

IWATE

Moving toward

Reconstruction

A record of the reconstruction from March 2011 to March 2023
after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami



Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum and Takatamatsubara
Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster



Official opening of the Sanriku Expressway
Provided by Sanriku National Highway Office



Sanriku Fireworks Festival



July 2023

 Iwate

Sanriku Railway Rias Line
Orikasa Station



Sightseeing boat in Miyako City
"Miyako Umineko Maru"

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Introduction

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami occurred twelve years ago on March 11, 2011. As a result, including aftershocks and other disaster-related fatalities mainly in the coastal regions, 5,145 precious lives were lost in Iwate Prefecture. Even to this day, 1,110 people are still missing.

Once again, we pray for the souls of all lives lost and express our heartfelt sympathies to all who have been severely affected from this tremendous disaster.

Iwate Prefecture has made a concerted effort to recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, with the aim of “making our homeland of Iwate and Sanriku a place where life is protected and people live in harmony with the land and the sea”. During this period, we have received a great deal of assistance from all over Japan and abroad, and have been supported by our local and international ties. We would like to once again express our respect and gratitude for the efforts of all those affected by the disaster and all those who have supported us.

Over the past twelve years, the reconstruction of old roads and the construction of new roads has created a new road network that brings better accessibility to the prefecture. Tsunami disaster prevention infrastructures such as tidal walls are also being constructed, many of which have been completed.

As well as focusing on the remaining development of social infrastructure, we will continue to work on measures that take into account the current conditions of the affected areas, including mental health care for disaster victims, support for the formation of new communities, measures to prevent low catch rates of major fish species, restoration of sales channels for commercial industries, and securement of human resources, particularly for the fishing industry, while supporting each and every disaster victim. We will continue to promote “Build Back Better” under the philosophy of “No one is left behind”.

In accordance with the Day for Passing on Stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami ordinance, we will continue to pass on and disseminate information about the disaster and recovery efforts, and contribute to improving disaster preparedness domestically and internationally, mainly through the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum. We all also work with the municipalities and draw on the lessons learned from past disasters to further develop tsunami disaster prevention measures in the event of a “huge earthquake along the Japan Trench or the Kuril Islands Trench,” which is expected to occur in the future.

In March 2023, Iwate Prefecture formulated the Reconstruction Promotion Plan (FY2023-FY2026), the second phase action plan of the Iwate Prefecture Citizens’ Plan (2019-2028). Through the implementation of this plan, we will continue to aim to build a new sustainable Sanriku region where all generations can live with hope and vigor. Therefore, we ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Finally, with this booklet, I hope not only will you gain a deeper understanding of the state of reconstruction in Iwate Prefecture, I also hope that everyone in Japan and throughout the world will widely use this booklet as a guide to improve their disaster preparedness measures for tackling natural disasters in their respective countries and regions.

May 11, 2023

Governor
of Iwate Prefecture

Tasso Takuya

達増拓也



Disaster Damage and the Reconstruction Plan

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

(Data provided by the Iwate Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters)

- ▶ Name (Date and time of occurrence) Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (March 11, 2011 (Fri) 2:46pm)
*The national government calls it "the Great East Japan Earthquake" but Iwate has designated it "the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami."
- ▶ Epicenter Off the shore of Sanriku, roughly 130km east southeast of the Oshika Peninsula. (latitude 38°06.2', longitude 142°51.6')
- ▶ Epicenter depth and magnitude 24km, magnitude 9.0 (moment magnitude)
- ▶ Maximum seismic intensity in Iwate Intensity of 6 (lower): Ofunato City, Kamaishi City, Takizawa City, Yahaba Town, Hanamaki City, Ichinoseki City, Oshu City, and Fujisawa Town
- ▶ Largest wave of the tsunami [Miyako] 3/11 3:26 p.m.: over 8.5 meters [Kamaishi] 3/11 3:21 p.m.: over 4.2 meters [Ofunato] 3/11 3:18 p.m.: over 8 meters [Kuji Harbor] 8.6 meters (estimate)

Hirono Town Highest tsunami height: Hirono, north coast of Kuji, 12 meters
Buildings destroyed: **26**

Kuji City Highest tsunami height: Kuji Bay, 13.7 meters
Deaths: **3** / Missing: **2**
Buildings destroyed: **278**
Aftershock-related death: **1**

Iwaizumi Town Highest tsunami height: Iwaizumi Coast, 20.2 meters
Deaths: **10**
Buildings destroyed: **200**

Otsuchi Town Highest tsunami height: Otsuchi Bay 15.1 meters
Deaths: **856** / Missing: **416**
Buildings destroyed: **4,167**

Kamaishi City Highest tsunami height: Ryoishi Bay 22.6 meters
Deaths: **994** / Missing: **152**
Buildings destroyed: **3,656**

Inland areas
Deaths: **34**
Missing: **5**
Buildings destroyed: **1,846**

Iwate totals
Deaths: **5,145**
Missing: **1,110**
Buildings destroyed: **26,079**

* Deaths refer to those that died as a direct result of the disaster (data from Iwate Prefectural Police) and those that died from related causes (data from the Iwate Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention).
* Number of buildings destroyed includes both buildings completely and partially destroyed.
* "Highest tsunami height" refers to the height of the highest mark left near an embankment (See the section on the height of coastal embankments along Iwate's coast).

Casualties and Damage in Iwate

Highest tsunami height – number of deaths and people missing – number of buildings destroyed

(As of March 31, 2023)

Noda Village Highest tsunami height: Noda Bay 21.4 meters
Deaths: **39**
Buildings destroyed: **479**

Fudai Village Highest tsunami height: Fudai Coast 18.4 meters
Missing: **1**

Tanohata Village Highest tsunami height: Tanohata Coast 23 meters
Deaths: **17** / Missing: **15**
Buildings destroyed: **270**

Miyako City Highest tsunami height: Omoe Coast, 21.8 meters
Deaths: **475** / Missing: **94**
Buildings destroyed: **4,005**

Yamada Town Highest tsunami height: Funakoshi Bay 19 meters
Deaths: **687** / Missing: **144**
Buildings destroyed: **3,167**

Ofunato City Highest tsunami height: Ryori Bay 23.8 meters
Deaths: **423** / Missing: **79**
Buildings destroyed: **3,938**

Rikuzentakata City Highest tsunami height: Hirota Bay 18.3 meters
Deaths: **1,606** / Missing: **202**
Buildings destroyed: **4,047**



Damage to industries (As of November 25, 2011)

- Agriculture and Forestry: 98.4 billion yen
- Fisheries, Fishing ports: 564.9 billion yen
- Commerce and Industry: 133.5 billion yen
- Tourism (lodging facilities): 32.6 billion yen
- Total: **829.4 billion yen**

Damage to public works facilities (As of July 25, 2011)

- Rivers, coasts, and roads: 172.3 billion yen
- Park facilities: 40.5 billion yen
- Port-related facilities: 44.5 billion yen
- Total: **257.3 billion yen**

Composition of land flooded by the tsunami

Rice fields	Other agricultural use	Forests	Building sites
17%	4%	9%	34%

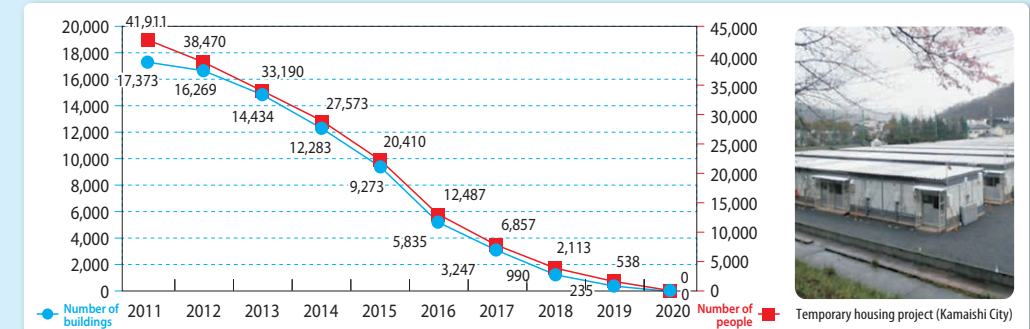
(Source: the Geographical Survey Institute's "Land Area by Usage in the Tsunami Inundation Area" report from April 18, 2011.)

Estimated value and rate of damage to capital stock

	Estimated value of capital stock A	Estimated value of damage to capital stock					Rate of damage B/A	GDP C	Damage as percentage of GDP B/C
		Societal infrastructure	Residences	Manufacturing industry	Other	Total B			
Iwate	Inland areas	26,369	457	22	64	211	754	4,255	1 year's worth
	Coastal areas	7,449	1,943	607	191	781	3,522		
Total	33,818	2,400	629	255	992	4,276	12.6%		

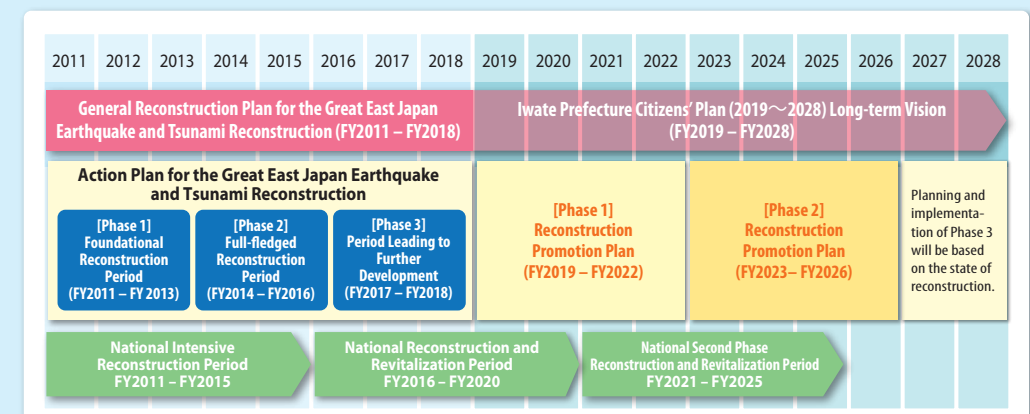
* Estimates of damage to capital stock and rates of damage are taken from data by the Development Bank of Japan (April 28, 2011)
* GDP value taken from the 2009 Prefectural Economic Calculation (Cabinet Office Economic and Social Research Institute System of National Accounts – February 29, 2012)

People living in temporary housing (As of March 31, 2021)



Basic direction for promotion of the reconstruction in the Iwate Prefecture Citizens' Plan (2019 – 2028)

In Iwate, on August 11, 2011, a reconstruction plan to take place over the following 8 years was formulated as a blueprint for the future of the area to overcome the disaster it suffered. We have since then endeavored towards a full recovery according to this plan. There are mid-and long-term issues that still need to be addressed in the disaster-affected areas, so after FY2019 as well, the comprehensive Iwate Prefecture Citizens' Plan (2019 – 2028) has set the reconstruction as the prefectural government's top priority. We are engaged in completing all the necessary actions in order to fully realize the recovery for each and every person affected by the disaster.



Status of the Reconstruction

*All progress is as of March 31, 2023 unless otherwise stated.

Rikuzentakata City (May 2021)

Ensuring Safety



Restoring and developing coastal protection facilities

Planned number of locations: 142

Completed: 140 **98.6%** In progress **1.4%**

Processing disaster waste

Estimated 5.253 million tons of disaster waste

Waste processed: 6.184 million tons **118%**

(Completed in March 2014)



Land sites being prepared for usage

Number of locations: 158

Completed: 158 **100%**

(Completed in March 2021)

Lots allocated for housing

Planned number of housing lots: 7,472

Completed: 7,472 **100%**

(Completed in December 2020)



Regenerating Industries



Catch levels at local fish markets

FY 2022: 84,668 tons **49.9%** Three-year average prior to the disaster (2008-2010): 169,627 tons

Recovered farmland

Target area to be recovered: 542ha

Completed: 542ha **100%**

(Completed in March 2019)



Catch levels of farm-raised fish and other marine life

FY 2022: 25,304 tons **53.3%** Three-year average prior to the disaster (2008-2010): 47,478 tons

Visits to main tourist destinations

FY 2021: 2.251million **47.9%** Prior to the disaster (2010): 4.703 million visits

*14 major tourist destinations in Iwate were surveyed



Rebuilding Lives



Medical facilities (coastal area)

Facilities affected by the disaster: 103 facilities

Newly-constructed or reopened: 103 facilities **100%**

(Completed in April 2020) *Excluding facilities that have been discontinued

People living in temporary housing (including subsidized housing)

Peak period: (October 2011) 43,738 people

Moved out: **100%**

(Completed in March 2021)



Restoration of public school facilities (coastal area)

Schools affected by the disaster: 86 schools

Completed: 86 schools **100%**

(Completed in June 2019)

Public housing for disaster survivors

Planned units: 5,833

Completed: 5,833 **100%**

(Completed in December 2020)



Tradition and Transmission for the Future



Number of Disaster Prevention Education Materials Training Seminar

Planned number of seminars: 4 (From 2019 to 2022)

Results 3 time **75%**

Number of times held: Iwate Sanriku Recovery Forum

Planned number of forums: 14 (From 2019 to 2022)

Results 12 times **85.7%**



Number of accesses to the Earthquake and Tsunami Archive

Target number of accesses: 731,000 times (From 2019 to 2022)

Results 1,851,779 accesses **253.3%**

Number of community disaster prevention supporters dispatched

Planned number of dispatchers: 120 (From 2019 to 2022)

Results 156 times **130%**



Phase 2 Reconstruction Promotion Plan (2023 – 2026)

The prefecture has formulated the second phase of the Reconstruction Promotion Plan, which covers the four-year period from FY2023, based on the results and challenges of past recovery and reconstruction efforts to date.

In order to realize the future vision set forth in the Iwate Prefectural Citizens' Plan (2019-2028), the Second Phase Reconstruction Promotion Plan will address issues specific to reconstruction, such as the early completion of tsunami disaster prevention infrastructure that are being restored and upgraded, and mental health care. Additionally, as well as dealing with new issues such as massive earthquakes along the Japan and Kuril Islands Trenches, low catch rates of major fish species and COVID-19, we will develop measures to promote economic growth and revitalize the fishing industry by utilizing the new transportation network, and take measures to revitalize exchanges domestically and internationally.

The Four Pillars to Better Reconstruction

I Ensuring safety

Promote the development of a disaster-resistant, safe and secure community and transportation network.

II Rebuilding lives

Aim to build an environment where people can live peaceful and enriched lives while supporting each other.

III Regenerating industries

Revitalize the local economy by rejuvenating the local community.

IV Passing on lessons learned to future generations

Sharing the facts and lessons learned from the earthquake and tsunami with people around the world to create a society that is resilient to natural disasters.

Reconstruction Initiatives and SDGs

In Iwate Prefecture, we have been moving forward in our Build Back Better plans under the philosophy of "no one left behind", which is also shared in the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations.

We have listed 17 goals as our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reconstruction is a "post-disaster development". For example, in processing the huge amount of debris generated by the tsunami, we have maximized recycling methods to ultimately reuse close to 90% of it. When introducing renewable energy, we were able to exceed 3,500 kilowatts with just a solar energy generator, equivalent to several mega solar units.

Furthermore, committees composed of women who are active in a variety of fields have been established so that their opinions were reflected in initiatives for the reconstruction.



Support from Abroad



Foreign volunteer groups

Thank you, TOMODACHI

Many disaster relief teams came from overseas to the disaster-affected areas.

In Iwate, a 144-person team from the USA (including 12 rescue dogs), a 69-person team from the UK (with 2 rescue dogs), and a 15-person team from China came for support. They conducted rescue operations in Ofunato and Kamaishi.

Additionally, right after the disaster, the US military conducted rescue operations in disaster-affected areas, naming it “Operation Tomodachi (Japanese word for friend).” At its peak, there were 24,500 personnel, 24 ships, and 189 planes involved. Their help in the disaster-affected area cannot be overstated.



Foreign aid groups (Ofunato City – March 2011)

Teams of aid workers and specialists from foreign countries, regions, and international organizations			
Country or region	Team composition	Arrival date	Area active
United States	Rescue team: 144 Fairfax (USAR) team Los Angeles (USAR) team Rescue dogs from both teams: 12	March 13	Ofunato City Kamaishi City
China	Rescue personnel: 15	March 13	Ofunato City
United Kingdom	Rescue workers: 69 Rescue dogs: 2	March 13	Ofunato City Kamaishi City
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	Logistical support personnel: 25	March 15	Within Iwate Prefecture, etc.
Philippines	Medical aid team: 3	June 28	Within Iwate Prefecture, etc.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs website as of January 30, 2012)

Supporting the restoration of the Sanriku Railway

All lines reopened with the support of Kuwait

In 2011, the government of Kuwait donated 5 million barrels of crude oil to support the reconstruction of the affected areas in the wake of the disaster. It resulted in another donation of 8.4 billion yen aid money to Iwate through the Japanese Red Cross.

In Iwate, this aid money was used to fund new cars and station buildings for the Sanriku Railway to reopen all lines in the disaster-affected areas by April of 2014.

The Sanriku Railway plays an important role as basic transportation in the coastal area of Iwate, and also forms a foundation for tourism and local development.



Commemorating a special memorial train for the reopening of all routes on the South Rias line of the Sanriku Railway (Ofunato City, April 2014)

Relief supplies delivered from abroad

Support from the international community to evacuation centers on the coast

It started in France: just 6 days after the disaster they sent 8,000 blankets to Iwate. Countries all over the world started sending food and beverages, toilet paper, face masks, portable toilets, and other supplies needed for daily life in evacuation shelters.

We also received a lot of support from Taiwan and other countries, including monetary donations, various exchange activities, and assistance in rebuilding various facilities.



Relief supplies delivered to the disaster-affected area. (Noda Village, March 2011)

Supporting children in the disaster-affected area

For their hopes, dreams, and future

Tsunami-devastated daycare centers and kindergartens in Yamada Town and Otsuchi Town were able to rebuild thanks to funds provided by the Taiwanese Red Cross and the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, which Iwate has maintained friendly ties with since 1999.

International relief funds are building a future for children in the disaster-affected areas. Projects have included Poland’s “Solidarity Bridge Project,” and the Kuwaiti government’s funding of the restoration of private schools and the Iwate Children’s Care Center.



Kindergarten built with foreign aid money in Otsuchi (October 2014)

Preparing public facilities

Supporting the improvement of welfare and daily life on the coast

Support from the Singapore Red Cross funded the Taro Support Center in Miyako City, where elderly residents of temporary housing receive care and health checkups. Also, a new community hall was built in Rikuzentakata City to help with revitalizing the local area.

The “Berlin Haus” public hall was also built in Rikuzentakata City with support from the Japanese-German Center in Berlin. The facility is being used as a center for cultural exchange towards reconstruction. Through foreign support, which helped fund the reconstruction of public facilities, it improved the lives and welfare of the people in disaster-affected areas.



Rikuzentakata Community Hall (March 2015)

Support through culture and art

Exchange with the Louvre

In 2012, the Louvre Museum brought 23 art pieces in a traveling exhibition called “Message from the Louvre: Encounter”, which marked the beginning of a relationship between Iwate and the museum. We have received continuous support for the “Art Caravan,” a mobile exhibition that travels throughout Iwate led by museum curators in hopes to reach out to local residents.

As part of the reconstruction support from Japan and overseas, world-renowned violinist Ivry Gitlis, who passed away in December 2020, held a concert called “Bonds of Reconstruction.” It gave many prefectural residents a feeling of comfort and courage for recovery. In February 2023, the prefectural government released a video recording of our past exchanges in memory of Mr. Gitlis.



A speech from the curator of the Louvre (Kamaishi City, August 2014)



Iwate “Bonds of Reconstruction” Concert (September 16, 2016)

Main Initiatives So Far

Sanriku Railway Rias Line Shimanokoshi Station (May 2021)

(1) Ensuring Safety

1 Disaster Management for Communities

Akamae district of Miyako, Miyako Sports Park



Disposal of disaster waste (rubble)

About 6.18 million tons (about 14 years worth of domestic waste in Iwate) were processed.

The devastation from the tsunami generated about 6.18 million tons of disaster waste in Iwate. With the cooperation and support of municipalities in Iwate and throughout Japan, including numerous individuals and residents, we were able to complete the disposal of this waste by March 2014.

Disaster waste disposal destinations	
Aomori	61,003 tons
Miyagi	4,326 tons
Akita	37,539 tons
Yamagata	77,687 tons
Fukushima	12,131 tons
Gunma	7,673 tons
Saitama	1,147 tons
Tokyo	106,051 tons
Kanagawa	159 tons
Niigata	291 tons
Toyama	1,256 tons
Ishikawa	1,953 tons
Fukui	6 tons
Shizuoka	3,176 tons
Osaka	15,299 tons
Total	329,697 tons (15 prefectures)

Measurement of radiation dosage in living spaces

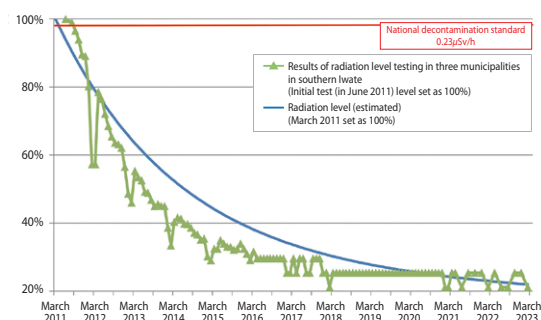
Results of the measurement are published online

We measured the radioactivity in a variety of places including living areas, dust in the air, precipitation (rain and snow), tap water, and agricultural products. The results are all posted online. The radiation levels in living spaces fell below the national decontamination standards in all locations as of August 2013, and have been basically stable since then.



Measurements by survey meters

Changes in contaminated levels taken in priority survey areas



*Results are lower when there is snow on the ground due to a shielding effect.

Information about radiation >>>



Rebuilding communities

Building safe and disaster-resilient communities.

At the end of March 2021, all 7,472 planned lots have been completed.



The Imaizumi district of Rikuzentakata City, where the land readjustment has been completed (February 2021)



The completed "Kamaishi Memorial Park", "Tsunami Memorial Hall" and "Unosato Visitor Center" (Opened for use in March, 2019)

Project name	Municipalities, locations, and sections engaged in these projects
Land readjustment projects	7 municipalities, 19 locations, 4,911 sections
Tsunami Reconstruction Base Maintenance Project	6 municipalities, 10 locations
Disaster Mitigation Group Relocation Project	7 municipalities, 88 locations, 2,090 sections
Fishery Village Disaster Mitigation and Reinforcement project	11 municipalities, 41 locations, 471 sections
Total	12 municipalities, 158 locations, 7,472 sections

(As of March 31, 2021)

Restoration and maintenance of coastal protection facilities

Reviving communities through the reconstruction and maintenance of the tidal walls and water gates

The Iwate Tsunami Management Specialist Committee was established for the restoration and maintenance of coastal protection infrastructures such as tidal walls. While surveying each municipality about the direction of their community revival development, they proceeded to examine the layout and height of tidal walls based on their scientific and technical knowledge. The coastal area of Iwate was divided up into 24 areas by October 2011 and the necessary height of tidal walls and related infrastructure was announced.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Land Expropriation Act, land acquisition and other efforts such as utilizing factory products to cope with material shortages and other problems have been promoted to facilitate early infrastructure development.

As a result, by the end of March 2023 the reconstruction and maintenance of 142 locations was initiated and 140 of them were already completed.

State of the reconstruction on the coast of the Takata district



Right after the tsunami



March 2022

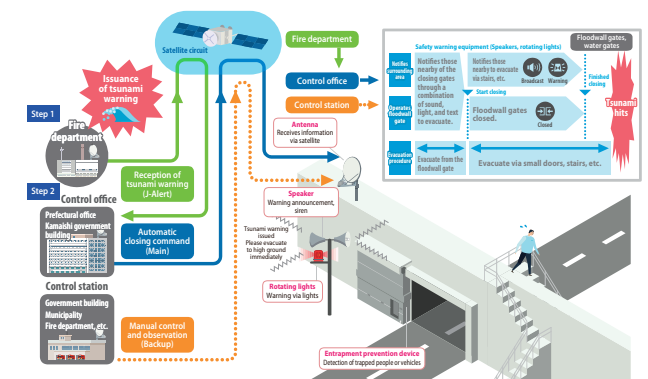
Installation of an automatic opening and closing system for the water and floodwall gates*

Doors automatically close in the case of a Tsunami or other warning

Many fire brigade members that were responsible for closing the water gates and floodwall gates during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami lost their lives. So, in order to prevent the same tragedy and to further protect people's lives, an automatic closing system for the water and floodwall gate that can be controlled via a satellite was installed.



Unosumi River water gate (January 16, 2022, closed due to the activation of the automatic closure system)



Automatic closing system mechanism

With this system, the satellite receives a signal from the national tsunami alert system (J-Alert), which in turn signals the water and floodwall gates in the prefecture to automatically start closing once the warning is issued.

A portion of the system began its operation in July 2017, and is expected to be implemented for about 214 water and floodwall gates in the prefecture.

On January 16, 2022, the automatic closure system was activated for the first time since the start of operations, causing the gates in all 165 facilities in operation at the time to close when a tsunami warning was issued due to an undersea volcanic eruption near the Tonga Islands.

*Floodwall gate: A gate to travel between the ocean and coastal side of a tidal wall

2 Transportation Network

Reconstruction of Ports and Harbors

Containerized cargo volume reaches record high

Harbor and port facilities that were damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami were rebuilt, a gantry crane was installed at the Port of Kamaishi and a regular foreign-trade route for shipping containers was newly established. Several improvements have been made with expanded functions to meet the needs of those that use the ports and harbors.

In the year of 2019, the volume of containerized cargo handled by the ports in the prefecture reached a record high of 12,615 TEUs, far exceeding the 9,651 TEUs handled in the previous year.

Despite the fact that port facilities were affected by the global logistical disruption caused by the spread of the COVID-19 in 2020, the number of companies using the container route at Kamaishi Port reached a record high of 113 in 2020 due to increased use by inland companies, while Ofunato Port handled a record 3,994 TEU of containerized cargo in 2021.



Gantry Crane at the Port of Kamaishi

(2) Rebuilding Lives

■ Provision of reconstruction roads

All areas of the Tohoku East-West Expressway on the Kamaishi-Akita Line and Miyako-Morioka Connecting Road have opened

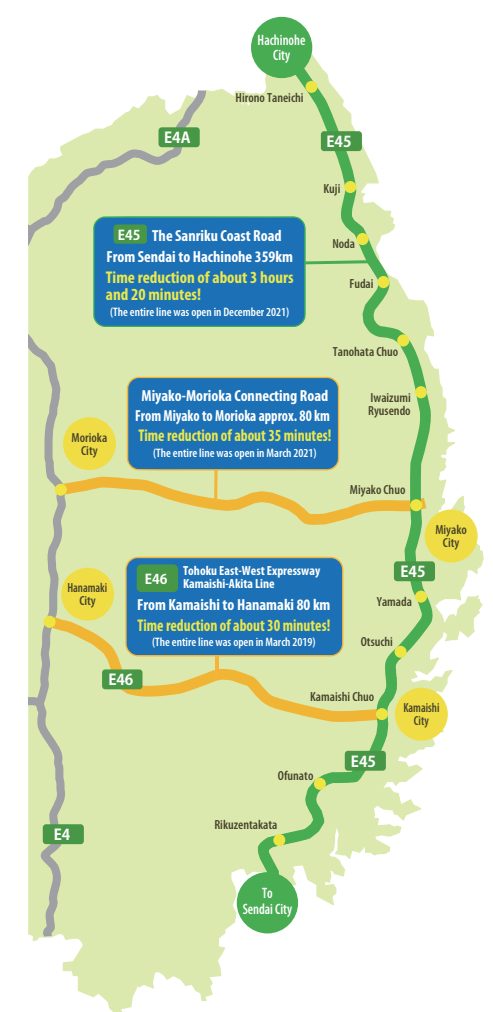
“Reconstruction roads” were developed at an unprecedented speed in order to build a disaster-resilient road network to connect the whole Sanriku coastline with inland areas.

In addition to the opening of the Tohoku East-West Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line and the Miyako-Morioka Connector by FY 2020, the Sanriku Coast Expressway was fully opened on December 18, 2021. This marked the completion of approximately 359 km of reconstruction roads in the prefecture in just over 10 years after the disaster.

With the opening of all sections of the Reconstruction Roads, the reduction in travel time, the securing of disaster-resistant roads and the reduction of traffic congestion, the effects are expected to ripple out into the regional economy.



Kamaishi JCT



Source: Prepared by modifying the "Iwate Reconstruction Road Flyer".
(<https://www.pref.iwate.jp/kendozukuri/douo/genkyou/1038402.html>)



The Sanriku Coast Road was fully opened (December 18, 2021)

■ The birth of the Sanriku Railway Rias Line

In March 2019, the north and the south sections of the Sanriku Railway Rias Line joined to become one unbroken rail line

The Sanriku Railway suffered extensive damage during the disaster, and all lines were rendered unusable. During the reconstruction, the State of Kuwait provided relief funds that were used for new trains, station building, and more, while disaster aid from numerous companies, groups, and individuals was also donated to the railway's reconstruction. As a result, all lines on the north and south Rias Line were reopened in April 2014.

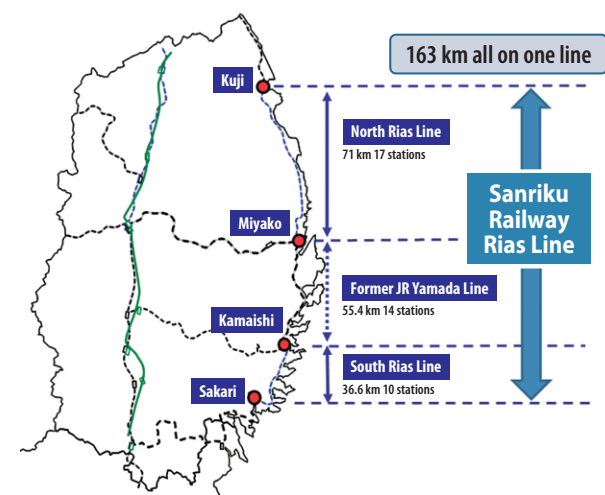
Afterward, the former JR Yamada Line (between Miyako and Kamaishi), which was also unusable during the disaster, transferred its operation to the Sanriku Railway on March 23, 2019. This reshaped the Sanriku Railway as the longest public-private railway in Japan at 163 km (from Sakari Station to Kuji Station) with its new unbroken the Sanriku Railway Rias Line, and made it more convenient for residents to travel along the coast.



Commemorative Train Departure Ceremony of the Rias Line (March 23, 2019)



Commemorative Train of the Rias Line



③ Lifestyle and Employment



Public housing "Minami Aoyama Apartments (Morioka City)" (completed in December, 2020)

■ Provision of public housing and rebuilding houses for disaster survivors

In order to provide permanent housing

We formulated the Basic Policy for Housing Reconstruction in Iwate in October 2011 as a measure to provide permanent housing to those that lost their homes in the disaster. We are also proceeding with initiatives to provide public housing for survivors, as well as providing assistance to individuals rebuilding their own homes and rental properties.

Of these, all of the planned 5,833 units of public housing were completed in December 2020.



Public housing in the Ando area of Otsuchi (completed in December, 2018)

Public housing units provided by municipality	
Municipality	The number of units
Hirono Town	4
Kuji City	11
Noda Village	100
Tanohata Village	63
Iwaizumi Town	51
Miyako City	766
Yamada Town	640
Otsuchi Town	876
Kamaishi City	1,316
Ofunato City	801
Rikuzentakata City	895
Other municipalities	310
Total	5,833

(As of December 31, 2020)

Current state of public housing for disaster survivors >>



Renovating and rebuilding of residences >>



■ Establishing centers to support the rebuilding of lives and stable livelihoods

Consultation and support according to survivors' circumstances

Up to March 2021, Disaster Survivor Consultation and Assistance Centers were established in four coastal areas in July of 2011 and the Inland Evacuee Assistance Center was established in Morioka in May 2016.

By the end of the 2020 fiscal year, all survivors had been moved from emergency temporary housing to permanent housing. However, to provide consultation to survivors still facing complex challenges in their lifestyles and economic situations after their move, we have established the Disaster Survivor Consultation and Assistance Center in Kamaishi in April 2021 (a sub-center was established in Morioka). At the center, specialists (lawyers, financial planners), municipalities and related organizations such as the Council for Social Welfare collaborate to provide accompanying assistance.



First center established in the Kamaishi area



Disaster Survivor Consultation and Assistance Center (Kamaishi City)

Disaster Survivor Consultation and Assistance Center (Kamaishi City)

Tel: 0193-30-1034 / Mobile: 080-9634-6650

Iwate Inland Evacuee Assistance Center

Tel: 019-601-7640

■ Securing local employment

Aiming to restore stability to the lives of job seekers and supporting the construction of the areas affected by the disaster

In order to stabilize disaster survivors' lives and their recovery by ensuring job security and securing employment for revitalizing core local industries and the local economy, we are supporting the full recovery of the survivors with financial assistance of up to 1.2 million yen over 3 years per person for job-seeking expenses and up to 2.4 million yen per year (for up to 3 years) for housing-related expenses.

Number of workers eligible for grants until FY2022	
Fiscal Year	Number
FY2011	139 people
FY2012	5,344 people
FY2013	7,298 people
FY2014	4,266 people
FY2015	239 people
FY2016	105 people
FY2017	87 people
FY2018	122 people
FY2019	118 people
FY2020	80 people
FY2021	78 people
FY2022	41 people
Total	17,917 people

*The figures for FY2022 and the total are estimates as of the end of January 2023. The actual numbers at the end of the fiscal year may differ from these figures.

Health, Medical Care, and Welfare



Health check at a meeting hall in a temporary housing building

Health services in disaster-affected areas

Preventive medical care for people living in temporary housing

The prefectural government, local municipalities, and related organizations have cooperated to arrange a regular dispatch service of public health nurses and others to the temporary housing units. From the time of the disaster until FY2018, a total of about 40,000 people were provided with health services such as blood pressure monitoring and other health observation, health counseling, and health education.

Additionally, with the cooperation of the Prefectural Dental Association and the Prefectural Association of Dental Hygienists, dentists and dental hygienists were sent out to disaster-affected areas. They provided dental exams, consultations, instruction on brushing teeth to the total of about 10,000 people.

Mental care initiatives

Giving individual mental care to each survivor

The Iwate Mental Health Center

A team made up of people from Iwate and other areas engaged in a mental healthcare initiative to ease the psychological burden on survivors. Thirty teams provided 9,800 instances of mental health care until March 2012.

In February 2012, the Iwate Mental Health Center was established within Iwate Medical University to continue these activities. In March, local mental health care centers were established in four locations on the coast (Kuji City, Miyako City, Kamaishi City, and Ofunato City). These centers provide individualized mental health care to any survivor who needs it.



Home Visits by Staff Members from the Iwate Mental Health Center



Iwate Children's Care Center

The Iwate Children's Care Center

In June 2011, the Children's Mental Care Center opened in Miyako to address the mental health of children experiencing major traumatic stress from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Soon after, more of these centers opened in the Kesen area and then in Kamaishi.

In order to support the mental health care of the children experiencing a variety of stresses after the disaster, the Iwate Children's Care Center was established on the Iwate Medical University's Yahaba Campus in May 2013, with support from the State of Kuwait and the Japanese Red Cross Society, as a base for medium- to long-term assistance. In September 2019 Iwate Medical University Hospital moved to Yahaba and opened the Department of Pediatric Psychiatry. Since then, the hospital has continued to provide medical care and now also provides counseling for children affected by the disaster as well as regional support.

Medical support in disaster-affected areas

So people can live in peace and good health in their own communities

Rebuilding the Prefectural Hospitals Damaged by the Tsunami

As for prefectural hospitals that were destroyed by the disaster, the Otsuchi Hospital reopened in May of 2016, followed by the Yamada Hospital in September of the same year. In March of 2018, the Takata Hospital reopened, finalizing the reconstruction of all three disaster-affected prefectural hospitals.



Yamada Prefectural Hospital



Takata Prefectural Hospital

Reaching out to the elderly in the disaster areas

Keeping people healthy and energetic – and giving them a purpose

Reaching out to the Elderly in the Disaster Areas

We hold social exercise classes that anyone can join so that survivors can meet other people living in temporary housing and nearby residences, and to promote an active healthy life to our senior citizens. We also hold workshops and followup sessions to train supporters to eventually hold these classes on their own.

In the future, we will support the activities of nursing care prevention projects in which local residents take the lead and work on their own initiative.



Social exercise class

Supporting volunteers that are proactive in disaster preparedness

Training efficient disaster-preparedness volunteers through public-private cooperation

Volunteer activities aren't just a way to supplement the lack of manpower in areas affected by the disaster. They also support many survivors with well-tuned, flexible support activities.

The Iwate Disaster Preparedness Volunteer Network was set up by a public-private partnership to further promote these activities and to set up a system for smoothly accepting volunteers during emergencies. This network was based on the Guidelines for Iwate Disaster Management Volunteer Activities that were established in March 2014.

In the aftermath of Typhoon No. 19 in 2019, the network's member organizations worked together to support the disaster volunteer center, which received more than 6,400 volunteers.



Disaster Preparedness Volunteer Support Network Workshop

Guidelines for Iwate Disaster Management Volunteer Activity Promotion (JPN only) >>



Local Communities

NPO support for reconstruction activities

Reinforcing the management power of those supporting the reconstruction

NPOs play a major role in resolving local issues including reconstruction support activities by making use of their mobility, networks, and specialties.

The "NPO Support Project" was initiated in Iwate in FY2013. NPOs have since supported and improved the management bases of local groups, and assisted with reconstruction and disaster victim support activities. As of FY2021, 206 groups are receiving this support.

Example of assistance ①



Promotion of businesses and activities in the affected areas and coordinating continual support to strengthen organizational infrastructure

In order to support business growth and solutions for businesses in the disaster-affected areas, we organized practical internships and employee outsourcing for side jobs according to the needs of the businesses.

Furthermore, to support businesses and others in raising funds and strengthening their organizational operational base, we provided online consultations with experts.

Example of assistance ②

Forming new communities through culture and the arts



In order to create new communities and rejuvenate the spirits of the people through culture and art, we held a stage reading of a novel about the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the 3.11 Iwate Reconstruction through Culture Forum.

In addition, inter-regional exchanges through local theater shows and local theater cooperation forums were also held.

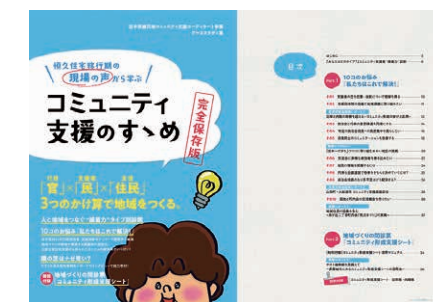
Department of Environment and Residential Life, Office of Youth Affairs, Gender Equality and NPOs >> TEL: 019-629-5198

Supporting forming new communities

Supporting the creation of municipal communities

Even after moving to permanent housing, those affected by the disaster are still seeking stable living environments to live full lives.

Since FY 2017, municipalities are engaged in support projects that dispatch coordinators to help NGOs support municipalities affected by the disaster in order to support the formation of new communities in the housing that those who lost their homes were moved to.



Booklet summarizing case studies and know-how "Practice in Community Support"

■ The role of women and youth in planning the reconstruction

Each resident is vital to the reconstruction

Various viewpoints including that of women, young people, the elderly, and disabled are vital for reconstruction projects.

We are currently proceeding with projects in the disaster affected areas led by women and youths that address local problems and town development related to the reconstruction.

Examples

Disaster prevention and reconstruction from a gender equality perspective

In order to improve diversity in local disaster preparedness, the Iwate Gender Equality Center is focused on spreading awareness through lectures and workshops on disaster prevention and reconstruction from a gender equality perspective.



Lecture held in Ofunato City
(September 17, 2022)
Iwate Gender Equality Supporter training course



Explore the City Workshops
(same as left)

6

Education, Culture, and Sports

“Living”

The value of life, mental state and physical health

“Getting involved”

The importance of human bonds, community building and social participation

“Preparing”

Understanding, preparedness and safety in natural disasters

■ Iwate Reconstruction Education

The three educational values that were learned from the lessons of the disaster: live, get involved, prepare.

At all of the public elementary, junior high and other compulsory educational institutions, as well as high schools and special education schools in Iwate, we are teaching the three educational values we learned from the disaster based on the Iwate Reconstruction Education program, in order to nurture individuals that love their hometowns, and support the reconstruction.

Based on the experience and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, we are developing initiatives to meet the real needs of each school using the illustrated book “Iwate Earthquake & Tsunami Archive – Hope –”, other supplementary readings and facilities that pass down the stories of the disaster.



Field trip to the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum



Iwate reconstruction education school



Reconstruction education “illustrated book”

Iwate Reconstruction Education Board of Education Secretariat, School Education Office >> TEL: 019-629-6207

“Iwate Earthquake & Tsunami Archive – Hope –” Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention, Reconstruction Promotion Division >> TEL: 019-629-6945

Iwate Reconstruction Education >>



■ Iwate Learning and Hope Fund

For the lives and education of the children

In Iwate, we have established the Iwate Learning and Hope Fund and have been accepting goodwill donations from all over the world as well as within Japan to support the lives and educations of children in the areas affected by the disaster.

As of March 2023, we have received 27,487 donations for a total of 10.6 billion yen.. These funds have been used for scholarships for children that have been orphaned, to pay for textbooks for high school students, and to fund field trips and activities for school children. These children in the disaster-affected areas will continue to receive support for many years to come.

Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention,
Reconstruction Promotion Division >> TEL: 019-629-6935

Iwate Learning and Hope Fund >>



Iwate Learning Hope Fund booklet

■ Preservation and succession of traditional culture

Reconstruction of local performing arts

We supported the resumption of the activities of folk performing arts organizations by partially subsidizing the costs related to repairing facilities and purchasing the equipment needed for their activities, which had been lost in the disaster. By the end of March 2021, 73 affected groups had received support.

In September 2020, three groups presented the folk performances “Usuzawa Deer Dance”, “Mukaigawara Tiger Dance” and “Matsunoshita Daikagura” at the Suehiro municipal housing (disaster public housing).

This event was held for the purpose of promoting exchange between regional performing artists and local residents, and while many local festivals had been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many local residents participated in addition to those living in the disaster public housing, and they enjoyed conversation and dancing.



Shirahama Toramai
(Tiger Dance)



Oura Sansa Odori
(Sansa Dance)



Usuzawa Shishi Odori
(Deer Dance)



Matsunoshita Dai Kagura

■ Initiatives through the Rugby World Cup held in 2019

2019 Rugby World Cup held in Kamaishi, Iwate

The Rugby World Cup match between Fiji and Uruguay took place at Kamaishi Unonsumai Recovery Stadium on September 25, 2019, with His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino and His wife in attendance.

At a ceremony before the match, in front of about 14,000 spectators who had come from Japan and overseas, children unfurled a large flag expressing gratitude for support in reconstruction and the children and students of all the elementary and junior high schools in Kamaishi formed a chorus to sing “A Letter of Thanks”, expressing Iwate’s gratitude to the world for reconstruction support and demonstrating the strong efforts of reconstruction through a variety of media.

The match between Namibia and Canada, which had been scheduled to be held on October 13, was canceled due to the impact of Typhoon No. 19 (Hagibis), but the Canadian team members joined in volunteer activities in the disaster-affected area while the Namibian team members forged new bonds through exchange activities with local citizens and children.



Big flag to show appreciation for reconstruction support



Heated play by both Fiji and Uruguay teams



Volunteer activities in the disaster area by the Canadian members



Interaction with citizens by the Namibian members

■ Resumption of sports and recreation facilities

Opening of the Prefectural Outdoor Activity Center

The Prefectural Outdoor Activity Center (also known as the Hirota Hamaline Park), which was completely destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, was relocated to Hirota-cho, Rikuzentakata City, with its facilities fully opening on July 1, 2021.

The center is approximately 96,000m² and can serve as accommodation for 200 people, with a gymnasium, tennis courts, and an athletic field.

In addition to the regular functions of the facility, such as interactive activities at sea and sports camps, it also serves as a place to teach people about reconstruction and disaster prevention. Activities include a game involving opening an evacuation shelter as well as tours of nearby disaster ruins and facilities that pass down stories of the disaster to future generations.



Prefectural Outdoor Activity Center (whole site)



Rafting experience



Opening an evacuation shelter drill (making and sleeping on cardboard beds)

■ 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic initiatives

“Fire of Reconstruction” torch relay in Iwate Prefecture

Because the 2020 Olympics are considered the “Reconstruction Olympics”, the flame brought from Greece as the “Fire of Reconstruction” was displayed in the three disaster-affected prefectures (Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture) prior to the start of the Olympic torch relay.

Held over two days from March 22 to 23, 2020, in Iwate Prefecture, a starting ceremony was held on March 22 in front of Miyako Station in which, after joining the gathered prefectural residents in offering silent prayers to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the governor lit the flame to the cauldron. After that, the flame was transferred to a lantern and transported on the Sanriku Railway and the SL Ginga train of the JR Kamaishi Line.

On March 23, the cauldron was once again lit in Ofunato, at the Ofunato Disaster Prevention Exchange Center in the open space in front of Ofunaport, and was ceremonially displayed.

At each site, many people gathered to welcome the torch, taking advantage of the opportunity to get up close to the “Reconstruction Olympics”.



Lighting of the torch plate (in front of Miyako Station)



Exhibition at “Ofunaport”

“Light it with a smile. The flame of joy. The flame of hope.” - 2020 Tokyo Olympic Torch Traveling Exhibition -

For five days from March 12 to 16, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Torch toured through five towns (Karumai Town, Kunohe Village, Kuzumaki Town, Nishiwaga Town, Sumita Town) in the prefecture in a traveling exhibition. The tour included visiting displays at elementary schools.

In addition, the day before the traveling exhibition was March 11, marking ten years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. On that day, the torch visited Chuson-ji Temple, a World Heritage site located at the center of Tohoku where the governor had announced the “Hiraizumi Declaration on the Tohoku Restoration”, as a symbol of the Reconstruction Olympics, thus bringing its light of hope to all survivors not only in Iwate but also in Aomori, Miyagi and Fukushima.



Start ceremony in Karumai Town



Visiting exhibitions at elementary schools

Showing our thanks and reconstruction efforts

Through the Olympic Torch Relay, Paralympic Torch Festival, and other events, we expressed our gratitude for the reconstruction support we received from all over the world and globally showcased our efforts in the reconstruction process.

In the torch relay held from June 16 to June 19 2021, 284 runners passed the torch along a 62.35-kilometer route that took them to all the cities, towns, and villages in the disaster-stricken coastal areas and to special places throughout the prefecture, including World Heritage Sites.

It was a wonderful opportunity for many people throughout the prefecture to hold or see the torch as it traveled a route through some of the wonders of the prefecture.

At the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games held on July 23, children from the three disaster-stricken prefectures performed were chosen as torchbearers and passed the torch to the final runner.

During the Torch Festival, which was held over a five-day period starting on August 12, flame lighting ceremonies were held in 33 municipalities in the prefecture, followed by a Send-off Ceremony where the flames collected from each municipality were gathered into one flame to be sent off to Tokyo.

Furthermore, in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which had a huge focus on “reconstruction”, we registered 20 municipalities as host towns, including 14 ‘ARIGATO’ Host Towns for Supporting Reconstruction, and provided support for exchange programs with partner countries and for hosting the pre-camp.



Olympic torch relay



Paralympic torch festival



Interaction with athletes in the host town

(3) Regenerating Industries

Main Initiatives So Far



⑦ Fisheries and Agriculture

■ Reconstruction and provision of hatcheries, shared facilities, and fishing vessels

Supporting the prompt resumption of fishing operations

Regarding the early reconstruction and restoration of the marine industries in Iwate that suffered catastrophic damage, we engaged in projects to restore and rebuild the fishing boats and aquaculture facilities of the fisherman’s cooperative, as well as to restore the shared facilities for collecting and shipping marine products and processing them.

As a result, we have completed the restoration of fishing boats, aquaculture facilities, hatcheries, and other things needed by fishermen and fishing cooperatives. The bases for fishing and aquaculture production have also been restored to pre-disaster levels.

From this point forward, we are securing new workers for the industry, providing training to ambitious fishermen, improving the returning ratio of salmon, and working to maintain and increase aquaculture production of wakame and scallops.

We will also develop new fisheries and aquaculture initiatives such as salmon and trout farming.



One lot of fishing boats were provided to the fisherman’s cooperative in order to facilitate an early recovery around them (Otobe Fishing Port)



Group training for new fishery workers at Iwate Fisheries Academy (making rope)



Landing of silver salmon at an aquaculture facility

Provision of fishing boats / production supply to hatcheries and other facilities

Area	Goal	Actual number	Percent accomplished
Fishing boats (total)	6,693 boats	6,485 boats *	96.9%
Aquaculture facilities (total)	17,480	17,428 *	99.7%
Number of young flounder released (FY 2022)	1.1 million	1.11 million	100.9%

* completed project (project period: FY 2011 - FY 2015)

(As of March 31, 2023)

■ Establishment of a distribution and processing system centered on the fish production market

Promotion of fisheries rooted in the area

In order to restore integral fishery distribution and processing industries, we have promoted the establishment of a processing and distribution system centered on the fish production market by restoring facilities in Iwate including loading facilities, ice-production, refrigeration facilities, and fishery processing facilities.

As a result, all of the fishing markets in Iwate that were affected by the disaster have been reopened, ice production and refrigeration facilities have been mostly restored to pre-disaster levels, and 90% of fish processing industrial facilities damaged in the disaster have been restored.

We will continue our efforts to create a "high level hygiene and quality control region" that provides consistent hygiene and quality control from fishing to unloading, distribution and processing, thereby increasing the industrial competitiveness of the region, developing and expanding sales channels, and promoting high value-added products by taking advantage of the appeal of our high-quality prefectural marine products.



Renovation of Miyako City Fish Market High level hygiene management fish market (Completed in March, 2019)

Number of Iwate prefecture high quality hygiene approved areas

Area	Goal	Actual number	Status of achievement
Number certified	10 Municipalities	10 Municipalities	100%

(As of March 31, 2023)



On-site guidance by experts (Establishment of an advanced hygiene and quality control system)



Iwate Food Trade Fair (Restoration and expansion of sales channels)

■ Publicizing the safety and security of Iwate's agricultural, forestry, and fishery products

Supporting the expansion of sales channels for agricultural, forestry, and marine products produced in the prefecture

In order to expand the sales channels for agricultural, forestry, and marine products produced in the prefecture, we have been sending out information to consumers and chefs throughout Japan through our newsletter, web magazine, and video distribution. We also held restaurant fairs and business meetings and invited chefs from the Tokyo metropolitan area to visit the production areas in the prefecture.



Iwate restaurant fair held in Tokyo



Invited chefs from the Tokyo metropolitan area to visit the production area



Publication of newsletters promoting high-quality, safe, and reliable prefectural agricultural, forestry, and fishery products

SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2019

The SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2019 was held in Miyako over two days on June 10 and 11, 2019, as part of the Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project 2019, and the SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2020 was held in Ofunato over two days from October 26 to 27, 2020.

Taking the spread of the COVID-19 into consideration, the conference was cancelled in 2021, and videos of lectures and other events were streamed on the official website instead.

These conferences were held to express our feelings of gratitude for all the support received up to then after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and to share the attractions, abundant ingredients and food culture of the Iwate Sanriku area with well-known chefs and experts from Japan and overseas from a gastronomic (gourmet techniques, food culture) point of view.



Keynote speech by Mr. Pierre Gagnaire

8

Commerce and Tourism

Examples of businesses started as a result of these projects

- Opening of a cafe offering authentic French-style galette
- Opening bakeries in commercial facilities that contribute to creating a lively community
- Starting a seafood processing business, one of the key industries in coastal areas

■ Support for entrepreneurship and new business activities in the area affected by the disaster

Creating appealing industries and facilitating entrepreneurship in the Sanriku area

With the aim of restoring occupations that complement community revival development, we have been implementing the "Sanriku Future Industry Entrepreneurship Promotion Project" since FY2013, the "Sanriku Challenge Promotion Project" since FY2016, and the "Sanriku Nariwai Creation Support Project" since FY 2019.

By the end of FY 2020, a total of 164 people started businesses as a result of these projects.

In FY2021 and FY2022, as part of the Growth Support Program for Entrepreneurs in Coastal Areas, we provided guidance through specialized business advisors and experts to support startups and business continuity following new business development.



Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention, Reconstruction and Livelihood Reconstruction Division >> TEL: 019-629-6930

■ Support for restoring small and medium sized enterprises and provision of commercial facilities

Early restoration of local economies, toward full-scale provision of shopping areas

In order to support the restoration of and provisions for small and medium sized enterprises and shared facilities that were damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the Iwate Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Restoration and Reconstruction Aid Project (group subsidy) was established. By FY2022, a total of 216 groups and 1,573 businesses were being restored.

Additionally, based on the Town Revitalization Plan, the development of commercial facilities and the surrounding community were being promoted in an integrated manner, and commercial facilities opened in Rikuzentakata and Ofunato in April 2017, Kamaishi in September 2019 and Rikuzentakata in 2020.



"Rikuzentakata Fermentation Park CAMOCY" [Rikuzentakata City] (Opened December 17, 2020)

■ Tourism promotion linked with reconstruction activities

The number of inbound tourists has mostly returned to pre-disaster levels

The coastal area of Iwate is where some unique tourism resources such as Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution Heritage (Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site), the Sanriku Fukko National Park and the Sanriku Geopark are located. In addition to using these resources to promote tourism and stays in the area, working together with the Sanriku DMO Center to promote activities, we have been working to develop tourist spots using tourism resources indigenous to Sanriku, or to develop human resources in the tourism sector.

In 2021, the number of tourists (total number of people) decreased due to COVID-19. However, improved accessibility as a result of the opening of the reconstruction road network and promotion of disaster related experience-based tourism, enabled the number of educational tourists, both in the number of schools and students, to reach its highest since 2010. In addition, the development of roadside stations along the reconstruction roads and the beginning of the sightseeing boat service "Miyako Umineko Maru" in Miyako has increased tourism opportunities. As a result, more tourists are expected to visit the Sanriku area.

■ The first regular international flights from Iwate have been established

Iwate Hanamaki Airport is the gateway to Iwate from the rest of the world

On August 1, 2018, the first regular international flight service between Taipei and Iwate Hanamaki Airport was opened, followed by a second regular flight service to Shanghai on January 30, 2019.

With direct flight connections to Taiwan and China now available, it is easier to connect to other locations all over Southeast Asia, Europe, and more from Iwate.

In addition, with Iwate Hanamaki Airport being the international gateway to Iwate, we expect the number of inbound tourists to increase in this prefecture, which will bring economic benefits, increased mutual travel from both residents and tourists, and generate more opportunities for business and cultural exchange.



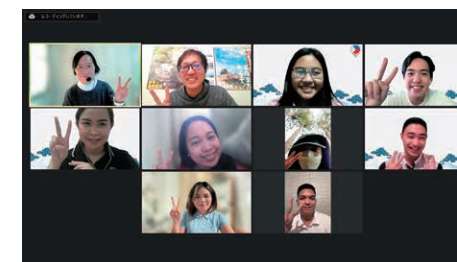
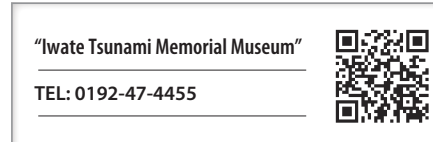
Regular flight to Taipei



Welcome ceremony for regular flights to Shanghai (January 30, 2019)

In addition, the museum regularly holds exhibitions, seminars, and events to promote a deeper understanding of the reality of the disaster, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and to encourage interest in the activities of various parts of Sanriku to pass on the legacy of the disaster and the current state of reconstruction in the disaster-stricken areas.

As Japan's leading center for earthquake tsunami learning, the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum aims to learn from the wisdom of our ancestors, share the reality and lessons of the disaster with people around the world, and work together to build a society that is resilient to natural disasters. We will also communicate our progress in overcoming the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, along with our gratitude for the support we have received.



Online tour of exhibits for overseas students and researchers



Emergency survival kit activity event

Making use of disaster-affected sites

Horticultural promotion leveraging the coastal climate

Greenhouse horticulture (strawberries, tomatoes, etc.) has been deployed utilizing disaster-affected sites leveraged in collective relocation projects.

Utilizing the cool summers and longer winter daylight hours of the southern coastal climate, businesses in Rikuzentakata City started working on year-round strawberry cultivation in 2019.

Meanwhile, in the disaster-affected areas of Okirai District, Sanriku-cho, Ofunato City, new wooden-frame greenhouses were built for strawberry cultivation. Together with the existing facilities in Rikuzentakata City, these 10 greenhouses produce strawberries in summer and fall when domestic production is low.

Development of premium brands of summer strawberries to expand market portfolio through the implementation of test studies in collaboration with confectioners and pastry chefs in the prefecture, and invitation of chefs from the major metropolitan areas to tour production areas is currently under way.



Strawberries in a pack



Strawberry greenhouses



Strawberries in growth

■ 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Project

Sanriku brings it together. Uniting every part of Japan with the whole world. When we're united we can go even further.

The 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project was held over 68 days from June 1 to August 7, 2019. In addition to the 22 projects organized by the Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project 2019 Executive Committee, we promoted exchanges to let people know about the communities that are putting great efforts into reconstruction through related projects implemented by municipalities and related organizations, and, besides sharing the memories and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, to tell them about the variety of inherent attractions of the Sanriku area.

Based on the goals and results of the 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project, we will continue to promote the Sanriku Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction Zone Project while connecting with various domestic and international organizations, and are working throughout Iwate towards the reconstruction of an even better Sanriku and the future of Iwate.



Scallop Mosaic Art Project



Mr. Yutaka Sado Music Festival



Earthquake Study Train



Kizuna Sports

(4) Tradition and Transmission for the future

Main Initiatives So Far



■ Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum, the base for conveying and passing on stories to the next generations

Protecting lives, and living together with the ocean and earth – To never again experience the sadness of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami –

Since it opened on September 22, 2019, the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum has been visited by approximately 710,000 people (as of the end of April 2023).

About 150 items are displayed in the museum, including descriptive panels, photographs, videos, artifacts damaged by the tsunami and survivor's accounts as well as a theater and screenings of live-action footage of the tsunami and a film of interviews with the people who experienced it. Visitors can view each exhibit in English, Chinese (traditional and simplified), and Korean. Full-time guides (also available in English and Chinese) are on hand to assist domestic and international visitors. They can also conduct tours of the exhibits to schools, companies, and groups that have made reservations in advance.

Comments from visitors include: "It was a very meaningful learning experience for children who have never experienced a disaster." "It gave me a chance to seriously think about what we can do to save lives." "The powerful images and information unique to today's world should be passed on for many years to come."



Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum and Takatamatsubara Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster



A damaged fire engine

■ Holding "Bosai Kokutai 2021 – From Kamaishi, Iwate –"

– 10 years after the disaster – Reconstruction and disaster prevention created through connections

On November 6 and 7, 2021, the National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (Bosai Kokutai) 2021 was held in Kamaishi City under the auspices of the Executive Committee for the National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 (organized by the Cabinet Office and others), and had approximately 5,800 people visiting the city. The National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction is held to raise awareness for disaster management throughout the entire nation, and this 6th convention was held under the theme "10 Years after the Disaster: Connections through Reconstruction and Disaster Reduction".

The conference featured a variety of programs including sessions where people involved in reconstruction and disaster management, from in and outside of the prefecture, participated online and in person to discuss a wide range of topics related to disaster prevention and mitigation. There were also workshops to learn about disaster management, booths that introduced the progress of reconstruction as well as the reconstruction activities of corporate groups, and outdoor exhibits such as an earthquake simulation vehicle.

Based on the results of the National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2021, we will continue to disseminate information about the region's strong efforts in disaster prevention and recovery, and promote initiatives that will contribute to improving disaster preparedness both within Japan and abroad.



Sessions



Booth exhibition

■ The role of the Takatamatsubara Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster and disaster ruins

Mourning and repose for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and passing on the memories and lessons of the disaster to future generations

Takatamatsubara Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster, which had been developed jointly by the prefectural, national and municipal governments, was fully opened on December 26th, 2021.

The park includes the National Memorial and Prayer Hall, Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum, Topic 45, the Miracle Pine Tree, and other disaster-related sites, where visitors can learn about the reality and lessons of the disaster, and disaster prevention.

It is hoped that this park will be passed on to future generations as a place of mourning and repose, a place to pass on the legacy of the disaster and to transmit the message of reconstruction, and that it will also be used often by many people for many years to come.



Takatamatsubara Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster



Topic 45 (formerly roadside station Takatamatsubara)



Kesen Junior High School



The Miracle Pine Tree



Rikuzentakata Youth Hostel



Shimojyuku Settlement Promotion Housing

■ Holding the Iwate Disaster Management Summit

– produced by the Iwate One Project –

On March 10, 2023, the Iwate Disaster Management Summit was held in Morioka City.

Keynote speeches by experts and others discussed disaster prevention and mitigation based on the prefectural government's announcement of the estimated damage in the event of the worst earthquake and tsunami disaster, and what needs to be done to achieve no fatalities.

Furthermore, the participants deepened their knowledge of disaster rescue dogs thanks to the explanation of their activities from the Raise Disaster Rescue Dog Project, Iwate One Project and through lectures by handlers who give instructions to disaster rescue dogs at disaster sites. They work to raise awareness of disaster rescue dogs as well as supporting the training of the dogs and their activities, and promoting their work.

Based on the results of this event, we will continue to promote efforts to build a disaster prevention system based on self-reliance, mutual aid, and public assistance. This includes raising the disaster prevention awareness of each prefectural resident, strengthening systems for residents to help each other in local communities, and developing a disaster prevention and mitigation system in cooperation with the national, prefectural and municipal governments, and disaster prevention agencies.



Presentation explaining their activities

■ Exchange and human resource development of disaster storytellers and other guides

– Handing down to future generations –

The prefecture holds seminars to promote exchange and support for the training of guides, including disaster storytellers from various regions, who are engaged in activities to pass down the facts and lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami to the next generations.

At the seminar held on July 22, 2022, participants, who are engaged in storytelling activities in coastal areas, exchanged opinions about their activities and the issues they face, and also observed a guide from a different facility that hands down information about earthquake and tsunami disasters.

In conjunction with the National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (Bosai Kokutai) 2021 held in Kamaishi City in November 2021, we also created a video introducing five coastal facilities that are used to hand down information about the earthquake disaster to participants.



Exchange seminar



Observing guides at other facilities



Video introducing other facilities that hand down earthquake disaster information

The video of reconstruction storytellers passing down tales to future generations >>>



■ Official establishment of the Day for Passing on Stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011 caused extensive damage in this prefecture.

The progress towards finishing the reconstruction work will continue, but in order to ensure that the same tragedy is never repeated, we must not let the memory of the disaster fade away and we must pass on the sadness and lessons of that day to the generations who did not experience the disaster, and to the children who will be born in the future, even after the day when the reconstruction work is fully accomplished. It is also important to carry on the unfulfilled wishes of those who lost their lives in the disaster, and to work together to create a better community for the future.

In February 2021, the prefecture enacted an ordinance to commemorate the many precious lives lost in the disaster, to pass on the lessons of the disaster, to cherish the many bonds that have been forged in the process of recovery, to think of each and every one of our loved ones, and to vow to build up our home of Iwate. The day was designated as the day for passing on stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.



■ Launched the "Iwate Earthquake & Tsunami Archive – Hope –" website

Collected approximately 240,000 items of materials related to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

In order to preserve for posterity the facts about the recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and use the lessons of these events in future domestic and international disaster prevention activities, we launched the "Iwate Earthquake & Tsunami Archive – Hope –" online in March 2017. The Archive brings together about 240,000 materials related to the earthquake and tsunami so that they can be searched and browsed.

In addition to the usual search functions, the content is sorted into six categories according to themes such as "preparedness" and "unprecedented response," making it easy to use for disaster prevention education and community disaster prevention activities, etc. There is also content for children and articles from local newspapers immediately after the earthquake.

Day for Passing on Stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

March 11 is the Day for Passing on Stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Promoting prefectural government and citizen initiatives.

The prefecture will cooperate with municipalities and other organizations to disseminate the purpose of this day and make efforts in line with disaster awareness. It will also cooperate with initiatives made by municipalities and other organizations and promote voluntary efforts by the citizens of the prefecture.

■ "Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami - Proposals from Iwate"

Reconstruction initiatives from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the lessons and proposals gained from them

To ensure that the experiences and lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami are passed on within prefectural organizations, in addition to being prepared for future disasters, we want to contribute to improvements in disaster prevention throughout Japan by summarizing and sharing that information.

Besides sharing it with other local governments and making use of it in responses to future disasters, we are also making proposals about plans for systems and resources that support reconstruction under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Focusing our summary on the initiatives undertaken in various fields and the lessons learned by the prefecture, we have contributed and published messages containing lessons and proposals from experts as well as the various respective initiatives and proposals of coastal municipalities and related groups and companies.



Collection of proposals

"Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami - Proposals from Iwate" >>>



(5) Support from all over Japan

Main Initiatives So Far



Self Defense Force activities

Developing versatile support activities over 138 days

An unprecedented 107,000 Self Defense Force members were dispatched during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. It was the first time that a general task force consisting of the infantry, navy, and air force had all worked together outside of training.

In addition to rescuing people in the disaster area and searching for missing persons, the Self Defense Forces engaged in a variety of activities including clearing rubble, delivering relief supplies, providing water, and female Self Defense Force officers visited evacuation centers in an initiative to listen to the needs of the people.



A concert held by the music corps in Tanohata



Searching for missing persons in Ofunato

Fire prevention activities

Activities of local fire brigades and aid groups from around Japan

Emergency fire rescue teams were dispatched from all over Japan in response to Iwate's call. In total, 2,279 teams and 7,633 people were dispatched. The Nagoya Fire Department supervised all fire department activities in Iwate during this time, and there were many other activities carried out by teams from various municipalities all over Japan.

There were also many local fire corps members who were affected by the disaster themselves. In addition to rescuing disaster victims, supporting the operation of evacuation centers, and searching for missing people, support activities were conducted by more than 1,400 fire corps members from neighboring municipalities.



Emergency fire rescue brigade in Ofunato



Fire engines arriving in Rikuzentakata from outside Iwate

Civil servants dispatched to the municipalities affected by the disaster

More than 5,000 people from local governments were sent from all over Japan

A total of 108 civil servants from 5 municipalities along the coast were victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. At the end of March just after the disaster, Nagoya proposed dispatching public workers, and soon after other municipalities made similar propositions to dispatch public workers to the coast. In FY2011, 171 people were dispatched, and by March of 2023, that number had reached 5,000. We are still requesting the help of various municipalities throughout Japan.



Workplace where public workers were dispatched. (FY2020, Rikuzentakata City Hall)

Public workers dispatched from FY2011 to FY2022 (Unit: people)								
	Number of people necessary	Number of people secured for dispatch	General office work	Land related	Civil engineering	Architecture	Public health nurses	Other
FY2011 (As of 3/1/2012)	—	171	97	0	42	10	12	10
FY2012 (As of 3/1/2013)	366	321	145	21	127	21	16	12
FY2013 (As of 3/1/2014)	628	596	294	68	204	38	21	39
FY2014 (As of 3/1/2015)	737	697	397	83	204	44	15	37
FY2015 (As of 3/1/2016)	777	715	418	65	211	43	8	35
FY2016 (As of 3/1/2017)	760	695	420	46	188	42	8	37
FY2017 (As of 3/1/2018)	671	615	373	48	161	29	12	40
FY2018 (As of 3/1/2019)	575	524	347	33	120	23	11	23
FY2019 (As of 3/1/2020)	422	399	261	19	101	16	7	14
FY2020 (As of 3/1/2021)	307	307	216	12	69	9	6	7
FY2021 (As of 3/1/2022)	67	66	43	3	19	1	1	2
FY2022 (As of 3/1/2023)	36	33	25	1	4	0	2	2

*Besides the above: mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, nurses, social workers, childcare workers, physical therapists, court stenographers, etc.

Public workers dispatched to municipalities affected by the disaster in FY2022 (Unit: people)				
Yamada Town	Otsuchi Town	Kamaishi City	Rikuzentakata City	Total
1	3	2	27	33

(As of March 1, 2023)

226 police officers were specially dispatched to Iwate from all over Japan

To establish safety and security in the areas affected by the disaster

From FY2011 to FY2016, 226 police officers were specially dispatched to Iwate from 16 different prefectures. They worked on reducing crime, ensuring traffic safety, patrolling the emergency housing, and generally establishing security in the areas affected by the disaster.

In Ofunato, Kamaishi, and Miyako, special hero skit events were held for children on the coast as crime prevention activities.



Arrival ceremony for specially dispatched police officers



Hero skit performed by police officers

Number of police officers specially dispatched to Iwate	
Dispatched from	Total dispatched
Aomori	15
Metropolitan Police Department	31
Saitama	8
Kanagawa	10
Yamanashi	11
Nagano	23
Mie	15
Okayama	17
Hiroshima	32
Tokushima	5
Kagawa	7
Kochi	5
Kumamoto	18
Oita	9
Miyazaki	9
Okinawa	11
Total	226

Medical team dispatch

Doctors from all over Japan provided medical support in the areas affected by the disaster

Right after the disaster, DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Teams) from all over Japan were called by the national government to help. 29 prefectures sent 128 teams that conducted triage*, emergency treatments, and hospital aid.

An Emergency Local Medical Assistance Office at Iwate Medical University acted as a contact point, and had dispatched 88 teams from outside the prefecture, a total of 4,463 personnel, by the end of December 2011.

In addition, the Iwate Medical Association (JMAT Iwate) provided medical support from the inland areas to the coastal areas affected by the disaster, and the Yamada and Otsuchi prefectural hospitals received such support.

*The order of priority for treatment should be determined according to the degree of urgency and severity of the injury or illness.



DMAT meeting in Miyako

Aid received until now

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the great support and encouragement in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami from people all over the world.

Furusato Iwate Aid Donation ("benefit-your-locality" tax scheme) 1.7 billion yen (As of the end of March 2023)

We are utilizing these funds to realize programs in Iwate including the Sanriku Coast Promotion, establishing a base for bringing more tourists using the opportunity of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, and the International Linear Collider.

Department of Homeland Promotion, Office of Regional Promotions TEL: 019-629-5184

Total donated: 19.8 billion yen (As of the end of March 2023)

These donations support the lives of people affected by the disaster, rebuild homes, secure employment, and restore industry.

Department of Health and Welfare, Health and Welfare Planning Office TEL: 019-629-5408

Contributions: 54.5 billion yen (As of the end of March 2023)

We are utilizing these funds to reestablish the lives of people affected by the disaster.

Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention, Rebuilding Lives Division TEL: 019-629-6926

Iwate Learning and Hope Fund 10.6 billion yen (As of the end of March 2023)

These funds are used for the lives and learning of children in the areas affected by the disaster, paying for scholarships for their education, textbooks, school uniforms, school excursions, and club activities. *A part of the Iwate Learning and Hope Fund is also supplied by the benefit-your-locality tax scheme.

Department of Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention, Reconstruction Promotion Division TEL: 019-629-6935

Total number of volunteers accepted: 570,723 people (As of the end of March 2023)

We look forward to your continued your continued support for the areas and people affected by the disaster.

Contact: Iwate Social Welfare Council Volunteer and Citizen Activity Center TEL: 019-637-4483

We are doing our best to ensure that the reconstruction proceeds steadily, and look forward to your continued understanding and cooperation.

Past Initiatives for Reconstruction

March 2011 – March 2023

► 2011

- March 11** Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
Iwate Disaster Countermeasures Headquarters is established
- 13** Evacuees reach peak of 54,429 people (including those in residences)
- 15** Kamaishi Port is secured as the first port for sending and receiving supplies after shipping lanes are cleared
- 16** First ship loaded with relief supplies arrived in Kamaishi Port
The North Rias Line of Sanriku Railway reopens from Rikuchu-Noda to Kuji station (By April 1, two other sections also reopen)
- 19** Construction starts on temporary housing (Rikuzentakata City, Kamaishi City)
- April 9** First temporary housing units in Iwate open to residents (Rikuzentakata City)
- 11** "Ganbaro! Iwate" slogan is unveiled. "Roughly translated to "We're in this together, Iwate."
Iwate Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction Committee is established
- 29** All lines reopen on the Tohoku Shinkansen
- May 6** The Emperor and Empress visit the disaster area (Kamaishi City, Miyako City)
- 25** Prince and Princess Akishino visit the disaster area (until the 26th, Otsuchi Town, Yamada Town)
- June 2** Children's Mental Care Center opens in Miyako City
- 6** Princess Hitachi visits the evacuation shelters (Shizukuishi Town)
- 20** "Basic Act on Reconstruction in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake" passes
- 29** Hiraizumi is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- July 3** The "Hiraizumi Declaration on the Tohoku Restoration" is unveiled
- 13** Miyako port becomes the first location in Iwate to resume handling container freight
- 15** All lines scheduled to be reopened on the Sanriku Railway by April 2014
- 26** Self Defense Force operations in Iwate completed. A ceremony thanking them is held in front of the Prefectural Office
- August 5** Crown Prince and Princess visit the disaster area (Ofunato City)
- 11** All temporary housing in Iwate is completed
Iwate's "Basic Plan for the Reconstruction of Iwate in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" is established
- 31** All evacuation shelters in Iwate are closed
- September 16** Princess Takamado visits the disaster-affected area (Sumita Town, Rikuzentakata City)
- 28** Tokyo announces that it will accept debris from Iwate, the first such region thus far
- October 3** Iwate Industrial Reconstruction Center opens
- November 20** Work starts on Reconstruction Roads (Sanriku Coast Road (Okanyo Section)) (Tanohata Village)
- December 7** Law on the Special Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Areas passes
- 26** Iwate forms the Reconstruction Special Zone Project Team

► 2012

- February 15** Iwate Mental Health Care Center opens at Iwate Medical University
- 10** The national government establishes the Reconstruction Agency; the Iwate Reconstruction Bureau opens in Morioka City with branches in Miyako City and Kamaishi City
- 26** Restoration begins on the breakwaters at the mouth of Kamaishi Port (Kamaishi City)
- March 8** Restoration begins on sea walls throughout Iwate (Miyako City, Kanahama coast)
- 11** Memorial services held throughout Iwate on the one year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Rikuzentakata City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 28** Local mental health care centers are established in four locations on the coast
- April 1** Iwate DC (Destination Campaign) held (until June 30)
- May 26** Tohoku Rokkousai Festival is held in Morioka, with more than 240,000 visitors in two days
- June 11** Iwate unveils "Roadmap of Restoration and Reconstruction"
- 14** Construction starts on the first public housing project for survivors in Iwate (Heita, Kamaishi City)
- September 12** Miracle Pine of Rikuzentakata felled for preservation
- October 10** Land renovation starts in Iwate so residences can be moved to higher ground (Tanohata Village)
- November 25** The first Reconstruction Road after the disaster in Iwate opens (Tohoku East-West Expressway, Kamaishi Akita Line (Miyamori – Towa)) (Tono City and Hanamaki City)
- December 10** First residents in Iwate move into public housing (Sakari, Ofunato City)
- 13** Lighthouse at Horajima in Otsuchi Town is relit
- 19** Prince and Princess Akishino visit the disaster-affected area (Until the 20th, Rikuzentakata City, Ofunato City, Tono City, and Morioka City)

► 2013

- March 2** BRT begins operation on the JR Ofunato Line between Kesenuma and Sakari
- 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 25** Renovation of the first residential lands for relocation in Iwate completed (Oigiri and Uranosawa, Miyako City)
- April 1** "Amachan" NHK serial drama set in Kuji begins its broadcast
- 3** The South Rias Line between Sakari and Yoshihama stations reopens on the Sanriku Railway
- May 8** Iwate Children's Care Center opens in Yahaba Town
- 24** Creation of Sanriku Fukko National Park
- July 3** Miracle Pine preservation completion ceremony is held
- 4** Emperor and Empress visit the disaster-affected areas (until the 5th, Tono City, Sumita Town, Ofunato City, Rikuzentakata City, and Ichinoseki City)
- 25** Iwate is officially selected as the location of the 2016 National Sports Festival
- August 5** Prince and Princess Hitachi visit the disaster-affected areas (until the 6th, Iwaizumi Town, Tanohata Village, Noda Village, and Kuji City)
- 23** The ILC Site Evaluation Committee chooses the site in the Kitakami Mountains as the best domestic candidate site for the International Linear Collider
- 27** "Thank you TOMODACHI" Disaster Reconstruction Report is held in New York City
- September 24** The Sanriku Geopark on Iwate's coast is certified as a Japanese Geopark
- November 1** Crown Prince and Princess visit the disaster-affected area (until the 2nd, Kamaishi City)

► 2014

- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Yamada Town for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 23** All areas on the Reconstruction Road "Sanriku Coastal Road (Takata Road)" opened (Rikuzentakata City)
"Bridge to Hope" begins operations removing earth in Rikuzentakata City
- 31** Disposal of disaster waste finishes in Iwate
The "Iwate Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction Action Plan" enters its second phase.
- April 5** The South Rias Line of the Sanriku Railway resumes operations with the reopening of the section from Yoshihama to Kamaishi
Classes start at the newly built and relocated Funakoshi Public Elementary School in Yamada, the first school to be rebuilt in Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate.
- 6** The North Rias Line resumes full operations with the reopening of the section from Omoto to Tanohata
- 12** SL Ginga starts operation between Hanamaki and Kamaishi on the Kamaishi Line
- 23** Ceremony is held to celebrate the completion of the new fish market in Ofunato City
A new law is passed to revise the "Law on the Special Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Areas" to speed the acquisition of land
- June 23** Iwate Aquaculture Association ships abalone eggs for the first time since the disaster
- 26** A basic schematic is decided for the "Takamatsubara Memorial Park" by Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture, and the national government
- August 24** Construction starts on Reconstruction Road "Miyako-Morioka Connecting Road (Hiratsuto-Matsukusa/Kuzakai Sections).
Construction has now started on all Reconstruction Roads in Iwate
- 30** "Tohoku Fukkousai 'WA' in PARIS" is held in France (until the 31st)
- November 7** "Gratitude for Solidarity" Disaster Reconstruction Conference is held in Paris, France
- December 18** Police substation in Hirata, Kamaishi opens, the first police facility to be opened in Iwate since the disaster recovery began

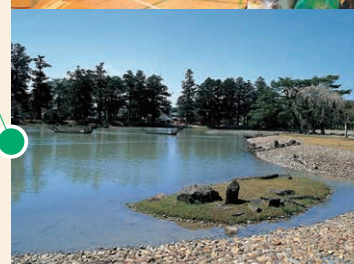
► 2015

- January 28** Temporary housing units on the grounds of Taro #3 elementary school in Miyako are dismantled, the first such complete removal from a schoolyard in Iwate
- March 2** Kamaishi, Iwate is confirmed as a venue for the 2019 Rugby World Cup™
- 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Noda Village for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 14** "Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" is held in Sendai as the main location
Iwate shares its "Recommendations from Iwate on disaster management and reconstruction" with the world (until the 18th)
- 19** New Takata prefectural high school building is completed (Rikuzentakata City)
- 31** Decontamination work is completed on pasture land in Iwate
- July 8** The Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site in Kamaishi is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution"
- 12** For the first time in Iwate, a temporary shopping area is moved to a new permanent location. (Ofunato City)
- November 10** "Gratitude for Solidarity" Disaster Reconstruction Report is held in Taipei, Taiwan

► 2016

- January 27** 71st "The Land of Hope, Iwate" National Sports Festival Winter Tournament is held (until the 31st, and from February 20th to 23rd)
- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Ofunato City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- April 11** New "Ganbaro! Iwate" slogan is unveiled
Restoration festival of Taro Ballpark (Nickname: Kitto Sakurasaku Ballpark) is held
- 27** Otsuchi Prefectural Hospital is rebuilt, and an inauguration ceremony is held
- May 20** Iwate Inland Evacuee Support Center opens
- June 20** Crown Prince and Princess visit the disaster-affected area (until the 21st, Iwaizumi Town and Miyako City)
- August 19** Yamada Prefectural Hospital is rebuilt, and an inauguration ceremony is held
- 30** Typhoon No. 10 hits Iwate
- September 26** Classes start at the new Otsuchi Gakuen, which is the prefecture's first combined elementary and junior high school, which integrates 5 elementary and middle schools that were damaged in the disaster
- 28** Emperor and Empress visit the disaster-affected areas (until October 2nd, Hanamaki City, Tono City, Kamaishi City, Otsuchi Town, Yamada Town, Kitakami City, and Morioka City)
- October 1** The 71st "The Land of Hope, Iwate" National Sports Festival is held (until the 11th), and the Emperor and Empress attend the opening ceremony
- 3** Princess Akiko of Mikasa visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 5th, Kamaishi City, Otsuchi Town, Oshu City, and Hanamaki City)

March 13, 2011 edition of Iwate Nippo



March 3, 2013 edition of Iwate Nippo



第71回国民体育大会岩手県準備委員会 第7回希望いわて国体・希望いわて大会実行委員会



- October 5** Princess Hitachi visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 7th, Oshu City, Hanamaki City, Kitakami City, and Rikuzentakata City)
Princess Takamado visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 7th, Takizawa City, Morioka City, Oshu City, and Kamaishi City)
Princess Tomohito of Mikasa visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 7th, Ofunato City, Kamaishi City, Hanamaki City, and Oshu City)
- 7** Princess Mako of Akishino visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 9th, Morioka City, Shiwa Town, Miyako City, Iwaizumi Town, and Tanohata Village)
- 8** Princess Yoko of Mikasa visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 10th, Hirono Town, Noda Village, Fudai Village, Kuji City, Takizawa City, Morioka City, and Ninohe City)
- 9** Prince and Princess Akishino visit the disaster-affected areas (until the 11th, Kuji City, Iwate Town, Shizukuishi Town, Yahaba Town, Morioka City, and Kitakami City)
- 11** Prince and Princess Akishino attend the closing ceremony of "the Land of Hope, Iwate" National Sports Festival
- 21** The Crown Prince visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 23rd, Morioka City, Hanamaki City, Kitakami City, Oshu City, Ichinoseki City, and Hiraizumi Town)
- 22** The 16th "The Land of Hope, Iwate" National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities held (until the 24th), and the opening ceremony is attended by the Crown Prince
- 23** Princess Takamado and Princess Ayako of Takamado visits the disaster-affected areas (until the 24th, Morioka City, Hanamaki City, Kanegasaki Town, and Kitakami City)
- 24** Princess Takamado and Princess Ayako of Takamado attend the closing ceremony of "The Land of Hope, Iwate" National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

▶ 2017

- March 5** Work starts on Takatamatsubara Memorial Park
- 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Kamaishi City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 19** Ofunato Port bay entrance seawall completed
- 30** "Iwate Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction Action Plan" enters its third Phase
"Iwate Earthquake & Tsunami Archive - Hope -" is unveiled
- April 27** "Abasse Takata" commercial center and library combined facility opened
- 29** "Kyassen Ofunato" commercial facility opened
- July 27** National Governors' Association meeting held in Morioka, Iwate Declaration adopted (until the 28th)
- September 23** A gantry crane provided free of charge to Iwate by Osaka started use

▶ 2018

- February 16** Inauguration ceremony held for newly rebuilt Rikuzentakata Prefectural Hospital
- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Miyako City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 30** Kamaishi Port bay entrance seawall completed
- June 2** Tohoku Kizuna Matsuri 2018 Morioka held (until the 3rd)
- 10** Otsuchi Cultural Exchange Center "Oshacchi" opened
- July 17** Held the "1st Iwate Reconstruction for Tomorrow Seminar FY2019" as an open program for the general public of as part of the "International Disaster Prevention/Crisis Management Research IWATE Conference"
- August 19** Kamaishi Unosumai Memorial Stadium completed, opening ceremony held
- October 1** "Eastpia Miyako", a civic center in the central urban area opened
- December 14** Rikuzentakata Kesen public elementary school rebuilt
All 86 public schools damaged by the disaster have been completely rebuilt

▶ 2019

- March 9** All sections of the Tohoku East-West Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line opened
- 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Kuji City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 23** All sections of the Sanriku Railways Rias Line opened
- June 1** 2019 Sanriku Disaster Risk Reduction & Reconstruction Project started (until August 7)
- 9** "Michinoku Coastal Trail" is fully open
- 10** "SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2019" is held in Miyako City (until the 11th)
- September 22** Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum (The Disaster Memorial Museum for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami) opens
- 25** Rugby World Cup 2019 Japan Fiji vs Uruguay match is held in Kamaishi at Kamaishi Unosumai Memorial Stadium
- October 12** Typhoon No. 19 hits Iwate Prefecture
- November 5** Akahama No.1 Public Housing in Otsuchi Town is completed
Completion of construction of all 5,550 public housing units in coastal areas of the prefecture.

▶ 2020

- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Kamaishi City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 22** The Olympic Torch arrives in Iwate as the "Fire of Reconstruction" (until the 23rd) (Ofunato City, Miyako City, Otsuchi Town, Yamada Town)
- May 18** "New Taro Station" on the Sanriku Railway Rias Line opens (Miyako City)
- August 19** Sand reclamation work is completed at Nebama Beach in Kamaishi City
- October 26** "SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2020" is held at Ofunato Civic Cultural Center Rias Hall (until the 27th)
- December 7** Public Housing Prefectural Minami Aoyama Apartments are completed (Morioka City)
Completion of construction of all 5,833 public housing units in the prefecture
- 17** "Rikuzentakata Fermentation Park CAMOCY" opens in Imaizumi District, Kesen Town, Rikuzentakata City
- 31** Construction of housing lots under the land readjustment project in Rikuzentakata City is completed.
All residential land development (for 7,472 houses) in the prefecture has been completed.



▶ 2021

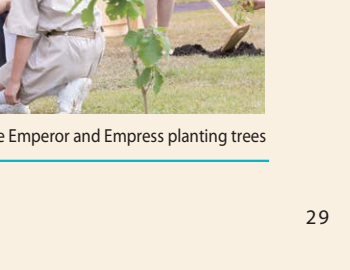
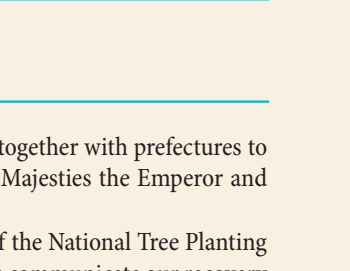
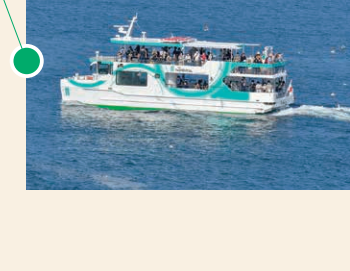
- February 19** Promulgation and enforcement of the ordinance for the "Day for Passing on Stories of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami"
- March 4** Virtual visit of the disaster-affected areas by the Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan.
- 11** Sanriku Railway's "Relay Train of Gratitude to Pass on the Story of 3.11" runs
A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Rikuzentakata City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- 12** Traveling exhibition of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch (until the 16th)
(Karumai Town, Kunohe Village, Kuzumaki Town, Nishiwaga Town, Sumita Town)
- 28** All sections of Miyako-Morioka Connecting Road opened
- 31** Nebama Beach in Kamaishi City opens to the public
- April 1** Takatamatsubara Beach in Rikuzentakata City opens to the public
- 27** Disaster Survivor Consultation and Assistance Center opens in Kamaishi City
- May 1** "Topic 45" (Formerly Roadside Station Takatamatsubara), and the ruins of former Kesen Junior High School, opens to the public.
- June 16-18** Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay was held in Iwate Prefecture
- July 1** Prefectural Outdoor Activity Center (Hirota Hamaline Park) opens in Rikuzentakata City
- September 1** Sandy beach restoration work has been completed at Namiita Beach in Otsuchi Town
- October 24** "SANRIKU Gastronomy Conference 2021" Caravan of "Food" is held
- November 6-7** "National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (Bosai Kokutai) 2021" is held
- 14** Kamaishi Unosumai Memorial Stadium "Iwate Kamaishi Rugby Memorial Event" is held
- December 18** Sanriku Coast Road fully opens
- 26** Takatamatsubara Memorial Park for TSUNAMI Disaster fully opens

▶ 2022

- February 8** "Reconstruction Education" illustrated book "Hand in Hand" is published
- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Otsuchi Town for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- July 9** Commemorative event one year prior to the 73rd National Tree-Planting Festival is held
- 18** Miyako City sightseeing boat "Miyako Umineko Maru" start of service
- September 25** 3rd anniversary of the Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum / Summit for Disaster Storytellers and Guides is held
- November 5** Rikuzentakata City Museum opens 11 years and 7 months after the disaster

▶ 2023

- February 24** "Reconstruction Education" illustrated book "Everyone's Here for You" is published
- March 11** A joint memorial ceremony between Iwate Prefecture and Kamaishi City for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami is held
- June 4** 73rd National Tree Planting Festival Iwate 2023 is held



■ Held in Iwate Prefecture for the second time in 49 years!

The National Tree Planting Festival is an event held by the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization together with prefectures to deepen public understanding of forests and greenery. The ceremony held on June 4th 2023 was attended by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and included commemorative tree planting and other activities with many participants from all over Japan.

For our prefecture, which was severely damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the holding of the National Tree Planting Festival was an opportunity to express our gratitude for the support we have received from Japan and abroad, as well as communicate our recovery from the disaster, so it was a unique and meaningful event.

The trees planted 49 years ago at the 25th National Tree Planting Festival (Iwate Prefectural Forest (Hachimantai City)) are growing well.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress planting trees

あたりまえなど無い
感謝を忘れない!

全カゴ助けてくれた方
みんなに感謝の時

自衛隊の皆様には
感謝しかありません

生きてくれて
ありがとう
毎日思ひ朝です

ご支援 ありがとうございます。
復興はまだですが
頑張ります。 S.H.R.M

生きている今の自分に
つなげる人に感謝!

今日を大切に
明日と大事に生きて
皆のお助けありがとう

ご支援
ありがとうございます。
元氣をだして



津波から助けた私達を
暖かく受け入れて下さる方々
炊き出しを差し入れて下さる方々
一生忘れません!!

確実に一歩一歩前へ進んでいる。
あの日を決して忘れてはならない。
#Iiwate #三陸復興

多くの人に見てほしい。
みんなの人に感謝です。

世界の皆様からの
支援で助けられた。
感謝! Thank you!

いつまでも忘れません
助けてくれた方々
被災したこと。

実際に被災した者です。
あの時に全国からの支援は
本当にありがとうございました。

全国の御支援があった
からこそ、今元気に
日々仕事に励んでいます。
感謝の気持ちを込めて
ありがとうございます。

あの海も忘れられない。
そして生かされたことに
支援くださった皆様の思いも
忘れぬ。ありがとうございます。

たくさんの人に支え
られ、無事成人を迎えられ
ました。感謝です!!

あの月がきっかけで
DMATに加入して
来たいと思っています

Thanks to the reconstruction support

Source: Content received on the digital message board at Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum and messages received from people living in coastal areas

Access to Iwate

Shinkansen (Bullet Train) To Morioka Station

Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto	About 115 minutes	Morioka Station
Tokyo	About 130 minutes	
Nagoya	About 250 minutes	
Osaka	About 310 minutes	
Fukuoka	About 465 minutes	

Airport To Iwate-Hanamaki Airport

Sapporo	About 55 minutes	Hanamaki
Nagoya	About 70 minutes	
Osaka	About 80 minutes	
Kobe	About 90 minutes	
Fukuoka	About 120 minutes	

Tohoku Expressway To the Morioka Interchange

Tokyo	About 330 minutes (Tohoku Expressway)	Morioka Interchange
Nagoya	About 630 minutes (Via Tomei, Metropolitan, Tohoku Expressway)	
Osaka	About 780 minutes (Via Meishin, Hokuriku, Banetsu, Tohoku Expressway)	

About Iwate Sanriku

The Sanriku area offers a variety of tourist attractions and fresh food throughout the year.



Whole-Iwate Sales Promotion Team
Iwate Sachi

Photos provided by: Iwate Construction Association / Iwate Nippo / Otsuchi Town / Ofunato City / Kamaishi City / Kuji City / Sanriku Railway / JR East Japan Morioka / Tanohata Village / Tohoku Regional Development Bureau / Noda Village / Noda Tourism Association / Miyako City / Yamada Town / Rikuzentakata City

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