

Olympic “Flame of Recovery” Display in Iwaki



With the Tokyo 2020 Olympics being designated as the “Reconstruction Games”, this year’s torch relay included a special Flame of Recovery display in each of the three prefectures that were the most affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures). Held in each prefecture for two days, the special torch display concluded in Aquamarine Park on 25 March 2020. Although the event was forced to be scaled down, about 3600 people still came to see this historical event and pray for the ongoing revitalisation of Iwaki and the rest of Fukushima.



Iwaki was scheduled to be one of the first places that the Olympic torch would pass through on the following day. However, the relay was unfortunately cancelled in light of the announcement that the Olympics would be postponed. Despite this, Iwaki was fortunate to get a small taste of the excitement that Tokyo 2020 hopes to provide when the Olympics finally kick off next year.



Photos:

Page 2: The cherry blossom-shaped Flame of Recovery on display in Iwaki.

Top Left: Attendees observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Top Right: A student from Onahama 2nd Junior High School ignites the flame.

Bottom Left: Around 3600 spectators spread out across Aquamarine Park when viewing the Flame of Recovery.

Bottom Right: The Onahama 2nd Junior High School Students stand beside the giant torch alongside official guests (Left to right: Toshio Shimizu, Mayor of Iwaki; Masao Uchibori, Governor of Fukushima; Yukihiko Nunomura, Vice Director General (COO) of the Tokyo Organising Committee; Shin'ichi Yokoyama, State Minister for Reconstruction).

**Photos provided by the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games Section of Iwaki City Hall.*