



Since the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster and Tsunami on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, we have received many words of encouragement and aid from all around Japan and the world. We would like to send out a thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We will 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 first 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.

**【Welcoming the first New Year after the disaster】**



Pine decorations welcoming the first New Year after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster were seen on the front of temporary housing units in the affected areas.

Weather was mild on New Year's day and the view of the first sun rise of the new year was taken in.

**~ Hatsu-uri (first opening of retail businesses in the new year) and annual events were held as usual ~**

From New Year's Day to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hatsu-uri were held at many of the shopping districts and department stores, as well as at the temporary shopping districts on the coast where grab bags drew a lot of attention.

(Photo on the right shows the temporary shopping district set up at Ofunato City)



The "Salmon Festa" was held in Miyako City on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The event was held to replace to the "Shake Matsuri (salmon festival)" that happens every year on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mayor Yamamoto made a vigorous greeting speech that proclaimed, "Miyako City will keep holding all annual events." "The First Year of Restoration" is starting off strong in the various affected areas.

**【Iwate Museum of Art - A town of wooden building blocks connects the dreams of children】**

The Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster struck last March. The earthquake and the tsunami robbed the children of toys and play spaces.

In the midst of this, the Iwate Museum of Art began a restoration support activity beginning in May of last year. That is to get the children to create a "town of dreams" from wooden building blocks.

The new structures, which take about 2 hours to complete, reflect the "ideal place" that the children imagined. Each block used in the project was colored by Morioka residents with the children in mind.



The visions of the future of Iwate, made by the children and adults of the 12 coastal municipalities, from Rikuentaka City to the south and Hirono Town to the north, will finally connect to become one at the Iwate Museum of Art.

In the words of Satoko Mita, Iwate Museum of Art specialist curatorial researcher: "The children have a future. We would like for them to move forward, be strong, and even become able to offer support back to adults... in fact, they already do have this power."

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

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

Episode 31 ~ A town of wooden building blocks connects the dreams of children ~

(Aired on December January 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>)



**【Thank you! We are trying very hard!】 From Osaka to Otsuchi ~ Connected kites that represent "bonds of friendship" fly high**

"Bonds of friendship" "We are all connected"...

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 100 connected kites sent from Osaka prefecture flew high in to the blue skies of Otsuchi town.

This flying of kites was planned by Nobuo Ogawa et al. of the nonprofit corporation, "Campaign for the Children of Palestine", which is active in providing play spaces for Palestinian children. Furthermore, the connect kites were produced by the children and parents of the nature observation group, "Wakuwaku Club", operated by the Osaka Prefecture Kaizuka City Museum of Natural History. They decorated the kites with pictures and words for those living in the affected areas.

The faces of all the children who saw the kites flying high in the heavens beamed with smiles and their spirited voices rang underneath the blue sky. Mr. Ogawa planned the kite flying with strong wishes for the restoration of the affected areas and the lifting of peoples spirits, if only for a moment.



## 【Prime Minister Noda visits the affected areas ~ Speaks with those living in temporary housing units】

On January 10<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Noda visited Ofunato City.

He visited the Taiheiyo Cement Ofunato plant, inspected sites planned for temporary housing complexes, and then finally conducted meetings with those living in Nochinoiri temporary housing complex.



Above:  
Visiting the Taiheiyo Cement Ofunato Plant  
(Guided by the factory manager)



Left:  
Visiting Nochinoiri temporary housing complex

(Reference) Status of city-planning decisions, etc. for affected municipalities

Name of municipality	Dates for the conception of restoration plans and establishment of basic policies etc.
Hirono Town	June 1 <sup>st</sup> : Restoration vision, July 28 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan
Kuji City	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Restoration vision, July 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Restoration plan
Noda Village	May 27 <sup>th</sup> : Basic restoration policies, November 7 <sup>th</sup> : Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster and Tsunami restoration plan
Fudai Village	June 1 <sup>st</sup> : Disaster restoration plan basic policy, September 29 <sup>th</sup> : Disaster restoration plan
Tanohata Town	September 29 <sup>th</sup> : Basic restoration plan
Iwaizumi Town	May 20 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan (main points), September 16 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan
Miyako City	June 1 <sup>st</sup> : Earthquake disaster basic restoration policy, October 31 <sup>st</sup> : Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster restoration plan
Yamada Town	June 30 <sup>th</sup> : Restoration vision, December 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Restoration plan
Otsuchi Town	June 9 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration basic policy, December 26 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan
Kamaishi City	July 11 <sup>th</sup> : Restoration city-planning basic plan and restoration plan main points, December 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Restoration city-planning basic plan
Ofunato City	April 20 <sup>th</sup> : Restoration basic policy, October 31 <sup>st</sup> : Restoration plan
Rikuzentak City	May 16 <sup>th</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan proposed policy, December 21 <sup>st</sup> : Earthquake disaster restoration plan



Above:  
Miyako City  
(along National Route No. 45)  
Right:  
Kamaishi City  
(along National Road no. 283)



## Thank you everyone for your support

### \* Donations (to individuals) received (as of November 30<sup>th</sup>)

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 30<sup>th</sup>)

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

~ To be used as financial resources for repair and restorations efforts conducted by the prefecture ~

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

Approximately 3 billion 34 million 910 thousand yen (current as of December 31<sup>st</sup>)

Invitation to make donations (to individuals and the prefecture)  
<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyuhou/volunteer.html>

## 【Gallery: How the affected areas look now】

Right: Miyako City Taro district (Photographed on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012)  
Below: Center of Otsuchi Town (Photographed on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2012)



### Situation of damage in Iwate Prefecture (as of January 13<sup>th</sup>)

- Human damages Deaths : 4,467  
Missing persons : 1,368
- Structural damages (Dwellings only, complete and partial destruction) : 24,736 units

