

It has been 7 months since the Great East Japan Earthquake. We are deeply grateful for the heartwarming support we have been receiving from within Japan and overseas. We hope to continue to cherish these bonds. All the evacuation centers have been closed now and all the affected areas have started developing policies for their respective cities and towns. This newsletter brings you latest news about Iwate's march towards recovery and rebuilding.

【 School Sports Meets and Other Local Sports Events 】

With the arrival of Autumn, the season of sports meets in Japan, a variety of sports events were held in the disaster affected areas including sports meets at elementary, junior high schools, sports events organized by local inhabitants, and athletic festivals.

A local sports meet was held on 10th October at "Green Pia Sanriku Miyako" in Taro Town of Miyako City; the event was enjoyed by more than 1,000 local inhabitants.

The town of Taro suffered serious damage due to the tsunami and many of the town inhabitants were forced to live in the temporary housing at Green Pia Sanriku Miyako. The sports meet was an opportunity for the inhabitants to get together after being forced to live in scattered areas. The day marked the first step towards the rebuilding of Taro Town.



【 Rikuzen-Takada: Rice Farming Overcomes the Disaster 】

Rice farming has been the main strength of Iwate's agriculture. However, a total of 603ha of Iwate's rice paddies, including 50% of Rikuzen-Takada's rice paddies and 10% of the rice paddies in coastal area as a whole, were damaged due to flooding during the tsunami.

In order to restore the rice paddies, salt removal operations were carried out in a step-by-step manner. Water was let into the paddies and then flushed out to clear the salt; the levels of salt in the paddies decreased gradually after this process was repeated several times, enabling the rice to be planted in May.



Mr. Akihiro Kanno
"I hope for the every year's harvest of rice and I will never lose the hope."

"We are only praying for decreased salt levels. This way, we can hope for the strong growth of rice plants", says Akihiro Kanno, a local farmer. Mr Kanno, who had faith in his crops, was blessed with a good harvest of rice, which he traditionally hand-sheared.

>>> For details, watch "Iwate Pref. Programme 「 Iwate'Kibo-no-Chikara' 」 "; Episode 19 ~ Rice Farming, overcoming the disaster ~ (Broadcast on 10th, 11th, 13th & 16th October) <http://goo.gl/ZHKcX>

【 Thank You ! We're moving on ! 】

Miyako Fisheries HS holds a fishing boat training with support from Hokkaido Univ.

Students from Iwate Pref. Miyako Fisheries High School, who lost their training fishing boat during the disaster, were able to train on Hokkaido University's boat "Oshoro-Maru" for four days from Oct 3rd.



Miyako Fisheries HS students on a hands-on boat training trip

This was made possible thanks to Hokkaido University's positive response to Iwate's request for a training boat on a free loan. Almost fifty first and second year students were able to practice piloting, squid fishing, and marine observation. Principal Kinno of Miyako Fisheries HS told the student trainees: "Your sea venturing spirit will help the recovery of the local fishery industry." Hokkaido University is planning on lending the boat to the high school once a year for the next three years.

Thank you all for your support!

Survivor Donation Amount (As of September 30)
Approx. 158852 Billion Yen (69,965 donations)

Reconstruction Donation Amount (As of September 30)

Approx. 5.3485 Billion Yen (4,005 contributions)

Iwate Fund to Support Children's Education (As of 30th September)

Approx. 1.82641 Billion Yen (2,797 donations)

>>> For Donations/Contributions

<http://www.pref.iwate.jp/~bousai/jyouhou/volunteer.html>

【 Casualties & Damage in Iwate (As of 12th October) 】

○Human Casualties/Deaths: 4,664; Missing : 1,574

○Buildings Destroyed (Residences only; Total/Partial): 24,738 buildings

【Community Development Policies for the Disaster-struck Areas ~ Reconstruction Policy Planning Moves Forward!~】

Aid from the central government is indispensable for the execution of the Reconstruction Plan. The Japanese PM, Reconstruction Minister and other cabinet members have been visiting Iwate to study the situation and exchange opinions.



Top : (Sept. 10)
PM Noda visits Iwate (Rikuzentakata)

Bottom : (Oct. 12)
Cabinet minister Hirano visits Iwate (Otsuchi Town)



Community Development Policies for the Disaster-struck Areas

City/Town	Reconstruction Plan Initiative/Basic Policy Formulation Timeline
Hirono Town	June 1 - Reconstruction Vision, July 28- Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Kuji City	May 2- Reconstruction Vision, July 22 Reconstruction Plan
Noda Village	May 27- Basic Reconstruction Plan, (Scheduled for November) Great East Japan Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Fudai Village	June 1- Basic Policy for Disaster Reconstruction Plan, September 29- Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Tanohata Village	September 29- Basic Plan for Reconstruction
Iwaizumi Town	May 20 Disaster Reconstruction Plan (Main Points), September 16- Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Miyako City	June 1 -Basic Policy for Disaster Reconstruction, (Scheduled for October) Basic Plan for Reconstruction
Yamada Town	May 23- Basic Policy for Reconstruction Plan Formulation, June 30- Great East Japan Disaster Reconstruction Vision, (Scheduled for December), Great East Japan Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Otsuchi Town	June 9 -Basic Policy for Disaster Reconstruction, (Sched. For October), Disaster Reconstruction Initiative, (Sched. for December) Disaster Reconstruction Plan
Kamaishi City	July 11- Basic Reconstruction Plan for City Development/Reconstruction Plan Essentials, (Scheduled for October end) Basic Plan for City Recovery
Ofunato City	April 20- Basic Reconstruction Policy, (Scheduled for October) Reconstruction Plan
Rikuzentakata City	May 16 th - Policy Formulation for Disaster Reconstruction Plan, (Scheduled for November) Reconstruction Plan



[Sanriku Tourism Information HP]

The Convention for Greater Iwate Coastal Tourism Promotion has set up a tourism portal site for the Iwate Sanriku area called "Sanriku Tourism Information" in collaboration with the Iwate Prefectural Tourism Association's website.

The site offers information about the reopening of facilities that were closed in the wake of the disaster and the latest tourist attractions of Sanriku; You can plan your own trip with videos and model courses offered by this site.



Jya-no-Me Main Shop



Ryusendo Cave



Sappa Boat Adventure



Michi-no-Eki: Iwaizumi



Fish Market Miyako City



Jodogahama Sightseeing Boat Ride

■Iwate Sanriku Tourism Information Portal Site "Sanriku Tourism Information"
<http://www.iwatetabi-sanriku.jp/>