

Restoration Stage

Securing Stable Living Environments for Affected Citizens and Creating Sustainable Communities

The earthquake and tsunami caused major damage to personal property including houses and to public infrastructure such as transportation, lifelines, and logistics systems. Reconstructing the lives of those affected was a priority, so we focused on providing temporary housing, securing daily necessities, and restoring public utilities such as electricity, gas, and water. We coordinated with the appropriate organizations to ensure rapid restoration of public transportation facilities such as railways, bus lines, ferries to remote islands, and so on.



Photo: Volunteers assist those affected by listening to them

To handle the vast amounts of debris produced from the disaster, we developed the Basic Policy for Disaster Waste Management. In addition, the Guidelines for Disaster Waste Management were introduced to stipulate the methods municipalities should use for waste removal, transfer, sorting, and treatment. This processing was carried out outside the existing municipal frameworks. All treatment of disaster waste was completed by March 2014.

The long-term stagnation of energy supply and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant revealed the difficulty of securing a stable supply of energy in emergency situations. In our recovery plan, we proposed the creation of an "eco town" (smart city) utilizing renewable energy.



Photo: Ishinomaki Hebata Solar Power Plant (Ishinomaki City)

Reconstruction Stage

2014

Providing Comprehensive Support Services for Those Affected While Striving to Protect and Preserve the Environment

In terms of disaster public housing, 5,288 houses were completed in 115 districts of 21 municipalities in the prefecture. As for everyday necessities, we provided assistance to three municipalities that undertook a review of their entire support system for disaster public housing. Also, in order to ensure a good living environment for those affected, we maintained community monitoring services through the support centers that provide nursing care and welfare services in temporary housing. We also rendered assistance to municipalities that conducted health consultations and visits, consumer consultations, and so on. We regularly provided information for evacuees outside the prefecture, and assigned two support personnel to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to assist with consultations and the like. We also offered assistance to organizations that are supporting community rebuilding in disaster-affected areas.



Photo: Providing support for people living in locations where mobility is difficult

In terms of the environment, we assisted with introducing renewable energy and energy-efficient facilities in conjunction with urban development in affected areas. We also implemented initiatives to create "eco-towns" (smart cities) in these municipalities. Furthermore, we conducted inspections to ascertain the state of the natural environment in the affected coastal areas.



Photo: Solar power system providing power for disaster public housing (Ishinomaki City)

Reconstruction Stage

2015

Developing Disaster Public Housing and Promoting Adoption of Hydrogen as an Energy Source

In terms of disaster public housing, 9,812 houses were completed in 210 districts of 21 municipalities in the prefecture. Continuing from the previous year, we provided financial support to municipalities that conducted reviews of support systems in disaster public housing. We also assisted municipality-led community monitoring activities.



Photo: Disaster public housing in the Shobutahama district of Shichigahama Town

We undertook community reconstruction that included funding assistance for reconstruction activities in five cities, three towns, and 14 districts. We also dispatched advisors to four cities and seven districts in order to resolve regional issues. Moreover, to promote community revival, we held three leadership training and interactive events for neighborhood association presidents along with other projects.

In terms of the environment, we continued to support the introduction of renewable energy and energy-saving equipment to accommodate town development in the affected areas.

Furthermore, we promoted the adoption of hydrogen as a form of energy, which is expected to reduce environmental impacts and exert an economic ripple effect, in the hopes of becoming the "a pioneering hydrogen community in the Tohoku region." Regarding preservation of the natural environment, we conducted an academic survey in order to obtain the new designation of Green Preservation Zone, and we engaged in protection and maintenance measures for rare wild plants and animals at three locations in the affected coastal areas.



Photo: Exchange center for disaster victims (Kesenuma City)

Restoration Stage

Ensuring the Security of Affected Citizens and Assisting Children Who Will Be Responsible for the Future

Because many medical facilities in the coastal area were destroyed in the earthquake, rapid recovery of the lost medical capability in the region became a top priority. Under the terms of the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, Miyagi Prefecture requested that related organizations nationwide dispatch emergency medical teams to affected areas. During the peak of this effort, nearly 120 teams were engaged in hospital support and medical relief activities at shelters within the prefecture.

In the field of welfare, medical checkups and health consultations were conducted, including visits to residents of temporary housing. Authorities also provided support for restoring the welfare system to assist the elderly and people with disabilities.

The Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi's Children Fund was established in October 2011 to assist orphans and other children impacted by the disaster. Moreover, to strengthen support for the children affected, a policy was adopted to reduce childcare fees.

In December 2011, we established the Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center in order to provide long-term, attentive mental health care for afflicted individuals requiring mental care whether in their homes or in shelters.

In collaboration with those involved in the fields of education, welfare, and medicine, we addressed the need to establish a regional comprehensive support system. Furthermore, we constructed a regional medical cooperation system utilizing information and communications technology in order for residents to receive medical treatment with ease.



Photo: Introductory pamphlet for the Doctor Bank Project in FY 2014

"The Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi's Children Fund" Number of donations/amount [by fiscal year]

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Donations	3,800	3,235	2,645	2,211	1,924	13,815
Amount (yen)	4,146,259,231	1,693,113,842	1,475,642,250	1,077,431,213	980,406,080	9,372,852,616

Reconstruction Stage

2014

Building a Secure Community and Environment

In order to continuously monitor the health of the disaster-affected residents and maintain or improve their health, we provided expert support in collaboration with municipalities. This was done through health surveys of the disaster victims, health counseling sessions conducted by nursing staff, and dental health counseling provided by dentists. Through cooperation with various medical institutions and in collaboration with Tohoku University, we supplemented shortages of medical resources. In order to promote seamless delivery of healthcare required at different stages of life for the disaster victims, we took steps to support the management of the Miyagi Medical and Welfare Information Network System.

To provide long-term, continuous support for children, we set out to strengthen our cooperative structure with related organizations and established a system to support foster parents and children who lost parents in the earthquake disaster. We also helped to maintain the activities of the Children's Mental Health Care Team through touring visits and the like.



Photo: Miyagi Disaster Mental Care Networking Event in Ishinomaki

In order to strengthen the consultation support system for victims through the Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center and other facilities, we worked on training and securing personnel and provided mental health care for everyone from children to adults.

We also promoted the establishment of support systems for residents regardless of gender, age or nationality.

Reconstruction Stage

2015

Ensuring Safe, Secure Communities Through the Cooperation of Health Care, Medical Care and Welfare Services

As part of our effort to monitor the health of disaster-affected residents and maintain or improve their health on an ongoing basis, we conducted health surveys for the afflicted population and offered the support of medical and welfare experts. While coordinating the development of new towns and villages in the municipalities, we focused on restoring and reconstructing hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and visiting nursing stations. We encouraged cooperation among health, medical care, and welfare providers in the prefecture through a regional medical cooperation system utilizing information and communication technology. We also promoted efforts to establish a department of medicine in order to produce more doctors.



Photo: Ceremony to mark the Tohoku Regional Medical Support Scholarship Fund (with support from Kuwait)

In a continuation of our initiative to support foster parents as well as children who lost one or both parents in the earthquake, we provided touring visits by the Children's Mental Health Care Team. In order to create communities in which parents can start a family and raise their children with peace of mind, we provided support to organizations that operate mainly from support centers; promoted a citizens' movement to provide greater childcare support; and increased momentum for raising children with support from the local community.

In the field of welfare, we set out to build local communities in cooperation with the welfare councils, NPOs, and others involved in the transition from temporary housing to disaster public housing.



Photo: Meeting of the Regional Medical Cooperation System in Osaka City

Economy, Commerce & Industry, Tourism and Employment

Restoration Stage

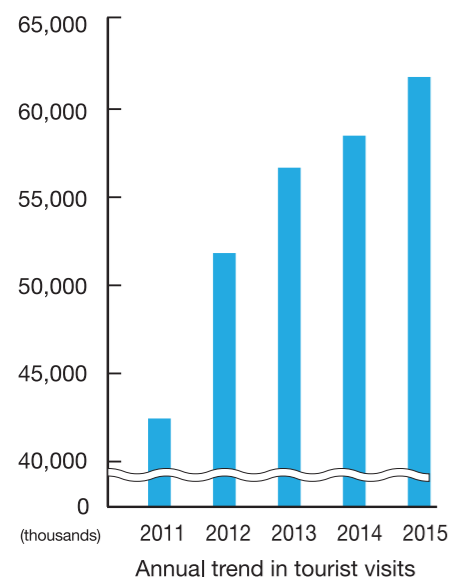
Miyagi's Economic Recovery, Job Creation and Continued Tourism Promotion

The total amount of damage to the manufacturing industry caused by the tsunami was 452.6 billion yen. Damage to shops and restaurants in the coastal cities and towns is estimated to have reached 145.0 billion yen. In total, 65,000 workers were sidelined at the peak of the prefecture's economic disruption.

In cooperation with various municipalities, Miyagi Prefecture provided assistance to business operators for the early resumption of business, management stabilization, and recovery of sales channels. Moreover, we strengthened the consultation system for solving problems affecting businesses and enhanced the assistance system by establishing funds related to disaster recovery. Since industrial reconstruction requires industrial development from a medium-to-long-term perspective, the prefecture pushed forward to establish new business facilities by encouraging business startups and attracting companies to the prefecture.

We implemented a variety of measures to maintain and increase employment by strengthening consultation opportunities for people who lost their jobs, establishing a low-interest living loan system for those affected, and creating jobs through the Emergency Job Creation Program, and so on.

While the number of tourists decreased sharply due to a voluntary travel ban and harmful rumors that continued after the earthquake, we promoted tourism to the affected areas by launching the public-private Sendai-Miyagi Destination Campaign (2013) and promoting the concept of "recovery tourism."



Reconstruction Stage 2014

Assistance for Affected SMEs and Efforts to Restore the Tourism Industry

Following the restoration stage, we took steps to ensure the affected small- and medium-sized enterprises could resume operations by granting about 4.3 billion yen to 74 businesses under the Small & Medium Enterprises Restoration & Recovery Support Project (group subsidies) to assist with the costs of rebuilding factories, purchasing machinery and equipment, etc. By employing a system of special zones and subsidies to establish new business facilities in areas affected by the tsunami, we sought to attract and create conglomerations of factories such as major auto parts makers and food processing companies.

Moreover, in order to restore and expand sales channels destroyed in the earthquake, we supported the holding of business meetings ("Datena Business Meetings") with buyers of major companies inside and outside the prefecture and created opportunities for acquiring sales channels.

We also promoted the revitalization of shopping streets by assigning supporters of shopping arcade recovery to Chambers of Commerce and Industry and to Commerce and Industry Associations in Kesenuma City, Minamisanriku Town, and three other coastal cities and towns.



Photo: Sendai-Miyagi Summer Campaign ("Datena Trip")

In the tourism industry, we strengthened promotional initiatives including post-Destination Campaign projects in collaboration with the JR Group. We also jointly introduced the "Rediscover! Matsushima Wonderland" concept with the cities and towns surrounding Matsushima, one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Japan.

In order to help stabilize the lives of job applicants, we attempted to create emergency as well as temporary employment by utilizing "provisional and special funds under the Emergency Job Creation Program." Furthermore, through the Coastal Employment Support Center, we launched employment initiatives such as efforts to resolve employee-employer mismatch, a phenomenon that had become apparent within the coastal area.

Reconstruction Stage 2015

Initiatives to Reconstruct the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Industries

We continued to provide assistance in the area of consultation and stabilization of management for affected SMEs. In terms of group subsidies, in FY 2015 we granted 9.5 billion yen to 142 businesses for a total of 245.6 billion yen to 3,937 businesses since this system was introduced. As a result of this effort, business recovery has been significantly boosted. In order to develop sales channels, we recognized Vietnam as a new market in the rapidly growing territory of Southeast Asia and established "Miyagi Shop" in a shopping mall for a limited time.



Photo: Miyagi Shop in Vietnam

Continuing an initiative launched in the previous fiscal year, we employed various support systems to attract conglomerations of factories, such as solar panel manufacturers and major food processors, in the areas affected by the disaster. Through this effort, we are taking important steps to secure employment opportunities.

To spark the commercial revitalization of coastal areas, we assisted with the relocation of shopping districts from their temporary locations. The "Arahama Bustling Shopping Street" in Watari Town relocated at the end of the preceding fiscal year, while "Seapal-Pier Onagawa" in Onagawa Town has opened for business.

In the tourism industry, the number of tourist visits has recovered to nearly the level achieved before the earthquake due to the implementation of the "Sendai-Miyagi (Datena Trip) Summer Campaign 2015." We also launched a wide range of initiatives to attract visitors. These included additional support for the establishment of new tourism attractions in the coastal areas, invitations to Taiwan for educational travel, and construction of a regional tourist route throughout Tohoku.

In the area of employment strategy, we continued with our Emergency Job Creation Program. Following the earthquake, we created 85,000 jobs to help stabilize the lives of those affected.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Restoration Stage

Reviving Miyagi's Main Industries Beyond Pre-Disaster Levels

The earthquake and tsunami damaged the prefecture's agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries, specifically its productive farmland, lumber processing facilities, and fishing port infrastructure. These industries were also affected by pollution and suffered reputation damage as a result of the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

In the agriculture industry, we promptly restored affected agricultural land to enable the resumption of farming. We also provided technical and management assistance to quickly restore agricultural and livestock productivity.



Photo: Harvesting from restored rice paddies

In the forestry industry, we assisted with the restoration of disaster-affected plywood and lumber factories as well as the rebuilding of houses for disaster victims. Infrastructure projects have begun, including the prompt restoration of coastal disaster prevention forests and the raising of land, and we are carrying out initiatives to strengthen a production system for planting resistant Japanese black pine seedlings.

In the fishing industry, emergency repairs of affected fishing ports were carried out. Through partnerships and joint operations, we supported initiatives to resume and stabilize the businesses of fishermen who encountered difficulties restarting them on their own.

We thoroughly inspected foods for signs of radiation contamination and held product exhibitions in the Tokyo metropolitan area and various other parts of the country, all the while working to increase awareness of our prefectural products.



Photo: Temporary housing made with local lumber (Minamisanriku Town)

Reconstruction Stage 2014

Promoting Advanced and Highly Profitable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

In the agriculture industry, we worked to ensure early restoration of the agricultural production base by undertaking restoration and maintenance of agricultural land and facilities. This was intended to revive and improve the agricultural productivity that had been significantly damaged by the earthquake. We provided assistance with the construction of disaster-affected agricultural facilities and the introduction of agricultural machinery to help affected farmers resume working and stabilize their businesses without delay.

We also supported the agriculture industry in various ways by introducing new technology such as labor-saving and low-cost technologies. Moreover, we held demonstrations of optimized operations by combining advanced technologies capable of accommodating large-scale businesses.

In the forestry industry, we promoted improved lumber processing and drying facilities in order to strengthen the supply of "excellent Miyagi lumber." We also promoted the systematic restoration of coastal disaster prevention forests in the Sendai coastal area.

In the fishery industry, in order to restore productivity, we helped to cover the costs of collecting debris deposited in fishing grounds and the disposal of debris collected during fishing operations.



Photo: Fishing boat unloads collected debris.

To revitalize the prefecture's brand value, we supported the rehabilitation of production facilities for products such as silver salmon, oysters, sea pineapples, and strawberries that had been damaged in the earthquake. We also promoted rice production in Miyagi through advertising campaigns and the use of mass media at events in Tokyo and other large metropolitan areas.

Reconstruction Stage 2015

Promoting Competitive Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Industries

In the agriculture industry, in a continuation of the previous year, we worked on various forms of agricultural support in an effort to restore the production base, enable disaster-affected farmers to resume their operations as quickly as possible, and stabilize these businesses. We also introduced the latest technology such as the use of regional energy resources and advanced environmental controls. In addition, we supported efforts to develop next-generation large-scale horticultural facilities in the disaster-affected areas as model production bases and proceeded to improve facilities in the Kitakami district of Ishinomaki City.

In the forestry industry, we worked on measures to prevent global warming by proactively using woody biomass. We also supported logging through forest thinning with the aim of supplying the wood needed for house construction.

In the fishery industry, we promoted the review of each type of management model and efforts related to the sixth industry. To increase the productivity of aquaculture grounds and short-neck clam fisheries, we conducted surveys and researched technology development to improve the bottom sediment environment of these fishing grounds. We also promoted employment initiatives such as the hiring of new employees and provided training for those intending to succeed others in this industry.

We supported about 40 projects to promote these industries including: engaging in efforts to raise the value of prefectural brands and expand sales channels, conducting business meetings in Japan and abroad, and assisting with trade show exhibitions and business negotiations for small and medium-sized enterprises.



Photo: Food Kingdom Miyagi Trade Show

Restoration Stage

Aiming for Stability by Quickly Restoring the Foundations of Civic Life and Economic Activity

The tsunami damaged the prefecture's highways and destroyed seawalls, harbor facilities, riverbanks, and beach parks. Even the inland area was damaged by liquefaction and landslides. At Sendai Airport, the terminal building and runways were flooded, and the waterworks, industrial waterworks, and sewerage treatment plants were inoperable. Therefore, we promptly removed traffic restrictions on emergency transportation routes and prioritized the restoration of access roads to regional traffic centers such as the airport and port. As a result, Sendai Airport resumed operation of temporary domestic flights about one month after the disaster.



Photo: Water-resistant wall completed for private power generation facility at Senen Purification Plant

In order to prevent the occurrence of a secondary disaster, we undertook and completed emergency restoration along the coastline and rivers as well as erosion control. After reviewing the details of the structures, based on what we learned from the disaster, we launched full-scale restoration.

The waterworks and industrial waterworks plant was completed in March 2013, and the basin sewerage plant in March 2014. We also supported rapid restoration of the public sewerage and waterworks of coastal municipalities.

The two beach parks that suffered serious damage are to be re-developed as disaster prevention parks that function as primary evacuation sites in the event of a tsunami. New community development took the Miyagi disaster-resistant community development model to promote collective relocation and land readjustment projects.



Photo: Restoration of sludge incineration facility completed at Senen Purification Plant

Reconstruction Stage 2014

Promoting the Development of Disaster-Resistant Communities Through Infrastructure Reinforcement and Improvement

We undertook completion of the Sanriku Expressway, which was designated as a reconstruction road, and launched plans to enhance an arterial high-standard highway to create a disaster-prevention road network. In addition, we planned to further increase use of the Sendai Airport and Sendai-Shiogama Port.



Photo: Arahama Seawall (Watari Town)

In order to defend against tsunamis and high tides, we promoted improvement of coastal facilities while also cooperating with those involved in community development in the inland area. Moreover, we promoted the rapid improvement of comprehensive flood-control measures in order to increase flood safety in low-lying areas experiencing increased risk of flooding due to ground subsidence.

As for waterworks, we increased the earthquake resistance of waterworks facilities such as supply lines and installed emergency water supply lines. Also, regarding sewer systems, we conducted planned repairs or partial renewal under the life-extension plan intended to address aging facilities.



Photo: Collective relocation district for disaster prevention (Kesennuma City)

In order to plan the conversion of the urban framework to one with a greater ability to withstand disasters, we provided support for new community developments and construction of a disaster prevention park. In Kesennuma City, the disaster prevention collective relocation promotion program began handing over houses in FY 2014. Also, we are progressing forward with the construction of seawalls and coastal protection facilities in the coastal areas of 15 damaged municipalities.

Reconstruction Stage 2015

Developing a Variety of Facilities to Create a Disaster-Resistant Community



Photo: Sendai-Matsushima Arterial High-standard Highway

Continuing with projects launched the preceding year, we undertook improvement of the Sanriku Expressway and upgrading of the arterial high-standard highway. Regarding Sendai Airport, we moved forward to privatize airport operations, and we are carrying out efforts to enhance airport functions and to vitalize the surrounding area.

In order to provide better defenses against tsunami and high tides, we continued with coastal maintenance work such as widening and construction of embankments. We also implemented flooding countermeasures through river channel improvements and dam maintenance.

As for sewer systems, under the life-extension plan adopted to address deterioration of facilities, we conducted scheduled repairs and partial updates in order to extend service life. Moreover, we are conducting surveys of areas vulnerable to sediment-related disaster risk and are designating them as landslide disaster hazard areas.

With the goal of restoring the town for its scheduled opening in FY 2016, we promoted a land readjustment project and disaster prevention collective relocation for the JR Senseki Line and the Nobiru district which was moved to higher ground, as well as the JR Joban Line and the area around the new Yamashita Station which was moved inland.



Photo: Tsubame no Mori district (Yamamoto Town)

Restoration Stage

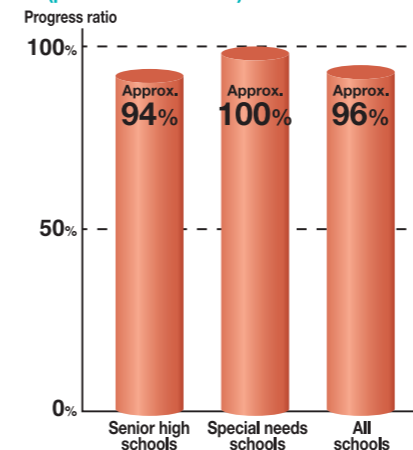
Restoring Our Educational and Cultural Inheritance with the Lessons Learned from the Earthquake

The earthquake and tsunami damaged 91 prefectural schools, 671 municipal schools, and 162 private schools. Immediately after the disaster, gymnasiums and classrooms at many schools were used as shelters and managed by teachers.

After the earthquake, concerns were raised about the increase in the number of students with mental health issues, a lack of exercise opportunities, and the decline in physical fitness from prolonged stays in evacuation shelters. As for the mental health challenges, we strengthened the professional staffing system with school counselors and worked to improve the students' learning environment while enhancing mental health care. Beginning with support for students for whom school attendance had become economically difficult, together with efforts to create an environment in which students can attend school in safety, we made use of the experiences and lessons gained from the earthquake to draw up the Basic Miyagi School Safety Guidelines in October 2012. Also, since 2012, we have been planning to strengthen the disaster response system through greater cooperation across the region and by maintaining systems such as disaster response training at schools by deploying disaster prevention officers at all public schools in the prefecture and lead teachers responsible for disaster prevention at schools serving as regional hubs.

A total of 653 prefectural and municipal education and cultural facilities were damaged, and more than 330 important cultural assets were washed away or damaged. We provided support for the digitization of disaster-related materials in order to pass them down and prevent them from fading away.

Restoration status of affected schools (prefectural schools)



Reconstruction Stage 2014

Supporting Affected Children with School Attendance and Implementing Ongoing Mental Health Care



Photo: Next Leaders' School

In addition to providing support for the two public vocational schools that reduced their tuition and other fees for students affected by the disaster, we provided support for private schools that reduced their tuition and other fees for about 5,300 students. We also dispatched school counselors and continued to address mental health care for these students. In addition, we created the "Next Leaders' School" with the goal of fostering leaders who will guide the next generation. A total of 37 junior high students from throughout the prefecture participated in this initiative.

In keeping with the Basic Miyagi School Safety Guidelines, we provided school safety training to accommodate the surrounding area's unique characteristics and stage of development.

In the field of culture and the arts, since FY 2011 we have been offering a total of 562 programs to sponsor cultural and artistic activities. This is part of an initiative titled "Promotion of Activities Enabling Children to Experience Arts and Culture" sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which is focused on children from areas that were severely damaged by the disaster. Our goal is to contribute to the smooth reconstruction of the region as we plan to develop an environment where young children to high school students can grow up healthy and safe while being enriched through arts and culture.



Photo: "Promotion of Activities Enabling Children to Experience Arts and Culture"

Reconstruction Stage 2015

Implementing a Variety of Measures to Ensure a Healthy Educational Environment for Children and Students

Since the previous year, we have continued to provide assistance for public vocational schools and private schools that reduced their tuition and other fees for students affected by the earthquake. In addition, to ensure a positive educational environment for private school operators, we provided support for 26 schools (groups) that had experienced a significant decrease in the number of enrolled students.

For parents and children suffering from disrupted lives and emotional scars from the disaster, we took steps to help improve educational skills at home by offering support and by providing of information related to home education.

In keeping with the initiative to "build schools closely tied to the community," senior teachers responsible for disaster prevention led the drive to conduct practice drills in cooperation with the community and strove to promote disaster response training utilizing the Miyagi Disaster Prevention Education Supplementary Reader. We also published the digital "Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Miyagi" in an effort to preserve the memorials and lessons of the disaster.



Photo: Miraieno Kizuna ("Link to the future"), Supplementary Reader for Miyagi Disaster Prevention Education

In addition, in order to foster a proper perspective on civic duty and a good work ethic among these children and students, we established a district for promoting "education that fosters ambition" and advanced initiatives that accommodate the realities associated with the schools in the region.

Aside from the Matsushima Nature Retreat, prefecture-owned education facilities and cultural facilities that were damaged by the tsunami and earthquake were restored by FY 2015.

Restoration Stage

Rebuilding Emergency Systems and Strengthening Disaster Preparedness for a Safer and More Secure Community

In coastal areas, many firefighting and emergency facilities and vehicles were damaged, and local governments were temporarily unable to perform their administrative tasks. As a result, a fair amount of time was required to determine the full extent of the damage in the prefecture. With support from local governments across Japan, we helped to restore the administrative functions of the affected municipalities as quickly as possible, in addition to restoring the firefighting and emergency facilities. We also helped implement a disaster-resistant communications network combining satellite communications with other technologies.



Photo: Preserving stories about the 3/11 Great East Japan Earthquake

The Miyagi Prefecture Radiation Monitoring Center serves as the monitoring body for the Onagawa Nuclear Power Plant of the Tohoku Electric Power Company. In addition to installing 45 monitoring posts, we temporarily relocated the institute to the prefectural office and the site of the former firefighting academy. We also took steps to improve the radiation monitoring system.

We were reminded of the importance of disaster response measures such as self-help and reciprocal assistance from local residents of community associations and neighborhood associations. As a result, we helped to strengthen the disaster preparedness system at the community level.

Furthermore, we sought to create safer and more secure communities by restoring and strengthening police facilities, developing traffic safety facilities with enhanced disaster-preparedness functions, and reinforcing the regional crime-prevention infrastructure with strengthened patrols and trained volunteer crime-prevention groups.

In March 2013, legislation was passed designating March 11 as Miyagi Memorial Day to preserve lessons from the disaster for future generations.



Photo: Miyagi Memorial Day

Reconstruction Stage 2014

Developing Safer and More Secure Communities with Updated Information Systems and an Improved Disaster Preparedness Plan

We updated the prefectural emergency wireless communications system, which is the information system used by the government and emergency preparedness organizations in the event of a disaster, to next-generation satellite radios capable of IP communication. In order to rebuild disaster prevention functions, we also assisted in developing disaster preparedness maps that can disseminate basic knowledge about disasters and identify dangerous locations in the area.

In preparation for a large-scale disaster, we trained regional disaster preparedness leaders to play a central role in helping voluntary organizations set up operations in local communities.

We also took steps to restore and strengthen the functions of affected police and other facilities in accordance with the recovery situation of that particular city or town.

Due to multiple large-scale reconstruction projects, it became apparent that traffic conditions in affected areas had deteriorated from the increased volume of large vehicle traffic. Therefore, we fostered a renewed sense of respect for the rules of the road among prefectural citizens by promoting traffic safety education focused on participation, experience, and practice. Additionally, in order to prevent problems such as traffic accidents and frequent bank remittance scams, we disseminated information regarding bank fraud and traffic accidents and fatalities in a timely manner through Miyagi Security Mail, a service available for not only affected areas but the entire prefecture. In doing so, we urged residents to stay alert and strived to provide increased safety and security.



Photo: FY 2015 Lecture Series: Women's Fire Prevention Club

Reconstruction Stage 2015

Preserving Memories Essential to Disaster Prevention Five Years after the Earthquake

In order to implement rapid and independent emergency risk assessment, such as evacuation centers in the event of a disaster, we not only strengthened municipalities' implementation systems but also prepared a system capable of post-disaster housing evaluations. We also provided lectures to improve awareness of disaster preparedness.

In Sendai City, we rebuilt the damaged Miyagi Prefecture Radiation Monitoring Center. It reopened on April 1, 2015, as an environmental radiation monitoring center.

To enhance security and other systems, we also completed construction of the new Kesenuma Police Station, which had been operating temporarily out of a government building after the original structure was damaged in the earthquake.



Photo: New Kesenuma Police Station

As a result of the concentration of temporary housing due to the relocation of many people into disaster public housing, the task of rebuilding the community became a pressing issue. Because the disaster public housing and collective relocation led to the formation of new towns, we worked to strengthen public security organizations in the region. This included assisting with the recruitment of volunteers as the focus of crime-prevention initiatives, in addition to raising awareness of crime prevention among residents. We achieved this by offering lectures and engaging in public-private initiatives intended to raise awareness of crime-prevention methods.



Photo: Temporary housing safety training

SPECIAL FEATURE

New Initiatives by Women and Young People

In disaster-affected communities that have entered the reconstruction stage, new initiatives are being undertaken by women and young people as they enter a new phase that looks beyond the damage they have experienced.

Minamisanriku Town Tome City

Women's Eye

Initiatives: Cultivate human resources, support for self-reliance

Presenting Lectures to Stimulate Discussion on How Women Can Play Active Roles in Society

This organization hosts a variety of lectures for women based on the notion that "the perspective of women who come face-to-face with daily life issues is linked to the creation of a safe and secure society." This initiative, which has helped stimulate discussions, occurred in the prefecture's coastal areas with a focus on Minamisanriku Town. These lectures were held about 160 times over a period of two years. 1,861 local residents attended, making for a total of 2,444 participants when including lecturers and volunteers. In addition to supporting local women so they can live and work independently, the organization also created various solutions-based groups such as the "Single-mother and Child Group," "Minamisanriku Women's Study Group," and "Handicraft Market Group."



Photo: Lecture presented by "Women's Eye"

Watari Town

Watalis Co., Ltd.

Initiatives: Cultivate human resources, support for self-reliance

Maintaining and Expanding "The Working Model of Miyagi Women"

Watalis is a brand that focuses on "upcycling." The workers use fabrics from old kimonos that are typically stored away in chests to make new items that they send out into the world. Women in Watari Town carefully craft each stitch by hand while making the best use of the colors and patterns of the kimono fabric. In doing so, they breathe new life back into the beauty of Japanese designs that have developed over the country's long history. This work has helped to support women living in the affected area, and the company's continued development is expected to provide vital economic stimulus. In addition, the Watalis Group regularly holds handicraft workshops and tea parties as part of a project to create opportunities for residents of disaster-affected areas to interact with each other.



Photo: Pouch made from kimono fabric "Fuguro"

Kesenuma City

Maru Office

Initiatives: Relocation and settlement, community development

Local Cooperative Education Linking Karakuwa Town as a Destination for Relocation and Settlement

Maru Office is a company established in Kesenuma City in 2015 by youth from the surrounding area as well as those who moved to Kesenuma following the disaster. Focused on "local cooperative education" as well as "promotion of relocation and settlement," this company provides operational support for "Karakuwa Maru," a community development club conducting activities that encourage residents to be able to live independently, offering short-stay and long-stay programs to prospective residents, and providing workshops in which newcomers can participate in medium and long-term community improvement under the philosophy of "our own agenda for our region." The company is also active in improving the retention rate and training human resources in Kesenuma.



Photo: Community development club "Karakuwa Maru"

Ishinomaki City

Ishinomaki 2.0

Initiatives: Entrepreneurial support, relocation and settlement, community development

Making Ishinomaki the most Attractive City in the World

This organization was born from the idea of creating an upgraded version of Ishinomaki by envisioning a new future instead of recreating the town that existed before the disaster. It operates a "recovery bar," the "Ishinomaki town bookshelf," which is a community space offering books and "Irori Ishinomaki," an open shared office that serves as "the city's lobby" by connecting both city and human resources to local residents, new arrivals and visitors. The organization also hosts STAND UP WEEK, which is held just before Ishinomaki's largest event, the Kawabiraki Summer Festival, and highlights the potential that lies beyond disaster recovery. Through these initiatives, Ishinomaki 2.0 serves as a center of community development.



Photo: Open shared office of "Irori Ishinomaki"