

# News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 73

October 15, 2014

## 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.

You can feel the changing of the seasons as the tell-tale autumn colors start to stretch down the mountains to the countryside.

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

## Completion of Public Housing for Survivors! Now Leasing

Rikuzentakata

Iwate's first public housing unit for disaster survivors was completed in Rikuzentakata City, which received the most damage in the whole prefecture from the earthquake and tsunami. They started leasing on October 1st (Wed).

The now-open Shimowano Housing Complex was constructed on land that was raised 12 meters above sea level from the area that was flooded in the tsunami. The two buildings made of reinforced concrete have 5-7 floors and are connected by a passageway to promote good relations between residents.

There are 120 apartments including 1DK to 3DK (1 to 3 rooms with dining and kitchen areas) apartments, and wheelchair-accessible apartments. On the 6th floor of the south building there is an assembly area where about 100 people can take shelter during disasters.

It has been over three and a half years since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Those who had been living in temporary housing can now look towards a new life.

There are 12 disaster housing units planned within Rikuzentakata with a total of around 1,000 apartments.



The completed Shimowano Housing Complex



Residents moving into disaster public housing



View of Rikuzentakata from the apartments

## Publication of Results of the Third "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" for 2014

Iwate Prefecture is conducting "Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey" in order to periodically measure Iwate's reconstruction progress following the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami. The survey targets people living or working in the disaster-affected municipalities, and is conducted once every three months.

We will now explain some key points extracted from the results of the third survey this year (conducted in August 2013).

### Have the lives of the survivors recovered?

Fully or mostly recovered: 55.3%  
(Last time: 55.8%)

- About the same level as the last survey. Both the northern and southern coasts' percentages were the highest for "mostly recovered." (northern coast 51.2%, southern coast 43.8%)
- While optimism has grown as residents move into new homes and public housing, there were also those who were mentally exhausted from living in the temporary houses for so long, and those who were worried about the finances for housing construction.

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

Fully or mostly recovered: 51.9%  
(Last time: 55.9%)

- This is a drop of four percentage points from the last survey.
- While some respondents were optimistic due to the stable fisheries industry and growth expectations in employment and expenditures for large stores, some were concerned about the decline of the cost of fish and the uncertainty of the next step after construction.

### How do you feel about the disaster preparedness projects?

Satisfactory or mostly satisfactory: 25.4%  
(Last time: 23.3%)

- This is an increase of 2.1 percentage points from the last survey.
- While there were those who were optimistic about the progress of the seawall construction, some were concerned about a decrease in awareness of disaster preparedness.

For more information:

2014 3rd Iwate Reconstruction Watchers Survey

Search



## The People of Iwate's Reconstruction – Watch them online!

We are working toward reconstruction using our strength and the bonds of support we have both domestically and internationally. The people of Iwate's reconstruction hold dear their commitment to build the future of Iwate and help the area recover.

Visit us online as we collect stories of people forging Iwate's future. Watch the videos by going to this link or accessing the QR code.

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/kouchoukouhou/028674.html>



## AKB48 Performs in Iwate! Governor and Vice Governor Express Gratitude for Support of the Reconstruction

Morioka

On September 29 (Mon) and 30 (Tue), the idol group AKB48 performed at the Iwate Prefecture Citizens' Hall as a part of their national tour. Governor Tasso and Vice Governor Chiba took this opportunity to take a visit to the event hall, where they expressed their gratitude for the girls' efforts in supporting the reconstruction.

AKB48 and their sister groups started up their "For Somebody" project on March 24, 2011, immediately after the disaster occurred. The girls have contributed in several ways such as fund-raising and charity donations, donating minibuses, and visiting the areas hit by the disaster.

The governor expressed his thanks, saying, "I am grateful for all the activities that AKB48 and their sister groups have held to support the reconstruction."

Team K's leader, Yui Yokoyama, expressed the group's commitment to the area. "We would like to continue supporting everyone here."

The concert ended on a high note, and we all look forward to seeing what the girls will do next.



Team K members with Governor Tasso (mid right) and Vice Governor Chiba (mid left)



Presenting Yokoyama, the leader of the group, with a bouquet and a doll of Iwate's mascot, Sobacchi

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The new section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces one of these young people and their powerful feelings every issue.

Part 25 introduces Mr. Akira Hayakawa's efforts.

### PROFILE

Originally from Kita Kyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture. He spent two years in Australia after graduating from university.

The 2011 earthquake and tsunami occurred after his return back to Japan. Wondering if there was anything he could do to help, he took a visit to Miyako in June of 2011. In September of the same year, he moved there to help out in managing the volunteer center.

In February 2013, he founded Youth Miyakko Base, where he is working currently.

Community development that high school students can participate in

Mr. Hayakawa is supporting community development as he plants seeds of motivation for high school students through reconstruction and volunteer activities. With his concept of "Raised in Miyako", he hopes local high school students will take on the task of "raising" their hometown of Miyako.

From his exchanges with students during talks, workshops, and debates held once a month at the



Youth Miyakko Base  
Director Akira Hayakawa



"To a bustling town of proactive high school students and young people!"

High School Student Summit, Mr. Hayakawa thinks that participating in community development is important for high school students and young people.

Right now, the high school students' core project concentrates on four areas - tourism, shopping centers, exchange, and selling handmade goods. There are about 20 high school participants.

"By engaging in these kinds of activities, young people will grow up to support Miyako City and the area in the future. I want to keep working with local high school students and expand our activities. I think that supporting this is our job as adults," he says, as he aims for community development that young people will participate in.

Continue being active, and  
looking towards reconstruction

On the topic of Miyako's reconstruction, he says, "The idea of a perfect reconstruction varies from person to person, and I think that it's something that has no answer and has no end. It's important that everyone looks toward their own version of reconstruction, and continues engaging in these activities."

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of Aug. 31, 2014

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,132
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 25,716

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:  
[www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html](http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html)

### Thank you for all your support!

As of Sep. 30, 2014

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.18213 billion (89,968 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.57366 billion (6,965 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥6.99390 billion (14,134 donations)

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

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 73. October 15, 2014.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE