

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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.

The temperature difference is stark between day and night as rainy days increase and we enter Iwate's rainy season.

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

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

三陸復興

Volume 86

June 15, 2015

Joint Information Seminar Held by Three Affected Prefectures

Tokyo

On Saturday, June 6, an information seminar for candidates for fixed-term contracts as prefectural employees in the three disaster-affected prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima) was held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Building and the Tomin Hall.

Thanks to the support of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and national government's Reconstruction Agency, all three prefectures were able to hold a joint information session for the first time, allowing candidates to learn as much as possible about the state of affairs in the affected regions of all three prefectures. Successful candidates will work on reconstruction projects on fixed-term contracts.

More than 200 people attended the seminar. To start out, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Reconstruction Shinjiro Koizumi talked about the damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami as well as the progress of the reconstruction. He said, "It's been four years since the disaster, but there's still a lot to do. Reconstruction work is not easy, but we encourage you to help as best you can. I look forward to meeting you all again in the disaster-affected areas."

Representatives from the three prefectures then described the work that is being done in their prefectures and what they require from candidates. They then set up individual booths to answer questions from candidates.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister Shinjiro Koizumi's talk



The packed venue



Individual discussions

◆ Open call for fixed-term contract employees ◆

General Work: Application Period May 29 (Friday) ~ June 19 (Friday); Initial Screening July 12 (Sunday)

Engineering/Construction: Application Period May 29 (Friday) ~ July 3 (Friday); Screening based on documents

The First "Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow" Seminar

Morioka

On Saturday, May 30, the First Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow Seminar was held at Hotel New Carina in Morioka.

The event was sponsored by the local industrial-academic-governmental collaborative association Iwate Tomorrow Design Organization to provide a networking opportunity for people who want to be involved in the reconstruction. Around 150 people interested in the reconstruction from within and outside Iwate and from various different lines of work participated.

Professor Yoshimitsu Shiozaki from Ritsumeikan University spoke about the experiences and lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 and Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami as well as what we should keep in mind in preparation for future disasters. Kamaishi Mayor Takenori Noda also spoke on the current situation and challenges involved with the reconstruction of his city. In the second half of seminar, Professor Shiozaki, Mayor Noda, and Governor Tasso formed a

panel discussion where they exchanged many ideas about the reconstruction and rebuilding homes for the survivors.

After the panel discussion, the panelists took questions from the participants. It was a successful event, as the participants were about to learn from and network with others interested in the reconstruction.

The Second Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow Seminar will be held on July 18, 2015 (Saturday).



The packed venue



The panel discussion

For salads or stewed dishes:

It's the season for suki-konbu!
Fudai's suki-konbu is famed for its thick consistency and rich texture.

Suki-konbu is freshly picked konbu seaweed that is blanched, cut into thin strips and spread out in a wooden crate to dry.

fudai.antennashop

Search

(*Information only available in Japanese.)



Fudai

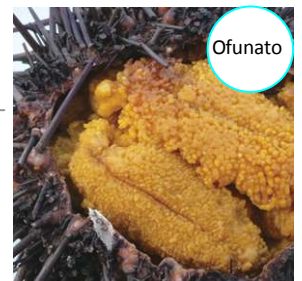
Photo: Shuichi Ota of Fudai Village

News
from
Sanriku

Sea urchin harvest makes a comeback after 6 years! Iwate's sea urchin season has truly arrived.

2010 was a bad year for sea urchin, so we had to wait out that harvest season. After that, Ofunato's sea urchin harvest was halted due to the 2011 disaster.

This May, Ofunato finally saw its sea urchin harvest revived for the first time in six years.



Ofunato

The Grand Opening of a New Hotel in Taro District, Miyako

Miyako

On Monday, June 1, the Nagisa-tei Taro House hotel had its grand opening in Miyako City. The hotel is a reconstruction of the former Taro Kanko Hotel which was damaged heavily by the tsunami. The old hotel remains standing in central Taro as a monument to the disaster, and the new building is on top of a hill overlooking the famous Sanno-iwa rock formation.

Nagisa-tei Taro House consists of a main building, an observatory building, and a detached building. It has 13 guest rooms, each equipped with an outdoor bathtub. The meals provided give guests a perfect sampling of Sanriku's delicious seafood.

The hotel also has a showcase area for a video of the tsunami taken from the Taro Kanko Hotel's sixth floor, which lodgers can watch on request. It is hoped that this will help preserve the memory of the disaster for future generations.



The beautiful view from the Nagisa-tei Taro House



The Nagisa-tei Taro House

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 40 introduces Ms. Yuki Kumagai's efforts.

Profile:

Originally from Massaki, Ofunato.

After graduating high school, she started studying at a sports university in Tokyo. After graduating, she started working at a sports club in Tokyo. In January 2013, she moved back to Ofunato to help out at the temporary housing districts.

In May 2014, she established the NPO "Sanriku Wellness", which travels around temporary housing to engage in health and community-building activities.

Pouring her efforts into health and community-building

Kumagai was working in a sports club in Tokyo when the earthquake and tsunami hit, so soon after she visited her hometown of Ofunato, travelling around the evacuation shelters to organize health and fitness classes.

She saw people sitting for long periods of time at the shelters, with some elderly people remaining prone on the floor. She says of the experience, "I knew that if this continued, their bodies would get weaker and their lives would get that much tougher when they made it out of



Non-Profit Organization
Sanriku Wellness
President
Yuki Kumagai



"I want people to live longer, healthier lives."

Kesen Junior High School Students Try on Yukata

Rikuzentakata

On Tuesday, May 26, a class on wearing yukata was held at Kesen Junior High School (69 students, Principal Toshinori Suzuki) in Rikuzentakata.

This event was made possible thanks to a Kyoto-based NPO dedicated to increasing people's interests in wearing kimono and a kimono school in Rikuzentakata (representative: Yoshiko Konno). The yukata that were used in the class were sent from all over Japan in support for the disaster affected areas.

Some students in the school had lost their yukatas to the tsunami. Organizers wanted to give the students a chance to learn about traditional Japanese clothing culture and try on yukatas, so they arranged for the event to be included as part of the students' home economics curriculum.

On this day, 24 second-year students tried their hands at putting on yukata with the help of Ms. Konno and 6 other instructors. The students had a great time, even if they were a little clumsy at first.



Yukata-wearing event



Students learning how to wear yukata

the shelters."

Kumagai moved back to Ofunato in 2013 in order to dedicate herself to the health of the elderly. She is now pouring her efforts into organizing health and fitness classes and community-building in the affected region, especially in temporary housing areas.

The key to happiness is living longer, healthier lives

Kumagai has many opportunities to interact with the local people while she organizes these classes. She has high hopes for improving the lives of the local people and reinvigorating the community.

"They are completing more and more permanent public housing for disaster survivors, and people are starting to move out of the temporary units. But many are still stuck here, and they're worried about facing further difficulties in the future. Even some who have moved out have had trouble fitting into their new communities. It's vital that elderly people keep themselves healthy so that they can remain active and happy. I hope there will continue to be more events that bring the local community together and more opportunities for senior residents to venture outside and stay active."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of May 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,163

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, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.38684 billion (91,483 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.67911 billion (7,337 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.55394 billion (15,622 donations)

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

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