

Ganbaro Iwate!

It has now been one month since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11.

In Iwate, a great number of people have lost their lives, and many are missing. A great many people have lost their homes and are now forced to live their daily lives in temporary housing.

In Iwate, we have suffered the Sanriku tsunamis of the Meiji and Showa period, the Kathleen and Ione typhoons, the Chilean Earthquake and Tsunami, and the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake among other numerous and terrible natural disasters. However, our predecessors never let this crush them, and they overcame these hardships. With our independent spirits and sense of union borne from Iwate's bountiful nature, we are sure that we can overcome this catastrophe.

It was Kenji Miyazawa who said, "As long as the world cannot be completely happy in itself, the happiness of the individual is impossible."

We, the people of Iwate, all share in this pain, and with our hearts joined together as one, we guarantee that the many people who have been affected by this disaster will have clothing, food, shelter, the opportunity to learn, and the opportunity to work. We will work toward helping them lead a happy life once again. From here on, we will take the hopes and dreams the victims had for their hometowns that were lost in this tragedy and carry them with us.

However long the harsh winter continues, a warm spring will surely come.

We live on the sympathy and encouragement we have received from all of Japan, as well as the whole world. Together we will gather our strength, and with hope, we can strive step by step towards reconstruction. To this I say, "Ganbaro Iwate!"

April 11, 2011

Representing the people of Iwate,

Takuya Tasso, Governor of Iwate Prefecture



On April 11 (Mon.), a month after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the governor went to Iwate Prefectural Kamaishi High School to give consolation. While there, he widely appealed to the people of Iwate and to the rest of Japan as he sent a message about the reconstruction and the determination to bounce back even stronger with the declaration of "Ganbaro Iwate!"