

# Introduction

It has been eleven years since the Great Fast Japan Earthquake struck, causing catastrophic damage and claiming many lives. We would like to once again express our gratitude for the tremendous support and cooperation we have received from individuals and organizations throughout Japan and across the world.

Since the disaster, the prefecture has worked together with the affected cities and towns, the national government, and the private sector, and has put all its efforts for recovery and reconstruction. Over the 10-year period of the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan, we have boldly taken up the challenges of creating a special fishery zone, establishing a new medical school, and privatizing Sendai Airport, among other efforts, with the goal of a creative recovery centered on drastic reconstruction that goes beyond restoration.

The Sanriku Expressway became fully operational this fiscal year and is expected to play a major role in both promoting industry in coastal areas, including the fisheries industry, and in increasing the the number of visitors to the area. Furthermore, the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum was opened in the Minamihama District of Ishinomaki City to commemorate those who lost their lives and to pass on memories and lessons from the disaster.

While a path has been paved for tangible projects, more intangible measures such as mental health care and community revitalization must continue to be addressed in the

future. Furthermore, as the area most affected by the disaster. we have a duty to pass on the memories and lessons of the disaster to the future, both domestically and abroad. Miyagi Prefecture will strive to provide careful and ongoing support for each and every challenge.

This publication is a record of the efforts made toward the recovery of Miyagi Prefecture from fiscal years 2018 to 2020, which is the Development Stage outlined in the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan that was finalized in October 2011.

This publication aims to maintain the collective memories of the disaster and pass on the lessons learned from the disaster, which are otherwise likely to fade away in time. We believe that it can help guide effective responses in the event of a large-scale disaster, aid recovery and rebuilding efforts in disaster-affected areas, and serve as a blueprint for developing a disaster-resistant and safe community in any location. We hope this report will serve those important purposes in many

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March 2022

02 Ishinomaki Area



# **Table of Contents**

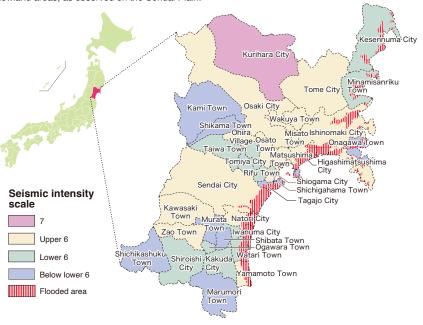
Introduction 01
Overview of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster02
Outline of the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan (created October 2011) 03
Special Report 1: Coverage of the Great East Japan Earthquake, One of the Largest Earthquakes in Recorded History04
Part 1 Chapter 1: 10 Points to Achieving Recovery from the Disaster Major initiatives of the Development Stage (FY 2018-2020)
Chapter 2 : Status of restoration and reconstruction Initiatives by Sector
01 Environment, lifestyle, sanitation, disaster waste 07
02 Healthcare, medical care, welfare 08
03 Economy, commerce, tourism, employment 09
04 Agriculture, forestry, fishery 10
05 Public works facilities11
06 Education 12
07 Disaster prevention, safety, comfort13
Special Report 2: Passing on to the Next Generation14
Chapter 3 : Status of restoration and reconstruction Initiatives in each region
01 Kesennuma-Motoyoshi Area 15

0	3 Sendai Coastal Area19	
0-	4 Inland Area21	
N (E	lilestones in Progress of Reconstruction Events in FY 2018-2020)22	
C	art 2 Chapter 1: Points to Achieving Recovery from the Disaster. Itajor Initiatives Over the Past 10 Years	
С	chapter 2 : 10 Years of Initiatives in Recovery by Sector 25	
Restoration and Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake from a Municipalities' Perspective29  Captions for cover photos		
1	Miyagi Olle Oku-Matsushima Trail Course	
2	Kawamachi Terasu Yuriage	
3	Minamisanriku Earthquake Disaster Memorial Park	
4	Nikoniko Berry	
5	Kesennuma-Oshima Ohashi Bridge	
6	Natori Cycle Sports Center	
	Peach Aviation New Sendai –Naha Air Route	
	Opening Ceremony of the Tobu Reconstruction Road	
	Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park	
10	Tamamoto Town Disaster Memorial Hums,	
	Transmit Elementary School	
	Watari Town Hall's New Building	
	Sanriku Expressway Kesennuma Bridge	
13	Cherry Blossom Planting Event in the Green Buffer	
1/	Zone of Port of Sendai Tagajo District Miyagi Matsushima Rikyu  8  9	
	Fishermen's College in Fiscal Year 2020 (long-term)	
	Musuhimaru dressed in "Haori and Hakama"	
10	makes his first public engagerance	

# **Overview of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster**

A magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred at 2:46 p.m. JST on March 11, 2011, Its epicenter was located off the Sanriku Coast, 130 km east-southeast of the Oshika Peninsula, at a depth of 24 km below sea level. The earthquake caused strong tremors across Miyagi Prefecture, with Kurihara City registering a maximum of 7 on the 7-level Japanese seismic intensity scale, and other places throughout the prefecture recording seismic intensity ranging from an upper 5 to an upper 6.

The earthquake triggered a massive tsunami that hit a wide area along the Pacific coast, spanning multiple prefectures including Miyagi. The huge waves not only inundated communities in coastal areas, but also ran up the rivers several kilometers inland to cause extensive flooding in lowland areas, as observed on the Sendai Plain.



## Time and Date of Occurrence March 11, 2011(Fri.), 2:46 p.m. JST

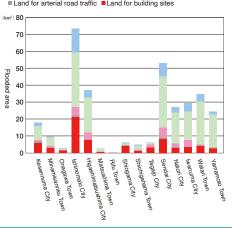
38.1°N 142.5°E (off Sanriku Coast) 130 km east-southeast of the Oshika Peninsula

# 7 (Kurihara City)

 $24_{km}$ 

## ■Scope of flooding from the tsunami, of each municipality, separated by types of land

Rice fields and other farmland, forests, wasteland, golf courses ■ Land for other use (airport, port area, unused develop ■ Land for arterial road traffic ■ Land for building sites



# ■Photographs of the Disaster



Photo: Shishiori District engulfed by a fire induced by the tsunami (Kesennuma City)



Photo: Kennan Sewage Treatment Center inundated by the tsunami (Iwanuma City)



Photo: Charred remains of vehicles and other debris near Kadonowaki Elementary School (Ishinomaki City)



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Photo: Tsunami waves swamping over the pier of a tourist boat wharf (Shiogama City)



Photo: Farmland around Sakamoto Station swamped



Photo: Sendai Airport damaged by the tsunami(Natori City)



About 60% of 561 km ,

associated with the Great East Japan Earthquake

Photo: An isolated Arahama Elementary School



Photo: Shizugawa District surrounded by a large amount



Photo: A police box toppled by the tsunami