



The Great East Japan Earthquake Restoration Report



〈Digest〉 2011-2013

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- 1 Housing in Onagawa Town Sports Park (Onagawa Town)
- 2 Catch of fresh bonito at Kesennuma Fishing Port (Kesennuma City)
- 3 Sendai-Matsushima Road, the Sanriku Expressway, is expanded to four lanes. (Rifu Town)
- 4 The Tamaura-nishi District, relocated (Iwanuma City)
- 5 The Nobiru Hokubu Hill District, relocated (Higashimatsushima City)
- 6 Morning market at Yuriage Port (Natori City)
- 7 Greenhouse complex for strawberry cultivation (Watari Town)
- 8 Shiroishi Castle (Shiroishi City)
- 9 Ishinomaki Mangattan Museum (Ishinomaki City)
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- 13 Affixing signpost markers indicating tsunami height (Tagajo City)
- 14 The Matsushima Oyster Festival (Matsushima Town)
- 15 Public disaster housing in the Shin-yamashita Station District (Yamamoto Town)
- 16 The Shiogama Port Festival (Shiogama City)

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First Steps Forward: A Message from the Governor

Four years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11, 2011.

Once again, I pray for the souls of those we lost in this disastrous earthquake, that they may continue to rest in peace. To the victims and the bereaved who suffered such agonizing losses, I extend my most heartfelt condolences.

This massive earthquake, with its maximum seismic intensity of 7 followed by an enormous tsunami that struck our coastal areas, instantly destroyed the towns in which we had lived so long and robbed many citizens of the prefecture of their livelihoods. Tragically, many precious lives were lost and many still remain missing. In addition, the earthquake caused damage more serious than anything our prefecture had ever experienced. At the peak of this disaster, more than 320,000 people had been forced to live under great inconvenience in various refuges; moreover, the damage to our image that arose in the aftermath of the disaster that struck Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant continues to have a serious impact on the life and economic activities of our prefecture's citizens.

Since the disaster occurred, we have benefitted from the support extended by the Japan Self-Defense Forces, firefighters and police as well as volunteers and various support groups that have focused on the victims and the recovery of the stricken areas. The national government and many local municipalities across Japan have contributed to this effort. We also received relief funds as well as many donations and relief supplies. Once again, I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all who have so generously provided us with support. As we endeavor to make progress on our road to recovery, I trust that we can continue to count on your sustained and lasting support.

Thanks to the support and cooperation extended by so many, our recovery initiatives are posting steady progress. We can hear the echoing sounds of hammers indicating that recovery progresses in the various districts of our prefecture as people begin to move into public disaster housing.

Going forward, our top priority will remain the restoration and recovery of our prefecture. Together, we are promoting initiatives for "creative recovery" and not simply restoration. The prefecture will focus all its efforts on achieving full recovery, thereby ensuring that all our residents will be able to say with pride, "I am glad to have been born here", "I am happy to grow up here," and "I am happy to live here."

This publication is intended to provide a complete record of the disaster and the recovery initiatives in a summary of the progress achieved during the restoration stage (2011–2013) of the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan (formulated in October 2011). It has been edited to convey the scope of this event to future generations to ensure it is never forgotten. We hope this publication will be of use to many, including administrative officials and disaster prevention officials around the country. We trust it will be used to help create safe and secure communities for the future.

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宮城県知事 村井嘉浩

Yoshihiro Murai
Governor of Miyagi Prefecture

