

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 93
October 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.

The trees have started to change color in the mountains, and more leaves fall with every passing day.

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

On-site Reconstruction Study Tour for Students

Rikuzentakata

On September 7, 2015 (Mon), an on-site reconstruction study tour for university students took place in Rikuzentakata.

It was the first time a tour has been held specifically for students. The idea was to give them an understanding of the reconstruction projects and support measures for the survivors that are underway as they prepare to enter the working world. 31 students from Iwate and 6 from outside Iwate took part in the tour, which stopped at 5 different sites.

First, the participants climbed the second embankment in the Takata district, a mound of earth exceeding 10m in height, and observed the continuing restoration work on the sea walls. The project manager outlined the plan to restore the white sand and pine trees on Takata-Matsubara's beach.

Then, at former roadside station Topic 45, participants were given an outline on land usage and plans for the Takata-Matsubara Tsunami Reconstruction Memorial Park

to be finished in 2020. They also got a view of the "Bridge of Hope", a conveyor belt that was installed last year in March to transport dirt and soil used to build up the land.

Next on the tour was the disaster recovery site at Kesengawa River, where a 12.5m embankment with 211m of flood gates is being built.

At the Citizen Exchange Plaza, a place located within the Shimowano public housing complex where citizens could gather, they learned about comprehensive care initiatives.

The last stop was the Rikuzentakata Community Hall, where the students heard about regional development from the Town Redevelopment Cooperative Center's staff. They were able to ask questions and exchange opinions about the current progress and future expansion of the city's urban development.

A student from Morioka gave their impression of the tour. "You can't get a real sense of the reconstruction from TV and newspapers. I had to see the real thing before I understood the gap between inland and the coast."

In related news, a closing ceremony for the "Bridge of Hope," which has suspended its operations, was held on September 15th (Tue). It will now be used on a much reduced basis, at successive building sites in the region.



Students atop the Takata district's second embankment.



Students at the former roadside station Takata-Matsubara Topic 45.

Examining the Data in Vol. 15 of the Iwate Reconstruction Index Report

The Iwate Reconstruction Index Report is published periodically and serves to make it easier to understand the current state of affairs and recent trends in Iwate's reconstruction efforts, particularly in the 12 affected coastal municipalities.

Below are outlined the main points from volume 15 of the report (as of August 26, 2015).

Rebuilding Lives

Progress Rate on Public Housing for Survivors: 30%

1,789 Completed Housing Units
(692 prefectural, 1,097 municipal)
(as of the end of June 2015)

*1,525 (574 prefectural, 951 municipal) completed housing units; 26% progress rate (at the end of March 2015)

There is a 30% completion rate on the 5,876 planned number of residential construction projects (2,784 prefectural, 3,092 municipal).

Regenerating Industries

Fisheries Catch in Fish Markets: 138,381 metric tons (95.9% of 3-year average)
(Current total for the fiscal year of April 2015-June 2015)

In addition to the recovery of the Isada krill catch, which had a weak market last year, the amount of mackerel caught increased considerably, recovering market catch levels close to those of the 3-year average before the disaster.

Ensuring Safety

Progress Rate on Construction Works: 16%
Number of Projects Completed: 1,285
(as of the end of June 2015)

There is a 16% completion rate on the 8,083 planned number of residential construction projects.

For more information:
*available only in Japanese

Iwate fukkoindex*

Search

We are recruiting members for the Iwate Reconstruction Supporters Team!



We are now recruiting both individual and group (corporate or other) members in the Greater Tokyo Area for the "Iwate Reconstruction Supporters". Members are e-mailed information regarding reconstruction and tourism in Iwate, and upcoming events in the Tokyo area.

For more information, please see the website of the Tokyo Branch Office of the Iwate Prefectural Government:

Iwate Ooendan*

Search

*only available in Japanese

Know, Buy, Eat, Go – and help support us!

Free to Register!

Local Fisherman Team Up with Sanriku Railway to Promote Wakame Seaweed

Fudai, Miyako, Ofunato

On September 12, 2015 (Sat), the Sanriku Iwate Wakame Uji Train on Sanriku Railway's North Rias Line (between Miyako and Kuji) began operations.

This was started as part of the Nippon-ichi Sanriku Iwate Wakame Reconstruction Campaign, which aims to restore and expand the Sanriku wakame market. Inside the train, an election run by the prefecture was held to see which wakame was the most popular with passengers.

7 Wakame Uji, or Wakame Princes, were selected from 4 wakame-producing areas within Iwate (Fudai, Taro [Miyako], Omoe [Miyako], Yoshihama [Ofunato]). They rode on the train along with roughly 40 other participants and showed off their prized wakame.

Special bentos filled with wakame were passed out as well. The participants spent a great day enjoying wakame, one of the most famous local products of the Sanriku coast.



Wakame Uji talking about their wakame product inside the train

The beginning of the event

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 feelings.

Part 45 introduces Mr. Kei Nakano's efforts.

PROFILE

Originally from Ofunato.

He went to Tokyo for university and found a job there after graduation.

In September 2011, after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, he returned to Ofunato in order to help his hometown.

In March 2014, he set up a nonprofit organization, "Wiz," in order to create a network of enthusiastic young people.

Build a team to energize Iwate

Mr. Nakano returned home after the disaster. It was clear there was more he could do there than there was in Tokyo.

He wanted to have a positive effect, but knew there was only so much he could do alone. In order to find new colleagues, he set up a nonprofit organization called Wiz.



NPO wiz
Representative Director
Kei Nakano



"Bringing in more young people and children"

University Students Build Dome-Shaped Produce Stand ODENSE Number 3

Miyako

On September 18, 2015 (Fri), the dome-shaped produce stand ODENSE Number 3 was built in Taro, Miyako by volunteer students; thank you letters were sent to these students, who came from various universities like Ritsumeikan University (Kusatsu, Shiga), Osaka Sangyo University (Daito, Osaka), National University of Laos, and Islamic University of Indonesia.

The domes were built as contribution to the reconstruction by Professor Munemoto's class in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design, College of Science and Engineering at Ritsumeikan University. For this year's project, architecture students from Indonesia and Laos joined in as well. The students hoped that through these projects, they would be able to show the rest of the world the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and how the people in the Tohoku region are working hard towards reconstruction.

The students arrived in Taro on September 7th (Mon) of this year, where they settled into everyday activities like cooking and cleaning while they worked on construction of the produce stand. ODENSE 3 will open its doors for business next spring. Its opening is hoped to bring about revitalization for the region.



Students who participated in the project

Wiz began running seminars, training workshops and networking events, and began to expand its reach.

A reconstruction supported by young energy

Mr. Nakano also set up a crowdfunding website called Ishiwari, which aimed to provide a concrete way for young people to help. It's currently accepting numerous donations towards various local activities.

Another project he is currently working on is a practical internship that matches young people with companies. Mr. Nakano spoke enthusiastically, "The way to judge Iwate's vitality is by counting its young people and children. Some kids leave the prefecture as soon as they graduate from high school, so we need to give them a reason to come back. If we can bring them together as a team, it will have a tremendous effect on the reconstruction."

Casualties & Damage in Iwate As of August 31, 2015

- ▶ Human casualties/deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,129
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 26,164

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 August 31, 2015

Donations for survivors: Around ¥18.431 billion (91,932 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects: Around ¥19.68777 billion (7,429 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations: Around ¥7.68855 billion (16,125 donations)

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

News from Iwate's Reconstruction, Volume 93. October 1, 2015.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925
For the News from Iwate's Reconstruction archives: <http://www.pref.iwate.jp/fukkounougoki/dayori/news/>

Editing & Printing: SYNAPSE

News from Iwate's Reconstruction Volume 94 will be published on October 15.