

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 112
September 1, 2016

30 Days

until the
National Sports Festival

51 Days

until the
National Sports Festival
for People with
Disabilities



Governor Tasso meets the Minister for Reconstruction

Morioka, Ofunato, Rikuzentakata

On August 6th, 2016 (Sat), Governor Tasso exchanged opinions with Mr. Imamura, the Minister for Reconstruction, who entered the cabinet for the first time in Prime Minister Abe's third reshuffle. It was the minister's first visit to Iwate since assuming his role.

"I intend to prioritize the disaster-hit areas, while responding appropriately to changing circumstances. I will spare no effort," Mr. Imamura said.

Governor Tasso, after detailing the challenges involved with restoring people's lives and livelihoods, said, "I'd like the reconstruction to be closely linked with the needs of the disaster-hit areas and people, and I request that you secure a budget that's appropriate for the actual circumstances." He then submitted a series of written proposals and requests.

After the discussion, Mr. Imamura said, "The highest priority of the recent cabinet

reshuffle was the reconstruction and revitalization of Tohoku. I will devote all my energy towards meeting the governor's requests." He pledged to restore and strengthen people's livelihoods by focusing on residential rebuilding, as well as agriculture, forestry and fishing industries.

On the same day, Mr. Imamura also inspected the reconstruction's current progress in person. He visited the planned site of a memorial park in Rikuzentakata, and the area surrounding Ofunato train station.



Mr. Imamura (left) and Governor Tasso (right) exchange opinions



Governor Tasso submits his proposals and requests

Yamada Hospital Opens September 1st!

Yamada

On August 19th, a ceremony was held to celebrate the reconstruction of Yamada Hospital. It was destroyed in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, so medical services have been taking place in a temporary facility.

The new hospital was built on elevated ground, 2 km away from its previous location. It is a two story building made from reinforced concrete, with 50 beds and 6 departments: internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics,

orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology and rehabilitation. Four doctors are employed full-time – two more than before the disaster.

Yamada Hospital began outpatient and inpatient care on September 1st (Thu). Its long-awaited reopening is an important symbol of the reconstruction.

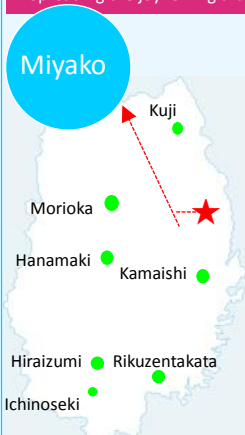
The hospital in Yamada was the second to be rebuilt by the prefecture, following the reopening of Otsuchi Hospital. The reconstruction of Takata Hospital in

Rikuzentakata City is due to finish next year.



Yamada Hospital's reopening ceremony

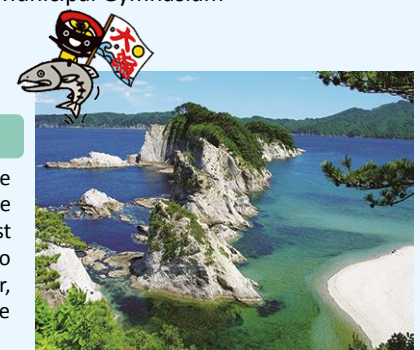
Spreading the joy. Giving thanks. **The Land of Hope Iwate National Sports Festival and National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities**



- Sport** ▶ Sailing **Date** ▶ October 2 (Sun) – 5 (Wed) **Venue** ▶ Rias Harbor Miyako
 ▶ Wrestling **Date** ▶ October 7 (Fri) – 10 (Mon) **Venue** ▶ Miyako Municipal Gymnasium
Demonstration sport ▶ Sea kayaking marathon
Date ▶ September 18 (Sun) **Venue** ▶ Rias Harbor Miyako
Contact ▶ Miyako Planning Committee Office ☎ 0193-77-5117

Miyako INFORMATION

Miyako is located at the most eastern point of Honshu. Its coastline is part of the Sanriku Fukko National Park, and its inland mountainous region lies within the Hayachine Quasi-National Park. The photograph to the right shows Miyako's most famous site, Jodogahama, which is located roughly in the center of Sanriku Fukko National Park. The white, sharply-pointed rhyolite rocks line up closely together, decorating the coast with their subtly different shapes. The contrast between the green pine trees, white rocks and ultramarine sea is truly beautiful.



Iwate's Largest Public Housing Complex for Survivors,
Tochigasawa Apartments, Now Open

Rikuzentakata

On August 1st, 2016 (Mon), people began moving into Tochigasawa Apartments, the largest public housing complex for disaster survivors in the prefecture.

This kind of housing is intended for people who lost their home during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and for whom rebuilding privately isn't an option. The Tochigasawa complex has 301 rental apartments altogether, split across two buildings. The northern block is an 8-story building with 150 apartments, while the southern block is a 9-story building with 151 apartments. Each one has a kitchen and up to 3 other rooms. Some are designed with wheelchair users in mind.

As of August 26th, 188 people had picked up their keys. For those who have spent the time since the disaster in emergency housing, it marked the beginning of a new life.

Applications will continue to be accepted until the apartments are filled. It's possible to apply as a group to be placed closely together.



The newly-opened Tochigasawa Apartments



Sanriku Event Information Fall's top picks!

9/16 Fri **Kuji Autumn Festival** **Kuji**
 Venue ▶ Downtown Kuji
 The largest festival in northern Iwate, with over 600 years of history and tradition. The highlights are the extravagant, majestic parade floats and portable shrines.
Contact Kuji Autumn Festival Planning Committee: 0194-66-9200

9/17 Sat **Miyako Autumn Festival** **Miyako**
 Venue ▶ Event Square in front of Miyako Station, etc.
 As groups of local dancers perform, extravagantly decorated parade boats compete to be the most beautiful.
Contact Junior Chamber International Rikuchu Miyako: 0193-62-8458

10/9 Sun **Fudai Sea Festival** **Fudai**
 Venue ▶ Otanabe Fishing Port
 A festival celebrating the Sanriku sea. There will be a parade of fishing boats, and cruises along the beautiful coastline.
Contact Fudai Sea Festival Planning Committee: 0194-35-2116

10/9 Sun **Ofunato Saury Festival** **Ofunato**
 Venue ▶ Ofunato Citizens' Gymnasium
 Taste pacific saury straight from Ofunato Port, and take part in all sorts of events.
Contact Ofunato Saury Festival Planning Committee: 0192-21-1922

Tours of Holland Island Now Taking Place **Miyako**

Within the protected borders of the Sanriku Fukko National Park, floating just off the coast of Yamada Bay, is a large island. It's known as "Holland Island", after the Dutch ship Breskens, which washed ashore here in 1643.

Its circumference is around 900 meters, and it's famous as the only uninhabited island in Tohoku with a swimming beach.

Due to the catastrophic damage suffered in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the beach isn't generally open to the public. However, "Marine Tourism Yamada", a group run by local fishermen, ran a special summer promotion offering discounted tours of the island. The offer took place between July 23rd (Sat) and August 21st (Sun), attracting large numbers of tourists who were mesmerized by the emerald green seawater and white sand.

Tours of Holland Island will continue until October.



The beach on Holland Island (Photo: Marine Tourism Yamada)

[Contact]
 Yamada Town Tourism Association ☎0193-84-3775
 (Business hours 8:30-17:30. Closed Wednesdays)
 *Inquiries in Japanese, please.

10/14 Fri **Kamaishi Festival** **Kamaishi**
 Venue ▶ Ozaki Shrine, downtown Kamaishi, etc.
 Kamaishi's two big autumn events are Hikifune, a lively ocean festival, and a parade of luxurious portable shrines.
Contact Kamaishi Festival Planning Committee: 0193-27-8172

10/16 Sun **Nationwide Taiko Festival** **Rikuzentakata**
 Venue ▶ Rikuzentakata Daiichi Middle School Gym
 Taiko drummers from across the country come to play together. This year's theme is "Life starts with a beat".
Contact Planning Committee: 0192-54-2111

10/22 Sat **The 11th Hirono Farm Festival** **Hirono**
 Venue ▶ Ono Campus
 An introduction to farming in Hirono, with loads of activities. Buy local products, or eat local beef at the BBQ Dojo.
Contact The 11th Hirono Farm Festival Planning Committee: 0194-77-2113

11/6 Sun **Autumn Smile Harvest Festival** **Noda**
 Venue ▶ JA Shin Iwate Noda Branch Special Venue
 Taste Noda's local dishes and ingredients, including some delicious limited edition foods!
Contact Noda Agriculture Festival Planning Committee: 0194-78-2926

Event details are subject to change, so please call beforehand. *Inquiries in Japanese, please.

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of July 31, 2016

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,123
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,075

To make a donation to aid in Iwate's reconstruction:
www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/011100.html

Thank you for all your support!

As of July 31, 2016

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.59 billion (93,626 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.77855 billion (7,812 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥8.5893 billion (18,111 donations)

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