



# Tohoku Forward

# Japan Day

June 20, 2012  
Rio+20 Japan Pavilion  
(within the Athletes' Park)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

## Message from Minister for Foreign Affairs

More than a year has now passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and thanks to the kind support of the international community, the Tohoku region is steadily moving forward along the path of recovery and development.

The earthquake resulted in profound sorrow and unprecedented challenges for Japan, but we have been encouraged by global recognition of Japanese values typified by the fortitude and resilience of Tohoku residents as they refused to give up hope in the wake of the disaster.

I hope that the displays in the Japan Pavilion and the Japan Day program on June 20 will give the people of the world a real sense of the powerful revival taking place in Tohoku as well as the attractions and new possibilities of this region as it forges ahead with green innovation and smart city projects.



玄米光一郎  
Koichiro Gemba  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Japan



## Japan Day [Venue] Event space

Seminar June 20 11:15—14:30

Japan Evening June 20 17:00—19:00

### Reconstruction of Sustainable Societies after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Free Admission

### —TOHOKU FORWARD—

Invitation Only

Part I 11:15—12:30

#### Building Sustainable Societies through Reconstruction

—Working with the International Community for Regenerating Japan—

- **Goshi Hosono** "Opening Remarks"  
Minister of the Environment of Japan

- **Wakako Hironaka**  
Director General, Global Environmental Action (GEA) / Former Minister of the Environment of Japan  
"Report of GEA International Conference 2011"
- **Kazuhiko Takeuchi**  
Vice-Rector of UNU / Director of IR3S, The University of Tokyo  
"Sustainability through Post-disaster Rebuilding: Living in Harmony with Nature"

Light refreshments served

Part II 12:45—13:35

#### Rebuilding the Tohoku Region in the Context of Sustainable Development

- **Takao Kakizaki** Keynote Speaker  
Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Nihon University  
"Our Challenge for Sustainable Fukushima through Its Revival and Development"

- **Eiji Suzuki**  
President, Association for Rehabilitation of Coastal Forest in Natori  
"Restoration of Coastal Forest in Natori, Miyagi Prefecture"
- **Matthew Selwyn Gubb**  
Director, UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre  
"UNEP International Experience-sharing Mission to Tohoku, Japan, on Managing Disaster Debris"

Part III 13:35—14:30

#### Discussion and Wrap-up

- **Hiroshi Komiyama**  
Chairman of the Institute, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. / President Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
- **Hiroshi Ohki**  
Advisor, Global Environmental Action (GEA) / Former Minister of the Environment

- **Shunichi Yamaguchi**  
Vice Chair, Global Environmental Action (GEA) / Member, House of Representatives, Japan
  - **Hiroshi Ogino**  
Senior Assistant to Board Director, Project Team on Climate Change, The Asahi Shimbun
- [Hosted by] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Rebuilding after the Great East Japan Earthquake is the theme of the Japan Evening, which features participation by people from damaged areas in the Tohoku region. The venue has a space devoted to recovery messages from Tohoku and a tasting corner, where guests can sample local dishes and Japanese sake. Also on the program is entertainment including a powerful taiko drum performance by Wadaiko Sho.

[Hosted by]  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

[In cooperation with]  
Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, The Japan Foundation, Associação Iwate Kenjinkai do Brasil, Associação Miyagui Kenjinkai do Brasil, Associação Fukushima Kenjin do Brasil, Associação Cultural e Esportiva Nipo-Brasileira do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Associação Nikkei do Rio de Janeiro, Câmara de Comércio e Indústria Japonesa do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto Cultural Brasil-Japão, Associação Civil de Divulgação Cultural e Educacional Japonesa do Rio de Janeiro

\* The access to the venue is limited to a United Nations conference pass or exhibitor identification badge holder from June 20 to 22.

— TOHOKU Charm —



**Wanko soba**  
A traditional style of serving soba noodles in small bowls, with as many refills as you like.



**Matsushima**  
Matsushima Bay contains almost 260 islands, and is famous for its beautiful scenery.



**Sendai Tanabata Festival**  
In this famous summer festival, the city of Sendai is decorated with gigantic streamers covered with prayers and wishes.



**Cows grazing near Mt. Iwate**  
Dairy cattle graze in the pastures of Koiwai Farm, Iwate.



**Soma Nomaoi Festival**  
Youths clad in feudal period armor parade on horseback in this famous festival.



**Aizu Candle Festival**  
Tsuruga Castle, built in 1384, rises above the mysterious sight of thousands of glowing hand-painted candles.

— From the Spot of Revival —



**Children playing sports**  
Young soccer players are taught by a volunteer coach.



**A helping hand**  
Everyone lends a helping hand as they flee their wrecked town.



**Aircraft return to the skies**  
The first flight from Sendai Airport which reopened just one month after the tsunami.



**Reunited**  
Three separated sisters find each other at an evacuation center.



**Flowers of Fukushima**  
In the summer of 2011, beauty returns to Fukushima as the season's flowers bloom.



**Iris festival in Aizu Misatomachi.**  
"Good news" in the language of flowers.

**A field of sunflowers in Minamisoma.**  
"Love" in the language of flowers.

Messages from Governors in TOHOKU Region

IWATE

岩手



達増拓也  
Takuya Tasso  
Governor of Iwate

In Iwate, a great number of people lost their lives to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011.  
On behalf of the people of Iwate, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the warm and encouraging sympathy, condolences, and support we received from all over the world during this disaster.

Now, with this indescribable situation before our very eyes, we are determined to ensure that this tsunami is the last one that causes loss of human life. We will overcome the pain and sadness of the destruction so that we can return to a society in which people can live and work safely.

Hiraizumi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and pride of Iwate, was built according to Buddhist thought. It left us magnificent temples and gardens, and conveys to us the idea that we should live together respecting every life.

We, the people of Iwate, have gained the strength to carry on from the sympathy and encouragement we have received throughout the world. Together we can gather that strength, and with hope, we can strive step by step towards reconstruction with the ideas of Hiraizumi in our hearts.

MIYAGI

宮城



村井嘉浩  
Yoshihiro Murai  
Governor of Miyagi

Over a year has passed since the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. This disaster took away our family, friends, work, property and memories in one split second.

Yet in the middle of such turmoil, we received unconditional support and encouraging messages from our friends in the international community, giving us hope and courage to get back on our feet. On behalf of Miyagi Prefecture, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your generous assistance.

Since the disaster, affected areas are making gradual progress towards recovery. Efforts are being made to restore Miyagi's sightseeing spots. Our spirit of hospitality remains unchanged and we wait in eagerness for visitors from abroad.

I pledge to bring our people together as one to overcome this disaster and rebuild a Miyagi the world will be proud of. As the road to recovery is long and many continue to live in difficult situations, I ask for your continued support and cooperation.

FUKUSHIMA

福島



佐藤 雄平  
Yuhei Sato  
Governor of Fukushima

It has been over a year since the disaster struck, we have received immeasurable support from around the world. Such heartfelt support has greatly helped, inspired and encouraged the people of Fukushima. I express my sincere appreciation to all our friends. Thanks to your support, Fukushima Prefecture has regained its vitality and vibrancy. Damage caused by the disaster still remains but life in most of the regions has now returned to normal.

Humankind has never before experienced this type of disaster where the natural catastrophes of an earthquake and tsunami were followed by a nuclear disaster which in turn caused reputational damage to the whole prefecture. We must reflect earnestly on why this type of multifaceted disaster occurred, and pass down the lessons we learn from it to future generations.

The slogan "Future, From Fukushima" will show the world a new style of society that balances community development along with global environmental conservation, as well as demonstrate the importance of mutual support among local residents and the promotion of regional culture and pride.  
Lastly, I hope for your ongoing interest in Fukushima for your continued support.