

**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. Six years have passed since the disaster, and these days you can start to see Iwate's renewed towns and overall reconstruction taking shape. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## Six Years Since That Day Memorial Service Held In Kamaishi

Kamaishi



The decorated altar



The attendees offer a silent prayer



Governor Tasso gives a speech

On March 11th, 2017 (Sat), Iwate Prefecture and Kamaishi City held a joint memorial service in Kamaishi High School's gymnasium, to mark the 6th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Around 750 people attended, including bereaved family members.

Live footage from national government's ceremony at the National Theatre (Chiyoda, Tokyo) was broadcast during the service. At 2:46pm, the time the earthquake occurred, the attendees observed a minute's silence.

Governor Tasso gave a ceremonial address. "We will remember the victims and their hometowns. The terrible spectacle of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, as well as the lessons we learned from it – we will carve the experience onto our hearts, so we can pass it on to the next generation. We must continue the reconstruction.

Those of us still alive should combine our power, and work towards protecting lives, while building a home in Sanriku where people can live together with the land and the sea," he said.

Next, there was a speech from a representative of the bereaved families. Yoshio Miura, whose wife died in the Unosumai Disaster Prevention Center, said. "In an instant, the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake snatched away our peaceful lives. It took away the place where we lived, and forced us to live as victims. It was a forceful reminder of the threat of nature.

Not a day goes by where I don't think of the deep sadness felt by those who lost their beloved families. I strongly hope that we can put disaster prevention measures in place to ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again," he said.

After the speech, the 30 members of the Kamaishi Choir Association sang "Flower of Eternity" and "Stand Alone".

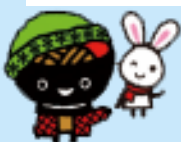
Lastly, the Seihakogaku-kai, a Japanese music performance group, played koto music while attendees left white chrysanthemums on the altar, and offered a prayer to the victims.



In Iwate Prefecture, 5,134 lives were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (4,672 direct deaths and 462 related deaths). 1,122 people remain unaccounted for. (as of February 28th, 2017)

**We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!**

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and Help Support Us!



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area. (Information only available in Japanese.)

For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Iwate Oendan

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