

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

三陸復興

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We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished. Temperatures have been dropping rapidly, marking the beginning of autumn and the end of this fierce summer. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

The Summer Coming-of-Age Ceremony

Tanohata

On August 15th, 2015 (Sat), Tanohata's Coming-of-Age ceremony was held at Asby Hall in Wano, Tanohata.

The event coincided with Obon, a Japanese holiday where many people return to their hometowns. Among the 42 residents reaching age 20 this year, 36 attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the mayor of Tanohata, Hiroshi Ishihara, told the new adults, "I hope you contribute your youthful energy towards the village's reconstruction and growth."

Yukiya Sato, a representative for the group, promised, "In a few years, when I'll be involved in the area's reconstruction and development, I'll strive to become a person who has the competence and sense of responsibility of looking after Tanohata's future."

After the ceremony, the new adults boarded a sightseeing boat called the Hatachi no Fune* and set off on

a cruise to the widely-admired Kitayamazaki Cliffs. While catching up with old friends and taking photographs, they gazed out at the spectacular scenery and made new memories about their hometown.

Hatachi no Fune had to be taken out of service after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but in 2012 and 2013, coming-of-age ceremonies were held on small Sappa fishing boats. Hatachi no Fune has been back on the waters since last year, operating the "Kitayamazaki Cliffs Sightseeing Cruise" service.

On the same day, 10 coming-of-age ceremonies took place all around Iwate, celebrating the transition to adulthood of roughly 1,100 people.

* Hatachi no Fune literally translated is 20-Years-Old Boat.



The Coming-of-Age ceremony
(photo courtesy of the Tanohata Board of Education)



New adults enjoying the Kitayamazaki cruise on Hatachi no Fune
(photo courtesy of the Tanohata Board of Education)



Opening a Time Capsule Containing Dreams for the Future

Miyako

On August 15th, 2015 (Sat), a time capsule commemorating the merger of the town of Taro into Miyako City was opened in front of the former town hall.

The time capsule was buried in June 2005 to mark the merger of Miyako, Taro, and Niisato. 413 students who lived in Taro at that time contributed words and pictures on the theme of "What Taro Means to Me."

The ceremony was planned and carried out by people who were among this group of students. Around 120 people attended.

After observing a minute's silence for those who died in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the head of the executive committee, Noriki Shimizu (who was a third-year junior high school student in 2005), gave a few words. "A lot of people lost invaluable things in the disaster. I hope this time

capsule becomes a local treasure. I want people to use it as a chance to look back at their past selves."

The committee members then dug up the 60cm capsule and displayed its contents. The audience gave a huge round of applause, and spent the rest of the day enjoying memories of the past.



Executive committee members digging up the time capsule



Participants with the objects they buried in 2005



"e! Iwate" is a mobile app that sends you news and information about Iwate's Reconstruction (in Japanese). You can then re-post this information on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

You can use the app with the following smart phone models:

• Android OS4.0 and newer, iOS6.0 and newer

For more information:

*only available in Japanese

e-iwate.info*

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Memorial Fireworks Launched Along the Coast

Noda, Tanohata, Miyako, Otsuchi, Kamaishi, Ofunato

The fireworks event "LIGHT UP NIPPON 2015" was held on August 11th, 2015 (Tue).

The event represents both a memorial for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and a prayer for the reconstruction. It was held simultaneously in three prefectures that suffered damage - Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. In Iwate, it was held in Noda, Tanohata, Miyako, Otsuchi, Kamaishi and Ofunato.

The event began in 2011 with the slogan, "Energizing Tohoku and Japan with fireworks." This is its fifth year.

From 7pm that evening, approximately 15,000 fireworks were launched into the sky to the sound of the official theme song "Red Dragonfly," which was composed by Ryuichi Sakamoto.



Memorial lanterns in Miyako (photo courtesy of Miyako City)



Fireworks in Noda (photo courtesy of Noda Tourism Association)

Kamaishi Port Handles a Record-Setting Number of Shipping Containers

Kamaishi

As of August 10th, Kamaishi Port has handled over 3,364 TEU's worth of shipping containers (1 TEU = 1 20-foot container) in 2015. This is a new record in Iwate, breaking Miyako Port's 2013 record of 3,315 TEU.

In July 2011, Kamaishi Port, which began handling shipping containers in 2002, was designated as a container yard for Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), a large shipping company based in Hong Kong. An international feeder container course was set up between Kamaishi Port and Keihin Port in Yokohama, where shipment transactions occur once a week.

Besides handling international cargo sent from inland regions, Kamaishi Port handles marine goods from the Sanriku Coast, and, from March to July of this year, the city also transported containers of soil from the temporary debris storage sites in Katagishi district, which explains the increase in this year's load.

By utilizing continually-developing roads like the Tohoku Expressway's Kamaishi-Akita Line and the Sanriku Coastal Road, Kamaishi is aiming to exceed 5,000 TEU this year, spurring the development of shipping industries and turning the city into a distribution base for the prefecture.



A container being loaded at Kamaishi Harbor

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 43 introduces Mr. Yuichi Kuwano's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Nerima, Tokyo.

While working in the IT industry, Mr. Kuwano came to Ofunato in 2012 as a volunteer, then moved to Ofunato permanently in October of that year. He joined a non-profit organization, where he started work related to the reconstruction.

Since January 2015 he has worked as a crew member for Sea Front Ltd., which operates a boat called Shiosai.

A town built by the locals

In the spring of 2012, Mr. Kuwano visited Ofunato to help out as a volunteer. In October that year, he joined a non-profit organization and moved there permanently. He currently spends his time promoting Ofunato in his role as a crew member aboard a boat called Shiosai.

After experiencing life in Ofunato, Mr. Kuwano spoke about the reconstruction. "Everyone



Sea Front Ltd.
Shiosai Boat Crew Member
Yuichi Kuwano



"Ofunato - a place to settle down."

has a different idea of what 'reconstruction' means. To some people, it means returning things to the way they were before, while others think it means building a completely new town. We still need a lot of support, but I feel like it's about time that the locals start to gradually build their own town."

Ofunato is now my hometown

"I was born and raised in Tokyo, so it feels like I don't have a hometown. I'm jealous of people who do. Since moving to Ofunato I've felt a sense of fulfillment that doesn't exist in big cities. There's so much nature, plenty of food, and the people are great. It's really a great place. I love the fact that the boat I work on sails on the sea rather than a river. The locals who suffered because of the tsunami might think bitterly of the sea, but by steadily promoting tourism of the sea and scenery, we can encourage more people to come here. Ofunato's a place to put down your roots." It's hoped that Mr. Kuwano's feelings towards the region will become a driving force behind Ofunato's reconstruction.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,164

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:
www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.htm

Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.39363 billion (91,786 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.68701 billion (7,409 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.63778 billion (15,924 donations)

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

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