

On April 23, 2016 (Sat), the “SL Ginga” (Steam Locomotive Galaxy), a steam train on the JR Kamaishi Line, made its first journey of the season.

The SL Ginga is run by JR East, with the intention of attracting more tourists to Tohoku, supporting the reconstruction through tourism and revitalizing the region. This season marks the train's third year.

The train makes a 2 day roundtrip from Hanamaki Station to Kamaishi Station (90.2 kilometers in total) on the JR Kamaishi Line. This year, it will run mainly on weekends and holidays from April 23 (Sat) to August 28 (Sun).

This season, the Sanriku Railway South Rias Line will operate a special retro-styled train between Kamaishi Station

and Sakari Station (Ofunato City) that will match with the arrival of the SL Ginga in Kamaishi. The trains' operations are expected to provide an enormous amount of support for the coastal regions.



Spectators taking pictures of the SL Ginga

For more details ▶ JR East Japan Railway Company Morioka Branch <http://www.jr-morioka.com/>
▶ Sanriku Railway Company <http://www.sanrikutetsudou.com/>

On April 23rd, 2016 (Sat), a reopening ceremony was held for the rebuilt Taro Baseball Field (nicknamed "Kitto, Sakurasaku Baseball Field" or "Surely, the cherry trees will blossom Baseball Field") in Miyako, which was completely destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The ceremony was hosted by Nestle and Sanriku Railway, with special assistance from Miyako City. Incidentally, Nestle's KitKat bar is translated as “Kitto katsu” in Japanese, which also means “Surely, we'll win,” so it's often used as a pun.

The new field has been built on the inland side of seawall #2. It measures 92 meters on both flanks, and 120 meters in center field. The stands have 1,000 seats, and four floodlights for night games.

At the reopening ceremony, children tried to break the Japanese record for the most number of consecutive hits. There was a commemorative match between the "Sanriku Railways Kitto Dreams", an amateur team, and the "Takeshi Gundan Special Team", led by the local celebrity, Dankan. Cheers filled the field as the crowds enjoyed both teams' unusual playing styles.



Players attending the reopening ceremony

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 55 introduces Mr. Osuka Lloyd’s efforts.

People for
SANRIKU'S
Future

Kamaishi Seawaves Rugby Football Club Player
Horaikan Eatery and Hotel Staff
Osuka Lloyd



“Revitalizing Kamaishi with Rugby!”

Currently, he is putting his best efforts into rugby, while also working at Horaikan, which he was introduced to by the general manager of Kamaishi Seawaves.

"I was still in Australia during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. I couldn't register the reality of the disaster from so far away, but now that I've come to Kamaishi, I can really see how scary natural disasters are. It feels like a lot has recovered since I last visited 2 years ago. But still, in areas like Usunomai, there's just nothing. Recovery is still in the works," he says on the progress of the reconstruction.

Revitalizing the region through rugby

In regards to the 2019 Rugby World Cup which will be held in Kamaishi, Mr. Lloyd says, "The people of Kamaishi are always cheering us on, so I'd like them to learn more about the sport. I also want to work hard towards someday becoming a part of the Japanese national rugby team, and to become a top player in Seawaves. I hope rugby will become a topic of conversation and brighten up the city." There are high hopes that more people around the world will learn about Kamaishi through sports.

Understanding the dangers of natural disasters

In his 4th year of university, Mr. Lloyd realized that he still wanted to play rugby after graduation. His coach and other foreign rugby players already living in Kamaishi told him that this is a city where you can relax and concentrate on rugby. This led to his decision to move to the coastal city.

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)

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

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