

We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. We will continue to cherish these bonds.

More than 24,000 homes in Iwate were lost in the disaster, and even though a year and four months has passed, there are still around 17,000 families that have no choice but to live in emergency temporary housing.

We bring you news of our steady journey to reconstruction and the restoration of our homeland, Iwate and Sanriku.

Public Housing for Survivors – Ground-breaking Ceremony in Kamaishi

A ground-breaking ceremony for public housing for survivors was held on June 14 in the Heita district of Kamaishi City on the former site of the Kamaishi Vocational High School. This is the first public housing construction project to be started in the prefecture.

Parliamentary Secretary Tsukawa of the national Reconstruction Agency, Kamaishi Mayor Noda, and Governor Tasso attended the event where they prayed for the safety of the project and performed a ceremonial ground-breaking.



After the former school building on the site is demolished, construction will start on public housing. The 7-story reinforced concrete structure (with 126 apartments) is planned to be finished in autumn of next year (2013).

Cooperating with local municipalities, Iwate plans to build around 5,300 public housing apartments for disaster survivors.

This ground-breaking ceremony is the first shot at that project, and a large step towards the reconstruction of housing in the disaster-stricken coastal region of Sanriku.

This is part of the "Rebuilding Lives" pillar of our reconstruction plan, which is an all out effort to provide housing based on regional community planning plans, so that the survivors regain a sense of hope and can remain in their homelands.

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of June 27)

- Human casualties – Deaths: 4,671; Missing: 1,216
- Buildings destroyed (residences only, fully/partially damaged): 24,877

Nurses – Our Hearts Are With You

There are 16,000 nursing personnel working in medical organizations and welfare facilities throughout Iwate.

May 12 is Florence Nightingale's birthday, so on May 20 there was a Nurse's Day Health Fair held in Morioka.



"I saw how important the role of nurses was during the disaster. Nurses are the staff closest to the patients, and take care of both their health and their mental wellbeing. I'm proud to be a nurse," said Tomiko Onodera, chief nurse at the Daito Prefectural Hospital.

For more info (or previous episodes), see <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX> Prefectural Broadcast

"Iwate: One Step Towards Hope"

No. 9 "Nurses – Our Hearts Are With You"
(Broadcast on June 4, 5, 6, 7, 10)



Thank you for all of your support!

★ Donations for survivors (as of May 31)

Around ¥17.32704 (79,597 donations)

-To be distributed to survivors through their local municipalities

★ Donations for reconstruction projects (as of May 31)

Around ¥15.63306 (5,246 donations)

-To be used for prefectural government reconstruction projects

★ Iwate Learning Hope Fund (as of May 31)

Around ¥4.44849 (6,743 donations)

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

>>>For donations....

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

Governor Tasso visits Tokyo to thank companies

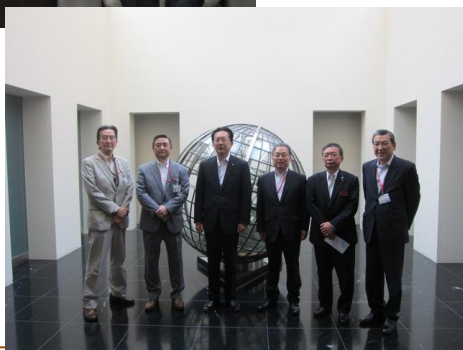
On June 6, Governor Tasso visited companies in the Tokyo area to thank them for their reconstruction aid.



(Left)
Yamato Holdings, Co. Ltd

(Bottom)
Aeon Co., Ltd

Thank you for all your support. We will use that strength in our reconstruction.



Reissuing diplomas for survivors who are alumni of prefectural high school or special support schools

The Prefectural Board of Education **will reissue diplomas at no cost for survivors who are alumni of prefectural schools** who lost their diplomas in the tsunami.

Where to apply: The office of the school you graduated from

Application period: Until August 20, 2012 (Mon)

Necessary documents:

- Reissue Application (provided by the school)
- Copy of your disaster-survivor certificate
- Identification
- (If you cannot go personally) An authorization letter for your representative or document proving their relationship to you

◆ Questions

(On procedures) Prefectural high schools and special support schools

(General) Office of School Education, Pref. Government
TEL: 019-629-6140

We hope this will be of help to survivors who lost precious items in the tsunami.

News: ◆ You can read about Iwate's reconstruction situation and related projects on "Iwate Reconstruction Net"! → <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=39696&ik=0&pnp=14>

The One-Year Anniversary of Hiraizumi's Inscription as a World Heritage Site



Hiraizumi was anointed a World Heritage Site almost immediately following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and was a bright point in a rather dark time. Let's look back on the past year.

June, 2011	Governor Tasso made a speech to the World Heritage Committee, saying Hiraizumi's inscription would keep us going during our reconstruction. "[Hiraizumi's] inscription [...] will give great encouragement to us who currently face the overwhelming task of recovery from the March 11 disaster, with the initial ideals of the construction of Hiraizumi in mind." (Excerpt)
July, 2011	"The Hiraizumi Declaration on the Tohoku Restoration" was published, and on the three-day weekend, twice as many (4,000) visitors came to Hiraizumi as in the previous year.
October, 2011	Hiraizumi stamp sheets limited to Iwate were sold by the post office and sold out in a single day .
April, 2012	Hiraizumi was promoted at a Japan event held in Paris, France.
May, 2012	Held for the first time in 2 years, the Fujiwara Spring Festival in Hiraizumi saw Governor Tasso playing the role of Fujiwara no Hidehira, the third lord of Hiraizumi. During Golden Week, 375,000 visitors traveled to Hiraizumi, a 15% increase from 2010. A commemorative ¥1000 coin for Iwate was minted for the 60 th anniversary of the Local Government Act. The coin's design of Hiraizumi won the Most Beautiful Coin award at the Mint Directors Conference's Coin Competition . The Iwate University Centre for Hiraizumi Studies was opened.

We are now working to get the Yanagi-no-Gosho Site (former palace ruins) to be inscribed within the Hiraizumi World Heritage Site. Hiraizumi shall continue to give us strength as we walk the path to reconstruction.

Events planned at Chuson-ji Temple to celebrate the World Heritage inscription and to pray for the reconstruction:

Period	Event/Plan	Place
August 26, 2012 - September 30, 2012	A display of national lacquerware treasures, like a table, lantern pole, and an 8-sided box, all sealed with lacquer and inlaid with a mother-of-pearl design.	Sankozo Museum Planned Exhibit Room
Every Sunday until July 29, 2012	A Sermon by the chief abbot and monks	Hondo Main Hall
July 17, 2012 – November 11, 2012	A display of the Ichijikirin seated statue, an important cultural property	Sankozo Museum Special Storage Room

