

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.

Winter is upon us here in Iwate; light falls of snow have begun, and most days have a minimum temperature below 0. Sanriku Railway's "Kotatsu Train", which used to run during the winter season before last year's disaster, will be revived this winter. The train will operate on weekends and holidays between December 15 and March 31, and more information is available on Sanriku Railway's website (<http://www.sanrikutetsudou.com/>).

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

Groundbreaking on the Sanriku Coast Road

November 18 saw the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Sanriku Coast Road (Miyako Central-Taro Section). Work was expected to take 4 years after its initial proposal, but thankfully it was started within a year. Construction on the Sanriku Coast Road, which was only proposed after the disaster, has now truly begun. November 8's ceremony included breaking-in the shovels for the project, and praying for the project's speedy conclusion and for the safety of the workers.



11/18 Groundbreaking Ceremony for construction of Sanriku Coast Road (Miyako-Taro Section)



11/25 Opening Ceremony for the Trans-Tohoku Expressway (Miyamori-Towa Section)

Trans-Tohoku Expressway Grand Opening

The Opening Ceremony for the Trans-Tohoku Expressway Kamaishi-Akita Line (Miyamori IC-Towa IC Section) took place on November 25. This marks the first full opening of a "Reconstruction Road" to public use.

The new road is expected to shorten the time to travel between inland areas that the Kamaishi-Ofunato area, as well as improve the efficiency of transportation of goods and emergency medical services. It is also hoped that the road will help strengthen countermeasures in the event of future disasters.

This marks a major step forward in our reconstruction.

Agriland Takata – Dreams Hinged on

Greenhouse-Production

Agriland Takata, a tomato-growing agricultural production firm based in Rikuzen-Takata City, lost its plastic greenhouse and 1.3 hectares worth of farmland in the tsunami.

Now, though, they have borrowed an unused greenhouse in the relatively undamaged Yokota area, and have started cultivating mini-tomatoes. They are also producing strawberries. This year saw the rebuilding of 10 greenhouses, and before long Agriland will be able to deliver "Reconstruction Strawberries" around Japan.



Shuichi Hatakeyama, Agriland Takata Representative director

We knew we had to do something to protect the employees' livelihoods

For more info, check here: <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>

Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"

No. 29: "Reviving the Farming Industry after the Disaster, Part 5"



(Broadcast on Nov. 26, 27, 28, 29, and Dec. 1)

Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors (as of October 31):

Around ¥17.47754 billion (82,159 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects (as of October 31):

Around ¥16.34869 billion (5,579 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of October 31)

Around ¥4.79745 billion (7,837 donations)

To assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities

To make a donation, please visit:

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of November 9, 2012)

Human casualties: Deaths 4,671; Missing 1,192

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial):24,242

[Publication of Iwate Reconstruction Index Report](#)

Iwate has published Volume 4 of its "Iwate Reconstruction Index Report". The report is one of the tools used to monitor the progress of Iwate's reconstruction plan.

The Reconstruction Index catalogues representative data regarding the current status and changes in Iwate's reconstruction and restoration efforts. The data are categorized under 26 topics. The updated index has been published every three months, starting from February 2012.

Major topics of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report (Vol. 4)

Topic	Status
Rubble-disposal progress (as of October 31, 2012)	Amount disposal: 1.04 million tonnes Progress rate: 19.7%
Population (as of October 1, 2012)	Coastal population:256,164 Rate of population-decrease returned to pre-disaster levels
New houses under construction (as of September 2012)	Under construction in coastal areas: 209 (~150% up from 82 in September 2011)
Ratio of jobs to applicants (as of September 2012)	Ratio in coastal areas: 1.13 (significantly greater than Iwate's overall ratio of 1.01)

For more info: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=42729&ik=0&pnp=14>

[Now recruiting Iwate-Sanriku Reconstruction Support Reporters](#)

Iwate is recruiting people from the Tokyo area to stay eat and buy at reconstructed hotels, restaurants and retailers, in order to support the reconstruction. 600 people are to be recruited, and put in groups of two.

Application period: Until Saturday, December 15, 2012

How to apply: By e-mail or postcard

Who should apply: Individuals in good health, above the age of 20, living in/around Tokyo

NOTE: Successful applicants will be presented with a "Sanriku Aid & Exchange Voucher" worth 30,000 yen, which can be used in participating retailers/hotels.

For more information:

[http://homepage3.nifty.com/saprikukikin/Sanriku Reconstruction New Year's cards](http://homepage3.nifty.com/saprikukikin/Sanriku_Reconstruction_New_Year's_cards)

Iwate's Coastal Regional Development Bureau has produced New Year's greetings cards portraying the scenery and events of the Sanriku coastal municipalities. This is being done to send a message of support for Sanriku's reconstruction, and each card is marked with the word *hisho* (flight) written by the female calligrapher Shoko Kanazawa.

We have posted them on Iwate's website, so please take a look!

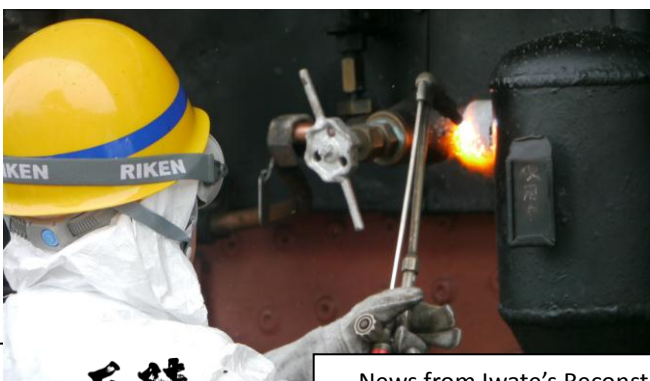
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4447&of=1&ik=3&pnp=78&pnp=4447&cd=42395>

◆ Iwate Reconstruction Net also reports on Iwate's reconstruction, so why not check it out?

→ <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39696&ik=0&pnp=14>

[Dismantling with the goal of restoring the Kamaishi Line's steam locomotive](#)

Dismantling of an old steam locomotive began on November 26. The train had been on display in the "traffic park" in Morioka's sports park. The parts, which will take around a week to dismantle, will then be transported to the Omiya General Vehicle Center near the Railway Museum in Saitama city, where they will be restored. Restoration is expected to finish around December 2013, and the train will be running on the JR Kamaishi Line on weekends and holidays in the spring of 2014.



三陸復興

News from Iwate's Reconstruction Vol. 32 Published December 1, 2012

Published By: General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction ☎019-629-6922

✉ AJ0001@pref.iwate.jp ◆ News from Iwate's Reconstruction Archives → <http://bit.ly/qBFB0z>