

Faster Alerts for Earthquakes and Tsunami Thanks to the S-net Landing Station in Miyako

Miyako

The National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture is currently undertaking a project called the Seafloor Observation Network for Earthquakes and Tsunamis along the Japan Trench (S-net). It consists of a network of cables on the Pacific Ocean seafloor, where seismometers and tsunami meters will be placed from Hokkaido to the Kanto region. On June 10th, 2016 (Fri), construction on the landing station in Miyako was finished. A trial operation was carried out, which was followed by an official opening ceremony.

S-net is a network of cables roughly 5,700 kilometers in length, connecting Kushiro Bay in Hokkaido with Boso Bay, all the way down in Chiba. The network consists of 150 seafloor observation stations that transmit real-time tsunami and seismic data to the Research Institute and Japan Meteorological Agency via the 5 coastal landing stations. This system will allow earthquakes to be detected roughly 30 seconds in advance, and tsunamis 20 minutes in advance. This information can then be transmitted to the public via early earthquake and tsunami warning systems.



The opening ceremony of the Miyako landing station
(photo: Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience)

New tourism opportunity Official opening of the Iwaizumi Line Rail Bike!

Miyako

On June 12th, 2016 (Sun.), the Iwaizumi Line rail bikes were offering free rides along the discontinued Iwaizumi railway line that ran between Iwate Wainai Station and Nakasato Station.

The former 38-kilometer JR Iwaizumi Line connected Miyako and Iwaizumi, but was decommissioned in April 2014.

In an effort to use the railway as a resource for tourism, the Miyako Wainai Kariya Regional Development Association came up with rail bikes (bicycles that run on top of the railway lines).

There were two 2-person bikes and two 4-person bikes; four in total. The course was a 6-kilometer round trip, which took a total of 45-50 minutes to complete. The residents who participated were able to enjoy the lush nature and refreshing breeze.

The rail bikes will officially be available to the public from June 19th (Sun), providing a brand-new tourism opportunity in the region.



Participants enjoying the rail bike
(photo: Miyako City)

* Operates on weekends and holidays
[Reservations and Inquiries]

Wainai Kariya Regional Development Association
☎ 080-5564-2310



Sanriku Event Information Summer festivals in Sanriku!!

7/16
Saturday

Kamaishi Marugoto Taste Festival

Kamaishi

Venue ▶ Sea Plaza Yu

A festival celebrating industrial, marine, and agricultural products. Two days of eating your fill and having as much fun as you possibly can in Kamaishi!

Inquiries

Kamaishi Tourism and Convention Association: 0193-27-8172

7/17
Sunday

Taneichi Sea Urchin Festival

Hirono

Venue ▶ Taneichi Seaside Park Event Plaza

Buy shelled and unshelled sea urchins, make your own raw sea urchin rice bowl or try catching and shelling them yourself.

Inquiries

Hirono Event Program Planning Committee: 0194-65-5916

7/17
Sunday

Ryusendo Summer Festival

Iwaizumi

Venue ▶ Around Ryusendo Cave

Buy grilled Iwaizumi shorthorn beef, watch traditional folk performances and explore the mysteries of Ryusendo.

Inquiries

Ryusendo Caves Office: 0194-22-2566

7/30
Saturday

Miyako Summer Festival

Miyako

Venue ▶ Downtown Miyako, Dezaki area

Traditional local performances will fill the city with a lively summer atmosphere. There will also be an ocean taiko drum festival, and a tugboat festival featuring rows of fishing boats.

Inquiries

Miyako Chamber of Commerce & Industry: 0193-62-3233

7/31
Sunday

Kuji Port and Fish Festival

Kuji

Venue ▶ Around Kuji Bay

An event based around Kuji Bay where you can enjoy the wonders of the ocean. The onstage performances and fresh seafood stalls will introduce visitors to the charms of Kuji's ocean.

Inquiries

Kuji Port and Fish Festival Planning Committee: 0194-52-2123

7/31
Sunday

Fudai Marugoto Genki Market

Fudai

Venue ▶ Fudai town area

Escape the route 45 highway and jump into pedestrian heaven in Fudai. We will send our joy to Japan, and to the rest of the world.

Inquiries

Fudai Marugoto Genki Market Planning Committee: 0194-35-2114

8/5
Friday

Sanriku-Ofunato Summer Festival

Ofunato

Venue ▶ Around Ofunato Fish Market, Chayamae wharf, etc.

A festival held in and around the Ofunato Fish Market, featuring a fireworks festival (with 8,000 fireworks), street dancing, a Tanabata naval parade, food stalls and much more.

Inquiries

Sanriku-Ofunato Summer Festival Planning Committee: 0192-26-2141

8/11
Thursday

LIGHT UP NIPPON in Noda

Noda

Venue ▶ In front of the town hall

Fireworks representing prayers for reconstruction and mourning for the dead will be set off at the coastal regions that were damaged during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Inquiries

Noda Industry Promotions Division: 0194-78-2926

Please call in advance before attending an event, as the details are subject to change. Inquiries in Japanese, please.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of May 31, 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 May 31, 2016

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.49702 billion (93,427 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.77156 billion (7,766 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥8.42247 billion (17,864 donations)

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

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 108. July 1, 2016.

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For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>