

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 45
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Iwate Prefecture

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.

Schoolchildren have their summer holidays, and it's a season full of smiles. The affected areas continue to move toward reconstruction. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Sand Art Festival 2013

On Saturday, July 27, Otsuchi Town's Kirikiri Beach held its "Sand Art Festival 2013", where participants enjoyed making sand sculptures on the beach.

The event was organized by the Hamagiku Wakadanna Kai, a group of young local businesspeople. The goal of the event is to allow children who don't have many opportunities to play by the sea following the tsunami to go out to the beach and enjoy playing there once again.

The festival sees the revival of an Otsuchi summer ritual that has been dormant for some twenty years.

Around 130 people both from within Otsuchi and elsewhere gathered at the event. They broke up into teams, and with



A dinosaur made out of sand

Four Green Areas in Kuji Port

Overcoming Tsunami Damage

Kuji

Saturday, July 27 saw restoration work on four park areas in Kuji Port that were damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami completed.

Restoration work took place on Minato Central Park, Suwa Ryokuchi Park, Seaside Park and Hanzaki Ryokuchi Park. After removing wreckage, fences were put up and other maintenance work was performed.

Also on July 27, to mark the event, Iwate Prefecture together with the Kuji Lions Club held an opening ceremony at the Minato Central Park Baseball Ground, and a friendly "little league" tournament was played.

The games held after the ceremony saw participation by three teams from Kuji and two teams invited from neighboring Hirono Town and Hachinohe City.

A summer ritual revived after 20 years

Otsuchi



Children playing in the waves

a time limit of 3 hours they made sculptures of things like dinosaurs, boats and the local traditional tiger dance.

There was heavy rain that day, and participants had to briefly stop from time to time, but everyone had a great time getting covered in sand and enjoying a day at the beach.

Hikaru Haga, chairman of the organizing committee, expressed his desire to continue holding the event. "Construction on the seawall at Kirikiri Beach will begin this year, so we don't know what will happen to the beach. If possible, I want to continue this event for the good of the children and all the local people."

The way the cookie crumbled, it was rainy that day, but the children did their best. They were overjoyed that the baseball ground had recovered following the tsunami.

Kuji City has become a focal point of attention as the site of the popular NHK morning drama *Ama-chan*. Here as well, the reconstruction can be seen moving forward.



Before restoration work



After restoration work

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area.

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

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Free to Register!

To Realize a Reconstruction that Leaves No One Behind

Women's Opinion Exchange Meeting Held

Morioka

On Friday, July 19, Espoir Iwate (Morioka City) hosted a women's opinion exchange meeting about such things as the direction we will go in the second phase of our Reconstruction Implementation Plan.

This opinion exchange brought together 13 women who are working in various fields within Iwate Prefecture. It is the third time the meeting has been held, following previous meetings in July 2011 and June 2012.



The opinion exchange meeting

Under the chairpersonship of Etsuko Sugawara, Vice President of Iwate University, the various participants expressed their hopes and opinions about the reconstruction plan and efforts being made. With prefectural representatives also in attendance, it was a lively exchange of opinions.

Following the meeting, the group summarized their opinions with a "4-point declaration on realization of a reconstruction that leaves no one behind".

The second phase of the Implementation Plan, which begins next year, will be implemented to reflect the declaration and opinion exchange this time.

The 4-Point Declaration

1. For women to make up 30% participants in policy and directional decision-making for reconstruction at both the prefectural and municipal levels
2. For people who work for the reconstruction in Iwate Prefecture and the municipalities to receive training
3. To respect the views not of households but of individuals
4. To budget for the continuation of much-needed services such as counseling

Some of the Participants' Opinions

- We must raise adults' awareness of disaster-preparedness.
- We must work to improve child rearing in response to increasing obesity and mental health problems as a result of children not getting enough exercise.
- People who work for the reconstruction must have a common point of view with disaster-survivors to work with them effectively

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 2 introduces Mr. Toru Onashi's efforts.

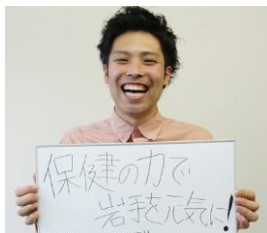
Profile:

Born in Morioka, from 4th grade in elementary school until graduating high school, he lived in Yamagata Village (now Yamagata-cho, Kuji City). After studying at the Faculty of Nursing in Iwate Prefectural University, he got his licenses as a nurse and as a public health worker. He became Yamada Town's first male nurse, and is now in his fourth year doing it. In his first year as a public health nurse, he experienced the tsunami in Yamada.

Onashi, who works as a public health nurse, gave us his impression of the disaster-affected areas. "In the affected areas, older people in their 50s and 60s decide a lot, with people in their 30s and 40s also doing a lot of the moving and shaking. Students and young people in their teens and 20s want to do these things, but it seems they don't feel the connection between what they are doing and the reconstruction."



Toru Onashi
Health and Welfare Division,
Yamada Town



"We will make Iwate better with healthcare! It's not about 'aid' but 'cooperation'. By working together we can create a wonderful Iwate!"

Feeling that the people who are in their teens and 20s now would need to become the leaders of the town in the future, he got together with students and formed "Kakkii's".

Kakkii's is a group primarily consisting of university students, that works to organize salon-style events in temporary housing areas, and provides health and welfare support to disaster survivors.

They can help people because they're still young

The students' salon is always bright and positive, with lots of local people taking part, and a true "community" being born around these young people.

"I can keep going on because of the help I get from the students," says Onashi. "Seeing them working so hard makes me feel stronger. Iwate's young people won't make the situation better by themselves, but it's critical that they experience it for themselves."

These are the dreams and the powerful efforts of young people. Our hopes are on them to continue doing their best for a reconstruction.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of June 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,146
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,928

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation, go to the Iwate Disaster Information Portal:

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Thank you for all your support!

As of June 30, 2013

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥17.78929 billion (85,910 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥16.53294 billion (6,199 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥5.80522 billion (10,554 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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