The Road to Recovery
Recovery and Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

October, 2017

http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/
On March 11, 2011, the most powerful earthquake in the recorded history of Japan occurred.

The Great East Japan Earthquake, followed by the tsunami, devastated the Tohoku region. The long journey toward recovery and reconstruction started—for and with the people of Tohoku.

The northeastern region of Japan is called “Tohoku,” containing the six prefectures of Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, and Fukushima.

By the Rikuentakata shore in Iwate Prefecture, one pine tree survived the March 11 tsunami while the other seventy thousand were swept away. The tree, widely known in Japan as the lone ‘miracle’ pine tree, stands, giving hope to the residents of the town and symbolizing the Tohoku region’s recovery.
The Tohoku coastal areas were no longer what they used to be.

Just days after the earthquake, volunteers flocked into the disaster-affected areas from across the nation while extensive disaster relief started arriving from around the globe. They helped the locals remove rubble and debris in order to develop a foundation for the restoration of basic lifelines and infrastructure. This was the first step in the long and arduous Tohoku recovery process.

The removal of disaster debris today*

By the end of March 2014, the removal of debris was completed in 231 municipalities in 15 prefectures, including the prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi. The removal of disaster debris in certain areas of Tohoku is ongoing.

As of March 2016: *Excluding the areas in which evacuation orders are in effect.
Evacuees need a place to call home.

Many in the Tohoku region lost their worldly possessions in the disaster, including their homes. The national and local governments are making the utmost efforts to develop residential land and public housing for the evacuees.

Prospects for the supply of public housing for the disaster-affected and private housing projects and residential land (Relocation to upland)

In each of the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, approximately 46,000 public houses and private residential land properties are scheduled to be developed by March 31, 2018. Each of the municipalities in these prefectures has disclosed highly-detailed development schedules, making even those without housing begin planning for their new lives.

*Figures based on public housing projects for disaster-affected areas.
*Figures include public housing for displaced residents.
The locals devoted themselves to creating new hometowns, aiming to incorporate their dreams and ideas.

Taking their ideas and needs into close consideration, the local governments have carefully developed a master plan for each area for the restoration of public infrastructure and the creation of a safe environment. Housing reconstruction is steadily progressing.

**Reconstruction of towns and housings.**

Out of approximately 20,000 planned units of relocation to upload, 72% has been completed, while 49% will be completed by March 2018 as scheduled. Approximately 50,000 units of public housing for the disaster-aFFECTed are scheduled to be built, while 80% has been completed and 90% will be finished by March 2018. The national and local governments continue their efforts to promptly provide solutions when the locals and their municipalities face difficulties and situations.

*Residential and other land supplied by local governments by land readjustment projects, project for group purchase for disaster prevention, and project for strengthening disaster prevention; figures for overall communities.*

*As of June 30, 2017*
The health and mental support for evacuees must be put first.

We are working closely with volunteers and NPO members from across the nation to provide disaster victims with continuous physical and mental health care. These services will be provided until victims can once again live normal lives.

Number of evacuees*

The number of people who had moved to permanent housing from temporary housing has steadily increased, lowering the number of evacuees from 400,000 to 80,000 in September 2017.

Total number of social welfare coordinators assigned to the disaster-affected areas

Hundreds of certified social workers, including social welfare coordinators, have been assigned to the disaster-affected areas to provide the local residents with welfare services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Iwate</th>
<th>Miyagi</th>
<th>Fukushima</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As of September 30, 2017</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>283</td>
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*As of March 2017
People need jobs to make a living again.

Tōhoku needs its robust fishery, agriculture, and tourism industries restored first, in order to again become an inviting place to live.

We are helping Tōhoku and its people rebuild their places of work through a variety of support systems.

**Change in sales volume**

According to the results of a questionnaire, 44.8% of the businesses surveyed in our Group Subsidy Plan have regained their sales volume levels. Many of them are recording even higher sales levels than before the disaster.

We will further help accelerate Tōhoku’s economic growth by sustaining the development of commercial zones, the revitalization of shopping districts, and the development of new industries in the region.

*The figures shown above have been calculated based on the results of the questionnaire that targeted the businesses enrolled in the Group Subsidy Plan.*
Fukushima will be a place where people can proudly present their home-grown products.

Nature in Fukushima has always been incomparably beautiful and rich, offering an abundance of agricultural, forestry, and fishery resources. The prefecture and its people, however, have suffered serious damage to the reputation due to the nuclear accident. Products produced in the prefecture have been widely shunned in Japan and abroad.

Japan ensures food safety by thorough inspection for radioactive materials based on the most stringent reference value in the world, and only those products which have passed them reach domestic and international markets. With regards to the rice produced in Fukushima Prefecture, for example, all the products are tested for the contamination of radioactive materials.

Initiatives for Inspections of All Bags of Rice in Fukushima Prefecture

Results of inspections of all bags of rice in Fukushima Prefecture show that no bags of rice produced in and after 2015 exceeded the standard limit (100Bq/kg).

Source: Information about the food test of radioactive materials by Fukushima Association for Ensuring Safety of Agricultural Products
Tohoku holds the key to a brighter future for the world.

Tohoku was facing many challenges even before the earthquake, including an ageing population, the fear of peak fossil fuel, and industrial hollowing-out.

In our approach for the reconstruction of Tohoku, the region will not just be returned to the way it was before the disaster: we’re addressing those issues by implementing innovative ideas and are aiming to make the region the world’s "ideal" place to be.

Business developments in the creation of a new Tohoku

A. The development of the world’s most advanced technology – An offshore wind turbine in undergoing experimental research
B. Fukushima Airport boasts a mega solar generation plant, promoting participation in renewable energy generation.
C. Former semiconductor factory – Clean rooms with LED lights are used for the hydroponic production of organic lettuce.
The people of Tohoku have come a long way and are firmly going forward with appreciation for all your support.