to reach my dream

Ms. Utsunomiya's dream is to be a train conductor. "If I achieve my dream, I'll become the 2nd woman train conductor in Sanriku Railway. I hope I can do everyone proud, and I'll work hard to make my dream come true," she says on chasing after her dreams.

"The 'Ozashiki Train - North Sanriku Car' is operated on the Sanriku Railway's North Rias Line on weekends and holidays. It's a really fun train where you can listen to an attendant talk about the sights, and also reserve and eat a delicious lunch box inside. I really recommend it!"

Special train services are being planned in preparation for summer vacation, indicating a busy and exciting tourism season for the coast.

#### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of April 30, 2016

▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,168

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction: www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

### Thank you for all your support!

As of April 30, 2016

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.49228 billion (93,339 donations) Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.77035 billion (7,742 donations) Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.38756 billion (17,722 donations)

> X This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

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