

Iwaki Vision

A Decade Later

Remembering the Impact of
the Great Eastern Japan
Earthquake



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Iwaki, Japan, showing a large fire in the foreground. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick black smoke rising from it. The town consists of numerous houses with blue and white roofs, and some buildings are partially obscured by the fire. The background shows a body of water and a long pier or breakwater extending into the sea.

A word from the editor:

It is with both honour and trepidation that I have compiled this special edition on the Great East Japan Earthquake as my first volume of Iwaki Vision. With an event that altered the lives of so many, it's impossible to tell where to begin in trying to fit it into a ten pages. I'd like to apologize for any nuance omitted, whether due to the short nature of the publication, or my own inexperience.

In covering 3.11, I had hoped to avoid "silver linings" narratives, and allow events that are tragic to simply be as such. Nonetheless, what stood out to me throughout research and interviews was the determination to rebuild among those in Iwaki, and the bonds that were strengthened as a result of the disaster - whether between people, or between cities.

I would like to express my special thanks to the Iwaki 3.11 Revitalisation and Memorial Museum, for allowing the use of their comprehensive photo archives, and to Jayne Nakata, Keiko Rodriguez-Takahashi, and John Loynes, for sharing their experiences of the disaster - without which this volume would not be possible. I would like to further extend that gratitude to all of those who've overcome vulnerability and shared their experiences of the disaster with me throughout my time in Iwaki.

Liam

Iwaki Vision is produced by the Tourism Exchange Division of Iwaki City Hall.
21 Umemoto Taira Iwaki City Fukushima Prefecture Japan 970-8686 TEL: +81 246 22-1279
Fax: +81 246 22-7581
<http://www.city.iwaki.lg.jp> Email: kankokoryu@city.iwaki.lg.jp

Open Hours: 9am-5pm (Last Entry at 4:30pm)
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