

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

Volume 135  
March 2018 Edition

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished.

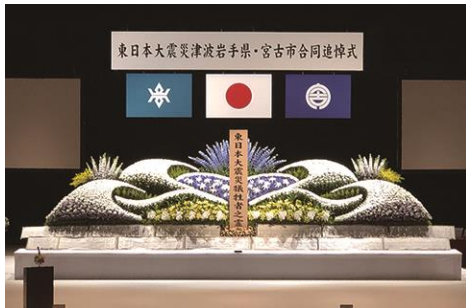
We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## -7 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami-

MIYAKO

### Iwate-Miyako Joint Remembrance Memorial

The Iwate Prefectural Government and Miyako City Government organized a joint remembrance memorial for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2018 (Sunday), seven years after the disaster.



The memorial altar



Governor Tasso gives his ceremonial address



Miyako City Mayor Yamamoto makes a promise for the future

#### ■ Never Forget: March 11, 2011 ■

The memorial was held in the main hall of the Miyako Public Hall (by the coast of Sokei, Miyako City). Around 800 participants attended, mainly families of the victims and several government officials, and a live broadcast was shown of a similar ceremony held at the National Theatre in the Chiyoda ward of Tokyo, conducted by the National Government. A moment of silence was observed by all attendees at 2:46pm, the time of the earthquake.

#### ■ Renewed Promises for the Reconstruction

In his ceremonial address, Governor Tasso said, "We have inherited the feelings the victims held towards their hometown, and we have a duty to continue down the path to reconstruction and pass on everything we learned from this tragedy to the future generation. With the cooperation of several communities, the prefecture has worked on various projects to furthermore pursue our ultimate goal of a complete recovery for all regions. As survivors of the disaster, it is essential that we all collaborate to achieve a prosperous life on the Sanriku Coast of Iwate in harmony with nature."

Next, Mayor Yamamoto of Miyako City promised, "Miyako -will- recover. Our ancestors have battled through countless hardships. With strong tenacity, they still managed to rebuild our home each time. As survivors of this tragedy, we will pass on these experiences and the lessons learned to the younger generations. We will also give our best to achieve a brighter future for Miyako. Through this, we will be able to restore the verve and life of our proud city."

There were more tributes from Mr. Nagasaka, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office and for Reconstruction; Mr. Sasaki, Chairman of the Iwate Prefectural Assembly; and Mr. Maekawa, Chairman of the Miyako City Assembly, throughout the ceremony.

#### ■ A repose for lost souls – a wish for a brighter future ■

At the end of the ceremony, attendees lined up to place white chrysanthemums (often used for funerals as a symbol of death) on the altar as they offered prayers to the victims while students from the Aoyama Gakuin Women's Jr. College sang a song of tribute in the background. It was a day for us to reflect on the disaster and strengthen our resolve towards making a complete recovery.



Attendees in line to offer prayers



Handbell performance by the Aoyama Gakuin Women's Jr. College



Flowers placed on the altar

**We are accepting subscriptions for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team Newsletter!**



We are now accepting subscriptions for individual members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Sign up to get information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area. (Information only available in Japanese.)

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

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## The newly rebuilt Takata Hospital is now open for patients

RIKUZENTAKATA

The rebuilt prefectural Takata Hospital (in Takata, Rikuzentakata City) has begun accepting patients for diagnosis. The hospital was destroyed when the tsunami engulfed its first four floors. All operations shut down and medical services had to be conducted at a temporary facility.

Reconstructed on a 50m elevated ground, the new hospital will accept patients for internal and external medicine, pediatrics, orthopedic surgery, gynecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and rehabilitation, a total of 8 departments.

At the opening ceremony held on February 16 (Friday), Governor Tasso commented, "Takata Hospital will start out as a disaster-resistant medical facility but it also marks the beginning of the revival of an effective medical assistance system for the coast. Iwate Prefecture as a whole will continue to work hard to improve the medical facilities in rural regions which will then help to restore the daily lives of the community. This is a step towards a brighter future."

With the completion of Takata Hospital, all three prefectural hospitals destroyed by the tsunami have now been restored.



The reconstructed Iwate Prefectural Takata Hospital

## A Forum to Support the Reconstruction was held in Tokyo

TOKYO

On February 17 (Sat), a Reconstruction Forum was held at the Tokyo International Forum (in Chiyoda ward), hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, four disaster-affected Tohoku prefectures, and the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Forum Committee. The objective of the forum was to prevent memories of the disaster from fading in addition to discussing how to continue to provide support to the affected prefectures.

A talk session was held at the stage between Tokyo Governor Koike and Miyagi Prefecture Governor Murai (representing all four disaster-affected prefectures). Topics included ways to prevent the impact of the disaster from being forgotten and case studies from Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. At the closing ceremony, a popular baseball commentator, Mr. Katsuya Nomura, gave a passionate comment on the importance of reconstruction support: "Let's work together to further help the development of Tohoku."

At the event space, booths were set up to sell local products and food. Each of the four prefectures worked to promote their region's path to reconstruction to the people of the greater Tokyo area.



Talk session between Tokyo Governor Koike and Miyagi Prefecture Governor Murai



Forum visitors enjoy the local food of Tohoku

## A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in Iwate Prefecture 2011.3.11

IWAIZUMI

What happened that day? In this section, we will be looking back at the disaster in each coastal town.



The tsunami reaches National Highway 45 (Photo: Iwaizumi Town)

- Tsunami Height  
20.2m Iwaizumi Coast
- Deaths 7
- Missing 0
- Buildings Destroyed  
200



### The Omoto district was the hardest hit

The damage in Iwaizumi Town was concentrated on the coast. The Omoto district is a fishing community known for its past tsunami experiences: the 1896 Sanriku Earthquake (360 deaths and missing) and the 1933 Sanriku Earthquake (164 casualties). The district was able to recover both times.

Construction of the breakwaters and water gates began in 1953 and were completed in 1993 - a span of 40 years at tremendous cost. With a height of 12m, total length of 221m, and a width of 30m, its scale is one of the biggest in the country. It's built with 6 water gates, with each gate able to withstand 7,600 tons of pressure.

There were no breaches of the water gates at the Omoto River, however the tsunami went over the breakwaters resulting in 117 buildings destroyed and flooding up to around 11m high.



The waters overflowed the gates (Photo: Iwaizumi Town)



The Coastsides Stop - Omoto Aidokan opens in Omoto district



## Construction Completed on Inland Homes for Disaster Victims

MORIOKA

Construction has been completed on Building #8 of the 1st Bingo Apartment complex (Tsukigaoka 2-chome, Morioka), Iwate's first inland housing facility for disaster survivors. New residents will receive their keys on Friday, March 9.

The facility is for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami who evacuated inland. It is a 3-story reinforced concrete building, with 12 2DK units, and 12 3DK units. Their barrier-free designs make them suitable for the elderly or disabled.

Construction on buildings 9 and 10, which will provide 26 further units, is scheduled to be completed in September 2018.

The prefecture plans to build 201 more inland housing units for disaster survivors, including 118 in Morioka, 34 in Kitakami, 14 in Oshu, and 35 in Kitakami. Local authorities will build 52 further homes; 30 in Hanamaki and 22 in Tono. Construction is due to be completed by the end of the 2019 financial year.



Building #8 of the 1st Bingo Apartment Complex

## Results of the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey #1 for 2018

Iwate Prefecture conducts the Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey in order to periodically measure Iwate's reconstruction progress from the earthquake and tsunami. The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every six months.

Here are some key points extracted from the results of the first survey this year (conducted in January 2018).

### Have the lives of the survivors recovered?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 86.7%  
(last time: 83.5%)

There was praise for the significant recovery of people's living conditions. However, others expressed concern for the people still living in temporary accommodation, and noted the difficulty of building new communities.

### How do you feel about the recovery of the local economy?

"Fully recovered" or "Mostly recovered": 86.7% (last time: 83.5%)

Some people pointed out an increase in temporary businesses becoming permanent, and noted a new atmosphere in their community. On the other hand, others expressed concern regarding the reduced catches of key fish, such as salmon, and the decreasing demand for new construction projects in reconstructed areas.

### How do you feel about the disaster mitigation measures?

"Satisfactory" or "Mostly satisfactory": 59.1% (last time: 50.4%)

Some were happy with the increasingly substantial disaster prevention measures, such as seawalls and floodgates. Others said that they wouldn't feel safe until the construction work was fully completed. People also emphasized the importance of risk reduction awareness.



## Sanriku Event Information



### Underwater Tunnel Reopens

KUJI

Venue: Kuji Underground Aquarium "Moguranpia"

Seven years after the disaster, Moguranpia is reopening its underwater tunnel. Visitors can see Kameyoshi, a turtle who survived the disaster, and fish from local waters. The aquarium also displays models of divers and fishing equipment, giving the full Kuji ocean experience.

[Inquiry](#) Kuji Underground Aquarium "Moguranpia" ☎ 0194-75-3551

4/14

Sat

### Iwaizumi Rest Stop's One Year Renewal Anniversary Festival

IWAIZUMI

Venue: Iwaizumi Rest Stop

Iwaizumi Rest Stop reopened last April, after recovering from Typhoon Lionrock. The "Iwaizumi Offal Stew Excavation Team" will set up a stall, to spread the appeal of offal stew, a local heritage food, across the whole country. Visitors will also be able to enjoy other local products.

[Inquiry](#) Iwaizumi Rest Stop ☎ 0194-32-3070

4/15

Sun

4/27

Fri

### Kitayamazaki Cliff Cruises

TANOHATA

Venue: Shimanokoshi Fishing Harbor

Experience the awe-inspiring presence of Kitayamazaki's dynamic coastline and 200m-tall cliffs. This cruise is a 50-minute round trip past Bentenzaki, Yagoshizaki and Kitayamazaki, with a chance to try feeding the gulls while on board.

[Inquiry](#) Hotel Ragaso ☎0194-33-2611  
Cruise Boat Terminal ☎0194-33-2113

11/4

Sun

4/29

Sun (Hol)

### Mt. Goyo Opens

KAMAISHI / Sumita / Ofunato

Venue: Mt. Goyo

Of Iwate's tall mountains, the 1,351m Mt. Goyo is the closest to the sea. From its summit, you can take in the shape of Sanriku's rias coastline. The beautiful spring azaleas, summer rhododendrons, and hinoki cypress trees are a true delight for the hikers.

[Inquiry](#) Kamaishi Commerce and Tourism Division ☎ 0193-27-8421

4/29

Sun (Hol)

### Kamaishi Cherry Blossom Festival

KAMAISHI

Venue: Toni

In the spring of 1934, 2,800 Yoshino cherry trees were planted here in celebration of the region's recovery from the Sanriku Tsunami. Once every three years, this festival recreates the procession of a daimyo (feudal lord) through a tunnel of blossoms.

[Inquiry](#) Amaterasumioya Shrine ☎ 0193-55-2138

4/29

Sun (Hol)

### Sanriku Yamada Oyster Festival

YAMADA

Venue: Yamada Fish Market

At this festival you can enjoy the kind of large, flavorful oysters that are unique to the season. There will be stalls selling freshly-caught seafood from Yamada Bay, a barbecue space to cook the food you just bought, and free servings of oyster soup.

[Inquiry](#) Yamada Promotion Committee (Yamada Commerce & Industry Association) ☎ 0193-82-2515



Jodogahama, located in Miyako at the heart of the Sanriku Reconstruction National Park & Sanriku National Geopark, is the region's most famous sight. Visitors are dazzled by the unusual shape of its white rocks, the fresh green color of its pine trees, and the bright blue sea.

Enjoy the view from the ocean, on a Miyako Jodogahama Cruise boat.

Miyako Jodogahama Cruises resumed service on March 10 (Sat), after being suspended for hull maintenance and checks. The Jodogahama course is a 40-minute cruise past national natural monuments and coastal scenery. After departing from Jodogahama, one of Japan's prettiest spots, passengers can view Candle Rock, Husband & Wife Rock, Blowhole Rock, and more. On the boat, you can also have fun feeding the seagulls.



Jodogahama, Sanriku's most famous sight

Operating Season

Mar 10 (Sat) – Nov 23 (Fri), weekends and holidays

\* Daily operation: Apr 28 – May 31, Jul 15 – Aug 31

\* Additional cruises may operate if required

Timetable

① 8:40 ② 9:30 ③ 11:00 ④ 12:00

⑤ 13:40 ⑥ 15:30

\* Because of sunset times,

⑥ only runs until Oct 31.

Fees

Adults: ¥1,400 (middle school and up)

Children: ¥700 (6 years old – elementary school)

Infants: Free (up to 5 years old)

\* One infant admitted free per adult.

A children's ticket is required for each additional infant.

Feeding the energetic seagulls (Photo: Miyako Jodogahama Cruises)

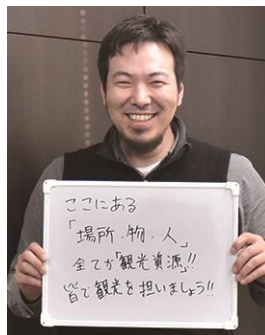


Inquiry Miyako Jodogahama Cruises TEL: 0193-62-3350 (8:00-17:00)

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful feelings. Part 80 introduces Mr. Yudai Hanasaka's efforts.



Yudai Hanasaka Director Miyako Tourism Research Association



"Places, objects and people are all tourism resources!! Everybody should help promote tourism!!"

and the Miyako-Muroran Ferry. People are wary of the straw effect, but I actually think that convenient access provides tourism opportunities. Miyako's key industries are tourism, seafood, and manufacturing, and I think that tourism has a real appeal in particular because of natural resources like Jodogahama, one of the best known places on the Sanriku Coast," he said.

Sharing an enthusiasm for tourism

Mr. Hanasaka continued, "Tourism is enjoyable for visitors, but it makes us feel good too, so it's a positive theme to think about. It's also a broad topic, encompassing food, culture and so on, so I think it will have a rejuvenating effect if the entire region gets behind it. These days, 'manufactured tourism' is well understood, so I think we should consider which of our current resources need to be renewed, and turned into tourism commodities." Mr. Hanasaka proposes spurring regional tourism by setting up a wider network of collaborative study groups, in Sanriku, Iwate and Tohoku.

Opportunities for transport infrastructure

Volunteers at the Miyako Tourism Research Association study together by sharing information and opinions, in order to prepare for the future. Mr. Hanasaka, the director, believes strongly in the potential of tourism.

He spoke about his expectation that a focus on tourism would bring people to Miyako. "As population decline continues, Miyako is improving its transport infrastructure, with the Sanriku Reconstruction Road, the Miyako-Morioka Road

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Feb 28 2018

Human casualties/deaths: (direct) 4,673 Missing: 1,116 (related) 466

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,079

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:

www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

Thank you for all your support!

As of Feb 28 2018

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.6307 billion (95,527 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.89505 billion (8,502 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥9.26343 billion (21,394 donations)

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



For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives:

http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/



News from Iwate's Reconstruction Web

Watch videos on the news and

People for Sanriku's Future!

Check out our website for more!



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