



Since the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster and Tsunami on March 11th 2011, we have received many words of encouragement and much support from all around Japan and the world. We send out a thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We would like to keep this "connection" as we move forward.

We have now welcomed in a new year. The restoration plans for each municipality along the coast were completed last year and we are ready to kick off "the first year of restoration". The governor feels that "the first year of restoration should begin with the coast" and has decided the initial work to be undertaken in the new year will be for the coast. We are dedicated to working hard towards this restoration.

We would like to introduce you to some of the ways in which Iwate is currently moving forward with the restoration.

【Otsuchi Town · The restoration of one of the largest commercial complexes on the coast!】



The shopping center damaged by the tsunami, reopened for business on December 22nd.

This shopping center was severely damaged by the tsunami and covered in debris right after the earthquake disaster. The complex was able to reopen for business by making use of subsidized projects provided by the state and prefectural governments (commonly known as "group subsidies") to begin repairs to the facility, an effort that started in September.

The reopening of the center created prosperity in the region through the addition of approximately 45 tenants including local merchants, the creation of approximately 300 jobs for locals, and the establishment of new facilities such as the multi-purpose hall that acts as a meeting space.

Calls to apply to the group subsidies went out three times in the fiscal year. 11 groups were approved by the 2nd call for applications and 19 new groups were approved on December 27th. Industrial function is recovering one step at a time.

【Kamaishi City · Transmitting the vitality of the fish markets nation-wide】

Although all 13 of the fish markets in the prefecture which acts as hubs for the circulation of marine products were damaged in the March earthquake disaster, they have all reopened except for the Taro fish market, thanks to the hard work put towards restoration activities.

The Kamaishi fish markets were restored in August. From November there have been activities by the prefecture and fisheries-related groups to cooperate to transmit the vitality of the fish markets. Posters and towels were prepared to send along with shipments of marine products to clients outside of the prefecture. The aim is to promote the recovery of the fisheries industry in the Kamaishi region to the rest of the nation.



In the words of Takashi Hirano, representative director of Hirasho (picture above): "Fisheries all around Iwate prefecture including the ones based in Kamaishi are all working very hard towards recovery. We would like everyone in Japan to know this."

Marine products, the pride of Iwate, have newly added value that is now being transmitted nation-wide: the enthusiasm and passion towards the restoration of the Sanriku region.

>>>For more details (back issues) ... <http://goo.gl/pwZ8O>

Prefectural television show "Iwate Kibou No Chikara (Iwate ~ the power of hope)"

Episode 30 ~ Transmitting the vitality of the fish markets nation-wide ~

(Aired on December 26th, 27, 29th, January 5th, 8th)



【Children who live in affected areas submit their written opinions on city-planning to the Governor】



On December 26th, children of the "The Children's City-Planning Club" submitted written opinions to the Governor.

A total of 6 members from Rikuzentakata City and Yamada Town met with the Governor this day. They are members of "The Children's City-Planning Club", a group sponsored by the international NGO, "Save The Children Japan".

They exchanged opinions with the governor by reading their restoration plans for the city and town, and by submitting written opinions based on their own ideas.

Governor Tatta thanked the children, who will be bearers of the restoration efforts, with the words, "Thank you for the valuable opinions".

[Towards restoration ~Looking back at 2011~]

July 26th End of the Japan Self-Defense Force support activities (appreciation ceremony in front of the prefectural office)



The support activities by the Japan Self-defense Force of the affected areas in the prefecture spanned over 138 days

August 11th All temporary housing units for the prefecture were completed



13,984 temporary housing units were constructed in the prefecture

September 10th Prime Minister Noda visits the prefecture (on-site inspection)



The Prime Minister and various ministers visited the prefecture often to exchange opinions

November 20th Ground-breaking ceremony for Fukko (restoration) road (Tanohata village)



Aimed to be fully open in about 7 years

Status of damage in Iwate Prefecture (current as of December 26th)

- Human damages Deaths : 4,467
- Missing persons : 1,371
- Structural damages (Dwellings only, complete and partial destruction) : 24,736 units

Thank you everyone for your support

* Donations (to individuals) received (current as of November 30th)

Approximately 16 billion 542 million 190 thousand yen (72,499 donations)

~ Distributed to disaster victims through the municipalities ~

* Donations (to the prefecture) received (as of November 30th)

Approximately 6 billion 49 million 280 thousand yen (4,402 donations)

~ To be used as a financial resource for repair and restoration efforts conducted by the prefecture ~

*Donations received to the "Iwate-No-Manabi-Kibou (Iwate hope for education) Fund"

Approximately 2 billion 751 million yen (as of December 15th)

>>> Invitation to make donations (to individuals and the prefecture)

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

