




# The Road to Recovery

Recovery and Reconstruction  
from the Great East Japan Earthquake

<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," consisting of the six prefectures of Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, Fukushima.

◀ By the Rikuzentakata 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.



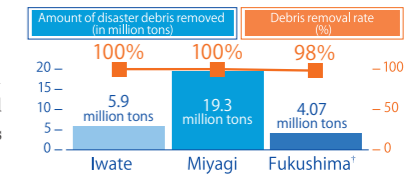
Photo: Iwate Prefecture right after the disaster (Courtesy of Tohoku Regional Bureau Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)

# The Tohoku coastal areas were no longer what they used to be.

Just days after the earthquake, volunteers flowed 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 12 prefectures, including the prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi. The removal of disaster debris in certain areas of Fukushima is ongoing.



\*As of March 2015 †Excluding the areas to which evacuation orders have been issued.



Photo courtesy of Minamisoma city, Fukushima Prefecture



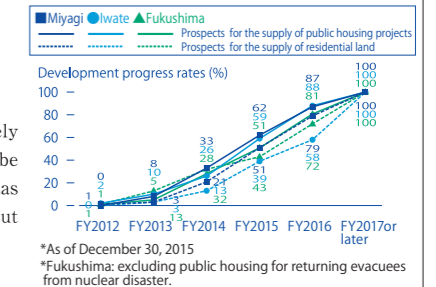
Photo courtesy of Shichigahama-machi, Miyagi Prefecture

## 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 and private housing projects and residential land\* (Relocation to upland)

In each of the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, approximately 27,000 public houses and private residential land properties are scheduled to be developed by March 31, 2016. Each of the municipalities in these prefectures has disclosed highly-detailed development schedules, enabling even those without housing to begin planning for their new lives.



#### ◀Images

Top: Evacuees living in a local school gymnasium right after the disaster  
 Bottom: One of many temporary housing projects in the Tohoku region



Photo courtesy of Yamada Town, Iwate Prefecture



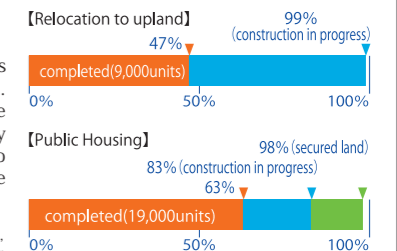
The locals devoted themselves to creating new hometowns, aiming to incorporate their dreams and ideas.

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 at its peak.

#### Reconstruction of towns and housings.

Out of approximately 20,000 planned units of relocation to upland, 47% has completed, while 91% will be completed by March 2018 as scheduled. Approximately 30,000 units of public housing for the disaster-affected are scheduled to be built, while 63% has completed and 97% 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 obstacles.

\*Residential and other land supplied by local governments by land readjustment projects, project for group relocation for disaster prevention, and project for strengthening disaster prevention function for fishery communities.



\*As of June 30, 2016



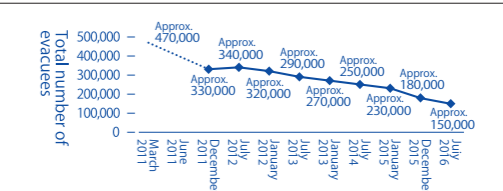
Photo courtesy of Otsuchi town, Iwate Prefecture

# 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 470,000 to 150,000 in July 2016.



\*As of July 31, 2016

## 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.

| Iwate | Miyagi | Fukushima |
|-------|--------|-----------|
| 66    | 152    | 159       |

†As of fiscal year 2015



Photo courtesy of Kesennuma city, Miyagi Prefecture



Photo courtesy of Sendai city, Miyagi Prefecture



Ofunato Fish Market, Iwate Prefecture (Opened in March, 2014)

# People need jobs to make a living again.

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

We are helping Tohoku 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 enrolled in our Group Subsidy Plan have regained their sales volume level. Many of them are recording even higher sales levels than before the disaster. We will further help accelerate Tohoku's economic growth by assisting in the development of commercial zones, the rebuilding of shopping districts, and the development of new industries in the region.

|                | Decreased sales volume after the disaster | Increased sales volume after the disaster |
|----------------|---|---|
| February 2012  | 70.1%                                     | 29.9%                                     |
| September 2012 | 67.6%                                     | 32.4%                                     |
| June 2013      | 63.3%                                     | 36.7%                                     |
| June 2014      | 59.7%                                     | 40.3%                                     |
| June 2015      | 55.2%                                     | 44.8%                                     |

\*The figures shown above have been calculated based on the results of the questionnaire that targeted the businesses enrolled in the Group Subsidy Plan.



Photo courtesy of JA Tamura, Fukushima Prefecture

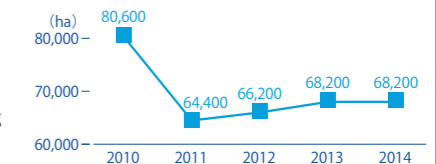
## Fukushima will be a place where people can proudly present their home-grown products.

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, and 100% of those produced in 2014 proved to contain the amount which is less than the standard value.

### Fukushima's rice-paddy acreage

Although Fukushima's rice-paddy acreage has yet to recover it is approaching the level that the prefecture boasted before the disaster.



\*The above graph has been made based on the annual report, "Crop Investigation Report," released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan.



Photo courtesy of Fukushima Offshore Wind Consortium



Photo courtesy of Okuji-kensan



Photo courtesy of Aizufujikako Co., Ltd.

# 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 |  | Images |
|---|--|--------|
| A   | A. The development of the world’s most advanced technology – An offshore sea wind turbine is undergoing experimental research. | B      |
|   | B. Fukushima Airport boasts a mega solar generation plant, promoting participation in renewable energy generation.             | C      |
|   | 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.

