

10 Initiatives Targeting Recovery

Main initiatives of the Reconstruction Stage (FY 2014–2015)

Highlights of the plan

To promote recovery, Miyagi Prefecture is pursuing extensive reconstruction by designing new systems and methods that differ dramatically from the conventional approaches of the past. Toward that end, we have promoted the following 10 initiatives to implement our recovery plan. In FY 2014 and 2015, each one of these initiatives has been implemented in a multidisciplinary manner.

01 Constructing a Miyagi disaster-resistant community development model

In the affected cities and towns in the coastal area, seawalls and elevated roadways have been constructed and multiple barriers are being erected to protect against tsunamis. Efforts to relocate housing to higher ground are being carried out in areas along the Rias coast, where construction of multiple tsunami barriers is difficult due to topographical constraints. Also underway is the formulation of evacuation plans and the establishment of a community development plan in which municipalities and residents can work together. The prefecture is also promoting the improvement of roads and bridges connecting islands and the communities of the peninsula.



Photo: Construction of a temporary bridge linking piers on the Jokawa River (Higashimatsushima City)

02 Rebuilding Miyagi's fisheries industry

Among 142 fishing ports in the prefecture, 60 were identified for priority restoration as base fishing ports and as fishing ports targeted for function enhancement; as of end of March 2016, 43% have been restored. The introduction of a new management style was promoted, such as the use of common facilities and partnerships as seen at the Miyagasaki Fishery Processing Industry Complex in Onagawa Town, as well as the application of private investment. Comprehensive development was also promoted by the branding of marine and processed products and by the sixth industry through competitive exhibits, campaigns, etc. of Miyagi's marine processed products.



Photo: Competitive exhibition featuring processed marine products from Miyagi Prefecture

03 Building progressive agriculture and forestry industries

We focused on improving the foundation of production to ensure rapid recovery of agricultural production. We also took steps to make our agriculture both competitive and highly profitable. This encompassed the following initiatives: expansion of the management scale through farmland consolidation for operators and the enlargement of farmland sections; expansion of gardening initiatives with advanced facilities such as the horticultural complexes in the Watari and Yamamoto area and the Ishinomaki area; and promotion of highly-added value approach through farmers' promotion of the sixth industry. In addition to supporting the rapid restoration of disaster-affected plywood and lumber factories, we also strengthened our lumber production system by promoting forest thinning and intensive forest management in order to accommodate recovery demand. We also worked to promote the use of woody biomass for power generation and create new wood demand by introducing new lumber innovations such as CLT*.

* Cross-laminated timber, or thick glue-laminated panels of boards with lumbers arranged in alternating directions

04 Rebuilding the manufacturing industry promptly to achieve a prosperous Miyagi

We continue to financially support businesses affected by the disaster in restoring their facilities and equipment. Through group subsidies, we have granted ¥245.6 billion to 3,937 companies following the earthquake, thereby contributing to the resumption of business. We have taken various initiatives to restore and expand sales channels that were lost due to the earthquake and have launched new initiatives in exporting to the fast-growing economies of Southeast Asia. Furthermore, the logistics infrastructure was strengthened, including the full reopening of the entire Joban Expressway and extension of the Sanriku Expressway. We have also carried out efforts to secure employment opportunities by utilizing new systems, such as the Special Zones for Reconstruction designation, and have promoted industrial conglomerations such as solar panel manufacturers and the rebuilding of factories of major food manufacturers in affected areas.

05 Revitalizing Miyagi's attractive tourism industry

We actively disseminated information on tourism and recovery and promoted the "recovery tourism" campaign and educational travel while implementing seasonal campaigns to attract tourists. As a result, the number of tourists visiting the prefecture recovered almost to the same level recorded before the disaster. In order to create momentum toward privatization of Sendai Airport, we introduced a new tourism campaign in cooperation with airlines to attract tourists from western Japan. In an effort to attract more foreign tourists to Japan, we improved the environment to welcome tourists and introduced promotional initiatives. We also promoted efforts to cooperate with other prefectures in the region and the Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organization to establish a regional tourist route.



Photo: 5th Sendai Airport Supporter Meeting to Achieve 6 Million Passengers & 50,000 Tons of Freight

06 Reconstructing the health, medical and welfare fields comprehensively throughout the region

In addition to improving medical and welfare facilities such as the Minamisanriku Hospital and the Health and Social Welfare Center Minamisanriku, we took steps to ensure the mental and physical care of victims and maintain a perinatal care system that is safe even in the event of a disaster. We worked to ensure the appropriate placement and functional collaboration of health, medical, and welfare institutions. We also promoted rebuilding not only in the affected areas but also throughout the prefecture. Moreover, in addition to establishing the capability to provide seamless medical care by promoting medical cooperation with the use of information and communication technology, we improved the mental health care system for victims through the Miyagi Disaster Mental Health Care Center.



Photo: Minamisanriku Hospital and the Health and Social Welfare Center Minamisanriku (Minamisanriku Town)

07 Developing "eco-towns" that utilize renewable energy

We promoted the introduction of solar power generation, biomass, and other forms of energy and promoted community development utilizing clean energy by subsidizing the cost of introducing these technologies in public facilities. We also supported the installation of independent decentralized power supplies and actively promoted the adoption of solar power generation in disaster public housing. Various regions are promoting the formation of eco towns utilizing renewable energy. In addition, we are promoting initiatives to create advanced communities incorporating mega solar projects in tsunami disaster areas and energy management with a focus on coastal municipalities.



Photo: Mega solar power plant (Iwanuma City)

08 Promoting a disaster-resistant prefecture and nation

We reviewed and updated the overall regional disaster prevention system. In order to create a disaster-resistant prefecture, we improved the Wide-Area Disaster Management Base and Local Disaster Management Bases in seven areas of the prefecture to promote the formation of a system of municipal cooperation. Furthermore, in order to construct a highly earthquake-resistant lifeline and logistics system, we undertook port improvements and improved the seismic resistance of bridges. We took steps to rebuild our disaster prevention system, conducted maintenance on disaster prevention helicopters, and created a framework for nuclear disaster response.



Photo: Basic concept and plan for Miyagi Prefecture's Wide-Area Disaster Management Base

09 Developing human resources for the future

We are training people capable of implementing Miyagi's recovery and are promoting "education that fosters ambition" to develop personnel who can be the driving force of recovery while forging the future. We enhanced disaster preparedness training by establishing facilities such as the Disaster Science Department at Tagajo High School. We also focused careful attention on mental health by dispatching counselors and providing educational counseling to students experiencing mental stress. In order to promote personnel who support the development of the local community, we set out to improve the educational environment in disaster-affected areas. We also helped volunteers participate in planning to promote recovery activities involving youth.



Photo: Miyagi Prefectural Tagajo High School (Tagajo City)

10 Building a framework for financial resources, systems and cooperation that will support recovery efforts

As restoration and recovery efforts have now reached the midpoint, it is necessary for the national government to continue providing strong financial support even after the end of its Concentrated Reconstruction Period which is scheduled until FY 2015. Therefore, we strongly requested that the government provide financial resources in cooperation with other affected prefectures and municipalities. As a result, the financial burden on municipalities from FY 2016 will not affect the recovery. In an effort to promote smooth and rapid recovery, we tapped into the benefits of the Special Zone for Reconstruction System in cooperation with the various municipalities.



Photo: Presentation of requests to the Minister for Reconstruction