

News from Iwate's Reconstruction

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

三陸復興

Volume 40
May 15, 2013
Iwate Prefecture

The news from Iwate as it moves toward reconstruction

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 season of spring is upon us. Amid the blooming flowers and greenery, the disaster-affected areas continue their move toward recovery. We will now bring you the news from Iwate's reconstruction.

Construction begins on a new building for Funakoshi Elementary

Yamada Town
April 24

Yamada Municipal Funakoshi Elementary School was completely destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, but construction on a new school building has begun. This is the first construction project on a new school building anywhere in the disaster-affected prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

Preceding the construction work, a prayer ceremony for the safety of the project was held on Wednesday, April 24, and students were allowed to see the site where their new school will be built.

The new building will be built on the hill behind the site of the old building, 23 meters above sea level and 10 meters above the old building. The work is scheduled to be completed around mid-February of next year.

The students are currently attending classes at the meeting room in Rikuchu Kaigan Youth House, but classes in the new building are slated to begin in April 2014.

Yamada Town hopes to hold the graduation ceremony for the current 6th graders in the new school building, so they are pinning their hopes on the project's speedy completion.



Prayer ceremony for the
safety of the project



Perspective drawing

Pine Saplings Come Home to Takata-Matsubara

Rikuzentakata City
April 28

With the sole exception of the "Lone Pine Tree" that miraculously survived, almost all of Takata-Matsubara's famed 2-km stretch of 70,000 Japanese black pines was wiped away in the disaster. As a result, following the disaster there were proposals to use pinecones gathered the year before the disaster to create successors for the miraculous pine tree. So in May 2011, the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute's Tohoku Breeding Station (Takizawa Village) decided to plant the saplings in response to a request from the Association for the Preservation of Takata-Matsubara (main office: Rikuzentakata City).

The breeding station planted the seeds on May 31, 2011, in the hopes of creating "successors" for the Lone Pine Tree. The seeds budded in late June, and after thinning, fertilizing, disease prevention and temporary planting for the winter, 600 young pines began to grow.

The following May, 300 of these were handed over to the Association for the Preservation of Takata-Matsubara, as they wished to grow them in their own plot. The remaining 300

stayed at the breeding station, and once they had reached a height of roughly 20-30 cm they were handed over to continue to be grown by the Association on Sunday, April 28. Thus, one can say that all of the pine saplings have come back to their home in Rikuzentakata City.

The Association for the Preservation of Takata-Matsubara was founded in 2006 with the goal of protecting the pine forest at Takata-Matsubara and passing it on to the next generation. Their aim for the future is to ultimately bring all the pine saplings back to Takata-Matsubara to work toward the revival of the pine forest.



**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:

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

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The Reconstruction Implementation Plan

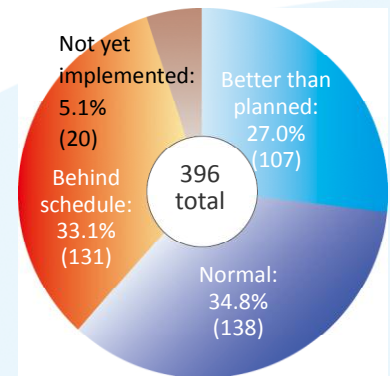
Fiscal Year 2012 - Progress Report and Revisions

Progress

Out of all the goals for fiscal 2012, 61.8% (245) had progressed either “Better than planned” or “Normal”, with 38.2% (151) indicating they were “Behind schedule” or “Not yet implemented”. However, among those behind schedule or not implemented, there were 77 items where either a better system was chosen or needs were less than planned. So, disregarding these cases, the number of goal items where there is a real delay is only 74, or 18.7%.

Among the reasons for being behind schedule were bidding disagreements and coordination delays with related organizations and securing the necessary land, which led to delays in initiating the project, and so on.

In order to reduce delays going forward, we are radically simplifying the administrative processes for (1) securing workers and other resources and (2) smoothly securing land for the projects.



Revisions

Fiscal 2013 will be the last year of the first phase of Iwate's Reconstruction Implementation Plan, which aims at laying the groundwork for reconstruction. In order to further accelerate the reconstruction, we have added and removed certain projects. After adding 35 and removing 7 projects from the plan, the total number of projects after revision is 491. The principal projects we have added include: (under “Ensuring Safety”) facilitating the smooth disposal of contaminated materials, (under “Rebuilding Lives”) maintaining prefectural hospitals that sustained damage in the disaster, and (under “Regenerating Industries”) supporting the rebuilding of the commerce sector in the affected areas.

May 5 (Children's Day) saw the “4th Tohoku Children's Summit (We will Inherit the Community of Dreams)” being held in the Sendai International Center in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture. The event was organized by Save the Children Japan.

In May 2011, just after the disaster, a group of students ranging from the 4th grade in elementary up to high school got together and formed the “Children's Community-Building Club” for activities to improve their towns. The group works on regional promotion in Iwate's Rikuzentakata City and Yamada Town, and Miyagi's Ishinomaki City, as well as making policy suggestions to the national and local governments.

The members got together and spent the morning sharing their various activities such as designing a mascot based on Yamada's famous Matsutake and Shiitake mushrooms (whom they called “Matsushii”), making a “Tree of Light” for Rikuzentakata and setting up a “Children's Center” for Ishinomaki. They also presented a proposal by the Rikuzentakata Club for the construction of a “Disaster Reconstruction Memorial Park” in the Takata-Matsubara park area of the city, and a proposal regarding the Basic Reconstruction Plan by the Yamada Club.

In the afternoon, the summit's participant's engaged in an opinion exchange with visitors. The children told us that they were “able to bring their ideas into reality and tell people about them.”

The 4th Tohoku Children's Summit

Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture
May 5

We will Inherit the
Community of Dreams



Items on display at the Summit



The mascot-character
“Matsushii”

Casualties & Damage in Iwate

As of April 30, 2013

- ▶ Human casualties - Deaths: 4,672; Missing: 1,150
- ▶ Buildings destroyed (residences only, total/partial): 24,928

For more information on damage in Iwate, or to make a donation:

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Thank you for all your support!

Donations for survivors (as of March 31, 2013):

Around ¥17.74605 billion (84,963 donations)

Donations for reconstruction projects (as of March 31, 2013):

Around ¥16.50305 billion (5,992 donations)

Iwate Learning Hope Fund donations (as of March 31, 2013):

Around ¥5.37932 billion (9,411 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, Vol. 40. May 15, 2013.

Published by the General Affairs Division, Bureau of Reconstruction, Iwate Prefecture. TEL: 019-629-6925

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