

# 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 83

May 1, 2015

We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming encouragement and support received from both within and outside of Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck on March 11, 2011. The precious bonds created during this time will always be cherished.

Tourist season has begun on the Sanriku coast of Iwate – the cherry blossoms have fallen to the winds, and farm work is booming in the fields of the country.

We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

## School entrance ceremony held at Takata High School for the first time in 5 years

On April 9, 2015 (Thu), Takata High School held an entrance ceremony at their new school building, which was rebuilt on elevated ground in Takata-cho in Rikuzentakata City.

The school was completely destroyed during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. After the tsunami, classes resumed in the Kayanaka building of neighboring Ofunato City's Higashi High School, and many of the students commuted by school bus.

It's been 5 years since the school has held an entrance ceremony on its home campus. Among the incoming class of 164 freshmen, 149 are enrolled in the general course and 15 in the marine system course.

Amika Sasaki, a student in the general course, stepped up as representative for the new freshmen: "I was in 5th grade when

the disaster hit us in March, and it was a painful experience for me. But, I'm here today because of all the support I got from so many people. Together with my new classmates, I want to work hard, take on many challenges, and enjoy high school life to the fullest. I believe that the future will hold many things for us, and as a student at Takata High School, which holds so much history and so many traditions, I'll take pride in my school and work as hard as I can."

The future of the reconstruction and Rikuzentakata's development lies in the hands of the next generation. Filled with new resolve, the newly enrolled students have taken their first steps into high school at their newly built school.

Rikuzentakata



Incoming freshmen entering the opening ceremony



Principal Akihiko Yokota giving a speech



The newly rebuilt Takata High School building

## Renovating 5,000 temporary homes

Iwate Prefecture is planning to renovate approximately 5,000 temporary housing units in 2015 in six of the municipalities on the coast in order to repair them for long term use from here on.

The decision to renovate was made to preserve residents comfort and resolve some of their anxiety about structural issues. The renovation involves upgrades to the outer foundation/groundwork of the buildings, the floorboards of the stairs of front entrances (under the awnings), as well as other areas.

There are additional plans to renovate roughly 9,200-9,500 temporary units that might continue to be inhabited after 2017. Renovation on these units will occur in the 2 years from 2015 to 2016.



Renovation planned for Kaminakashima Temporary Homes (Kamaishi)

Municipality	Miyako	Yamada	Otsuchi	Kamaishi	Ofunato	Rikuzentakata	Total
Housing complexes	10	12	11	12	9	11	65
Number of buildings	137	107	144	216	132	254	990
Units to be renovated	773	698	805	1,171	743	818	5,008
First half of the year	525	201	0	931	743	170	2,469

※Renovations will be separated into two groups: construction in the first half of the year and the second half of the year.

※Negotiations are still underway with the land owner in Otsuchi, so Otsuchi's numbers are not fixed. Due to this, all the units are placed for construction in the second half of the year.

Interested in starting up a business in the coastal region?! We support businesses on the coast of Iwate!

If you're opening up a business based in one of Iwate's 12 coastal municipalities, you can receive a [start-up business grant](#)

▼ Amount covered by grant ▼  
Up to 5/6 of certain eligible costs

▼ Grant Money ▼  
¥ 2,000,000 limit

▼ Grant Period ▼  
Contract date - February 29, 2016

▼ Offer Deadline ▼  
First application period July 3, 2015 (Fri)

For more information: Sanriku Mirai Suishin Center

Morioka Office : 019-601-2468

Sanriku Mirai Suishin Center

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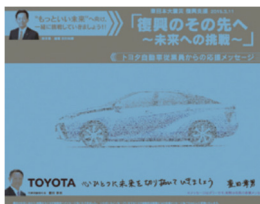
(\*Information only available in Japanese.)

## Reconstruction aid from the Toyota Master Players Wien Concert in Morioka

Morioka

On April 11, 2015 (Sat), Toyota Master Players, Wien, which is specially comprised of members mainly from Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna State Opera, performed at Iwate Prefectural Hall. This was a charity concert sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation, and their 4th concert in Morioka. Ticket sales from each concert have been donated to the Iwate Learning Hope Fund. Just like the last such concert, Toyota Motor East Japan invited 200 high school students within the prefecture to come to the concert.

They were given messages boards of support from the employees of Toyota and models of the Toyota Mirai fuel cell vehicle and Aqua hybrid vehicle.



Support messages from each employee were printed in white font on a picture of the Toyota Mirai



Toyota Motor East Japan, Inc. President Shirane taking a commemorative photo with the high school representatives who were invited

## The Ninth Recovery Gourmet Grand Prix in Otsuchi

Otsuchi

The Ninth Recovery Gourmet Grand Prix in Otsuchi was held on April 12, 2015 (Sun) with restaurants and shops from the three disaster-affected prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. These shops created and competed with each other using their local ingredients at the Fukko Kirari Shopping Center in Otsuchi, and bustled with an attendance of around 3,000 people.

This event began in 2013 to publicize the current state of the disaster-affected areas through dishes cooked up using local ingredients along the Sanriku Coast. There were 13 shops that participated this year, and they each sold one original dish for 300 yen. U-no! Hanamasu Shoutengai's Kamaishi Burger was voted as the winner this year.



Recovery Gourmet Grand Prix in Otsuchi



The Kamaishi Burger booth that won first place

Many young people are diligently helping the affected area of Sanriku move toward a full reconstruction. The section "People for Sanriku's Future" introduces these young people and their powerful dedication.

Part 37 introduces Mr. Ryusei Numazaki's efforts.

### Profile:

Originally from Yamada.

Numazaki was in his second year of junior high school during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. After graduating from Miyako Commercial Senior High School, he started working at Sanriku Railway on April 1, 2015.

He is currently living by himself in Kuji where he is busy at work.

### *The Sanriku Railway – a bridge to future dreams*

When Numazaki was job hunting in high school, Sanriku Railway President Mochizuki made a visit to his school to give a lecture. The lecture made a deep impression on the young man, and led him to his decision to join Sanriku Railway.

He moved from Yamada to Kuji to start the job, spending his time memorizing train



Sanriku Railway  
North Rias Line Operations Department  
Train Engineer Cadet  
Ryusei Numazaki



"Come take a ride on the Sanriku Railway."

cleaning procedures, studying up on railways, and so on.

Numazaki said, "I can't take the test to get my train engineering license until I turn 20, so I want to use that time to keep learning. My goal is to get my license, and to become a train engineer for Sanriku Railway."

### *Use the Sanriku Railway to rebuild the region*

To Numazaki, Kuji seems bigger with more buildings, and reconstruction is making faster progress than Yamada. "The locals and many visitors use Sanriku Railway. If more of the locals used our railways, it could help bring activity back to the coastal region. I really want to get my license to that I can contribute to the reconstruction of the region as a train engineer," he said on his dreams and hopes for Sanriku's future.

## Casualties & Damage in

As of March 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,163

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

## Thank you for all your support!

As of March 31, 2015

- Donations for survivors:** Around ¥18.22276 billion (90,908 donations)
- Donations for reconstruction projects:** Around ¥19.63144 billion (7,249 donations)
- Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations:** Around ¥7.31317 billion (15,123 donations)

※ This fund is to assist in the study and daily life of affected children by encouraging sport and study activities.

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