

We are deeply grateful for the heart-warming encouragement and support received from both Within and outside Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which struck on 11th March 2011. We will always cherish the precious bonds created during this time.

We celebrated the second *Obon* holiday since the disaster. During *Obon*, many Japanese return to their faraway family homes to visit with relatives. We hope that people who returned to Iwate are able to see just how far we have come in our reconstruction.

Here is the latest news from Iwate's reconstruction.



Near Shimonokoshi Station, Tanohata Village (Photo taken: August 19th)

There had been many houses near the station before the disaster.

Currently in the Affected Areas:

The Second Obon Holiday Since the Disaster

In August, during the second *Obon* holiday since the disaster, there were people in the affected areas **visiting family graves** and **lighting bonfires** in order to pray for the eternal rest of their ancestors and loved ones who died in the disaster.

Also, **summer Coming-of-Age ceremonies** were held in 11 of Iwate's municipalities coinciding with the *Obon* holidays. In Japan, age 20 is considered to be the age when one becomes an adult, and the young adults coming of age this year were only 18 when the disaster struck – the time when young people go on to higher education or their first jobs. This generation has renewed their decision to become a part of their community's reconstruction.

On August 11th, 7 of the affected communities (Noda Village, Miyako City, Yamada Town, Otsuchi Town, Kamaishi City, Ofunato City, and Rikuzentakata City) set off 20,000 fireworks as a **eulogy for their lost loved ones and a prayer for the reconstruction.**



Taken at:Shiroyama Park, Otsuchi Town

The fireworks, which were organized by LIGHT UP NIPPON through contributions from all of Japan, lit up the dark night sky.

Thank you for your support in all its various forms.

Casualties and Damage in Iwate (as of 22nd Aug)

- Human Casualties
 - Deaths: 4,671 Missing: 1, 206
- Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; totally or partially destroyed): 24,212

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

Friends of the Reconstruction

Kappa Construction Brigade of Tono City

Here is the Kappa Construction Brigade of Tono City, with their green hard hats and light-green vests designed like a mythical Japanese kappa!

The Kappa Construction Brigade consists of building constructors within Tono City who perform construction and public works on the rivers and roads of Tono and the rest of Iwate. Following the disaster, the Brigade also helped with debris removal and the search for survivors.

The Kappa Construction Brigade is dedicated to helping with the reconstruction with a positive smile on their faces!



Kappa Construction Brigade Vice Captain Mr. Kazunari Oriksa

"When you think of Tono, you think of kappa. We started the brigade as PR for Tono and its construction industry."

Kappa Construction Brigade Vice Captain Mr. Kazunari Oriksa

>>>For previous episodes ... <http://bit.ly/raM4Ty> (JPN only)



Iwate Pref. TV Program "Iwate: One Step Towards Hope" Ep. 19~"The Kappa Construction Brigade is a Friend of the Reconstruction"

(Broadcast on August 13, 14, 15, 16, 19)

Thank you all for your support!!

- ★Donations for Survivors (As of 30th June)
 - Approx. ¥ 17.35323 billion (80,190 donations)
 - To be distributed to the disaster-hit people by local administrations
- ★Contributions for Reconstruction Projects (As of 30th June)
 - Approx. ¥15.66502 billion (5,298 contributions)
 - To be used in prefectural restoration and reconstruction projects
- ★Donations to Iwate's Fund to Support Children's education (as of 31st July)
 - Approx. 4.56900 billion (7,226 donations)
 - To aid the lives and learning of children affected by the disaster

>>>For Donations and Contributions

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouchou/volunteer.html> (JPN only)

Moving Toward Reconstruction

1. Publication of the “Iwate Reconstruction Report”

A report has been prepared on the current status and what has yet to be done for Iwate’s reconstruction effort. More information will continue to be produced so that the reconstruction process can be more generally understood. This “open reconstruction” will incorporate both Japanese and foreign aid.

>>>More info at: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=40702&ik=0&pnp=14> (JPN only)

2. Revision of the Reconstruction Implementation Plan

One year after official adoption of the “Iwate Prefecture Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction Implementation Plan (Phase 1)”, a new “Revised Reconstruction Implementation Plan” has been introduced, which takes into account newly adopted national policies and budgets. The revisions are also informed by the current status of the reconstruction, as well as the opinions of the local population.

This plan is hoped to lead to a further acceleration of Iwate’s reconstruction.

>>>More info at: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=40699&ik=0&pnp=14> (JPN only)

Recruiting Term Contract Staff in Iwate Prefecture

We are currently recruiting term contract employees to deal with the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts as well as other urgent regional problems. In addition to positions based in the prefectural branch office, we are recruiting employees to be dispatched to Miyako, Ōfunato, Rikuzen-Takata and Kamaishi Cities, Ōtsuchi Town, Yamada Town, and Noda Village.

In the hopes of speeding up reconstruction by even just one day, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Types of Positions and Number of Places Available

Regular administration (27), integrated public works (86), construction (4)

Application Closing Date: 7 September, 2012 (Friday)

Interview Date: 23 September, 2012 (Sunday)

Interview Locations: Iwate Prefectural University (Takizawa Village) and Senshu University (Tokyo)

Appointment Period: In principal 3 years, starting 1 April, 2013

Contact: Iwate Personnel Commission Secretariat, Tel.: 019-629-6241

>>>More info at: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~hp0741/> (JPN only)

“Iwate Reconstruction Net” also has information on Iwate’s ongoing reconstruction efforts, so why not check it out?

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

Completion of Posters to Express our Hopes for Reconstruction

Iwate Prefecture has formed many strong friendships through Japanese and international reconstruction aid. In order to express our gratitude, as well as our hopes for a swift reconstruction, we have created these posters to be viewed outside the prefecture. More info at: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/view.rbz?cd=40773> (JPN only)

