

**Ganbaro, Iwate!**  
**Let's stick together, Iwate!**  
**三陸復興**

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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.

In the very last weeks of the year, Iwate is busy preparing for Christmas and New Year.

We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum Held in Nagano

Nagano

On December 3rd, 2016 (Sat), Iwate and Nagano's Prefectural Governments co-hosted the Iwate Sanriku Reconstruction Forum in Nagano City. The forum was first held in 2012, making this its fifth year. Its aim is to communicate news of Iwate's reconstruction to the rest of the country.

After an opening greeting, Nagano's Governor Abe presented Iwate's Governor Tasso with a donation to be put towards recovery from typhoon #10. The event continued with a greeting from Mr. Mutai, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Cabinet Office and Reconstruction Agency. Next came a discussion

between Governor Tasso, Governor Abe and Mr. Kikuchi, Head of the Shinshu University Disaster Mitigation and Prevention Center, on the theme of "Disaster Recovery in Local Communities". Governor Tasso thanked Governor Abe for the many workers dispatched from Nagano to assist Iwate. He also commented on the reconstruction's progress. "It's progressing, but labor shortage is a constant problem," he said.

Next, there was a 4-person panel discussion with the theme, "Reconstructive Power in Local Communities". The panelists used their different experiences to come to several valuable conclusions. They

recommended taking lessons from the disaster to shape regional policy, and suggested carrying out evacuation drills. They also spoke about how important it is to pass on information about the disaster by word of mouth in local communities.

An exhibit within the venue displayed information about the damage Iwate suffered, and the current state of the reconstruction. There was also a sale of Iwate's local products, which proved to be extremely popular.

The forum was a way of thanking the rest of Japan for the assistance it has given Iwate. It also generated some significant ideas with regard to the future of the reconstruction.



Nagano's Governor Abe (left) and Iwate's Governor Tasso (right)



The panel discussion



Iwate's products for sale

## New Drama to Spread Memories of Iwate's Reconstruction

Morioka

Iwate Prefecture has commissioned documentary-style "Iwate Reconstruction Dramas", depicting the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, to keep memories of the disaster from fading.

The project was funded by aid money from the Reconstruction Agency. It invited the public to submit their stories, or to apply as actors, with the aim of involving as many people as possible. In the end, 75 stories were submitted, and 202 people applied to perform.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Thu), a ceremony was held at the Iwate Prefectural Government building to officially announce the dramas. The attendees included the author Katsuhiko

Takahashi, who is the project's supervising editor. Miyako native Izuho Ohta and Morioka resident Mayu Kariya, who play lead roles, were also there.

Two dramas will be created, based on stories submitted by the public: "The Smallest Bookshop in Japan" and "Winter Firefly". They feature actors like Hiroaki Murakami, Yumiko Fujita, Hatsunori Hasegawa and Satoshi Furuya.

The dramas are scheduled to air in March 2017. Besides appearing on 2 commercial TV stations, there will be 6 public screenings within the prefecture. The dramas will also be uploaded to Iwate's official online video channel, so people both inside and outside the prefecture can view them.



The "Iwate Reconstruction Dramas" are announced



Lead actresses Izuho Ohta (left) and Mayu Kariya (right)

Website <http://www.iwatefukkoudouga.jp/>



"e! Iwate" is a mobile app that sends you news and information about Iwate's Reconstruction (in Japanese). You can then re-post this information on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Downloads available for the following smart phone models:

• Android OS4.0 and newer, iOS6.0 and newer

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\*only available in Japanese

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