



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.

It's been almost two years since the disaster. In order to commemorate those Iwateans who lost their lives in the disaster, and to renew our commitment to rebuild, there will be memorial services performed in various places on March 11. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

>>Planned memorials in various Iwate municipalities: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?nd=4441&of=1&ik=3&pnp=4353&pnp=4441&cd=44175>

### Sanriku Railway – Well-wishing ceremony for new trains

The Sanriku Railway's South Rias Line (36.6 km) and part of the North Rias Line (10.5 km) are still not running following damage from the tsunami. Flooding from the tsunami also made three trains unusable.

However, on Sunday, February 24, Ofunato City's South Rias Line Rail Yard saw a well-wishing ceremony for several new trains. The new trains were constructed with aid money from Kuwait, and will be running on the South Rias Line between Sakari Station and Yoshihama Station (21.6 km), which will reopen on April 3. Trial runs are due to take place on March 15.



Our hope is that remaining closed parts of the lines (South Rias Line from Yoshihama Station to Kamaishi Station, North Rias Line from Omoto Station to Tanohata Station) will be back up and running in the spring of 2014. Construction works are continuing with assistance from numerous sources. We are deeply grateful for all the assistance that you have provided.

For more news from Sanriku Railway:  
<http://www.sanrikutetsudou.com/>

### Casualties & Damage in Iwate (as of February 28, 2013)

Human casualties/deaths: 4,672;

Missing: 1,151

Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,916

Iwate Disaster Information Portal (about damage, etc.):  
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/taidoujoukyou/index.html#new>

### The Iwate Reconstruction Support Team

The declining birth rate and aging population has led to a shortage of workers in rural areas, and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami worsened the situation. Iwate Prefecture is recruiting people for the Iwate Reconstruction Support Team, which helps with reconstruction in the affected areas as well as reinvigoration of rural areas. The team is working for the good of the region. Masaki Nitta, assigned to Rikuzentakata City, has created the "Rikuzentakata Reconstruction Map". After the disaster, it was unclear which shops and companies in the city had reopened or changed location, but the map summarizes this information and has been distributed to retailers and temporary housing.



Masaki Nitta (26)

After the disaster, I thought that I had to come and see the affected area with my own eyes, and so I came to Iwate

Masaki Nitta, Iwate Reconstruction Support Team,  
Assigned to Rikuzentakata City

For more info (or previous episodes), see <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty>



Prefectural Broadcast "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"

No. 46: "The Iwate Reconstruction Support Team, Part 2"

(Broadcast on February 25, 26, 27, 28 and March 3)

### Thank you for all your support!

#### Donations for survivors (as of January 31):

Around ¥17.53962 billion (83,816 donations)

#### Donations for reconstruction projects (as of January 31):

Around ¥16.43662 billion (5,857 donations)

#### Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of January 31):

Around ¥5.00599 billion (8,858 donations)

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

Donations:

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

**Iwate Reconstruction Supporters registration page** → <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0777/ooendan.html>

We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members of the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters" in the Greater Tokyo Area. Members will receive a membership certificate, and will be e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, upcoming events in the Tokyo area and much more!

**Iwate's Efforts: Publication of Iwate Reconstruction Index Report (Volume 5)**

Four times a year, Iwate Prefecture publishes its "Reconstruction Index Report", one of the tools used to monitor reconstruction progress.

The Iwate Reconstruction Index is designed to summarize Iwate's reconstruction and restoration status and progress, particularly in coastal municipalities. It categorizes the data into 26 topics under three basic headings: "Ensuring Safety", "Rebuilding Lives" and "Regenerating Industries". Since last February, the report has been issued once every three months, with this being the fifth.

Breakdown of the report:

Population figures: The rate of decrease has returned to pre-disaster levels, with more people moving into the area than moving out for three months straight.

New houses under construction: The reconstruction of damaged homes has led to the rate of new houses constructed in coastal areas greatly exceeding Iwate's overall rate

Ratio of jobs to applicants: Figures vary between types of work, but with the increase in demand during the reconstruction, the ratio is at its highest level yet

**Main points of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report (Volume 5)**

Heading	Topic		Numbers			Data					
			Newest	Last	Notes	Newest (A)	Last (B)	Differential (A)-(B)	Unit	Most recent	Area
Safety	Rubble	Rubble disposal progress	29.8%	19.7%	Progress rate	1.57	1.04	0.53	million tonnes	Jan 31, 2013	Coastal areas
Lives	Population	Population figures	-6.3%	-6.1%	Compared w/ March 2011	255,670	256,164	-494	people	Jan 1, 2013	Coastal areas
	Lifestyle	New houses under construction	+170.7%	+154.9%	Compared w/ same month 2012	157	209	-52	houses	Dec 2012	Coastal areas
Industry	Employment	Ratio of jobs to applicants	+103.8%	+101.7%	Compared w/ same month 2012	1.34	1.13	0.21	—	Dec 2012	Coastal areas
	Commerce and industry	Industrial output index	+0.4%	-6.0%	Compared w/ same month 2012	83.6	82.5	—	—	Nov 2012	Prefecture overall

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

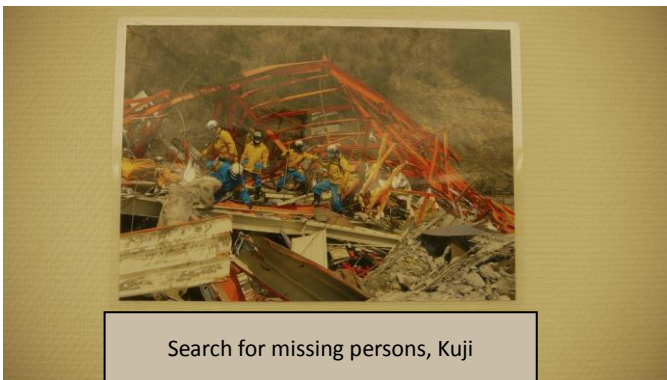
→ <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39696&ik=0&pn=14>

**"Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami – Police Operations Photographic Exhibit" opens**

The Iwate Prefectural Library is currently displaying a photo exhibit on police operations and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The exhibit was planned by the prefectural police headquarters and includes 56 photographs in all. Also on display are police bureau papers relating to the disaster.



Kamaishi Police Station washed away by the tsunami



Search for missing persons, Kuji



Local child, Miyako City, Takahama area (Hokkaido police force)

