



# Otsuchi Reconstruction Report

## OUTLINE

Due to the tragic tsunami deluge of our hometown of Otsuchi on March 11, 2011, 52% of the residential area (= 431ha) was submerged under water and 1,284 lives were lost. Striving to overcome this tragedy, the town of Otsuchi established a Master Plan for Reconstruction on December 26, 2011, which provides the hazard area maps based on the tsunami simulation, and highlights priority projects including town redemarcation, collective relocation of residents, school relocation, public housing construction and other related projects. Three years after the devastating tsunami, however, the progress of these projects is still slow because of difficulties in land acquisition, and other issues involved. The projects are scheduled to be completed before the end of March 2016. Every effort is being made to complete these challenging reconstruction projects.

### 1. Outline of the damage from tsunami

#### Human Damage

Confirmed dead	803
Reported missing	431
Related deaths	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,284</b>

#### Population

15,994 as of March 11, 2011
12,673 as of March, 2014

#### Property Damage

Houses completely destroyed	3,359
Houses partially destroyed	713
Submerged areas	431ha 52% of residential 98% of commercial

Death toll reduced the population by nearly 10%. About 4,000 people who lost their houses are living in the temporary housing scattered over 48 sites. It is expected that more and more people will be moving from Otsuchi if the reconstruction is delayed.



Figure 1& Figure 2. Aerial Photo before the tsunami (left) and after the tsunami with submerged area (right)

### 2. Outline of the Reconstruction Plan

The construction of sea embankment and rehabilitation of port facilities will be done by Iwate Prefecture. The town of Otsuchi is responsible for other projects such as the town re-demarcation, collective relocation of residents, relocation of schools, public housing construction, reconstruction of fishery facilities, and other supporting projects. Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the reconstruction plans of the Machikata and Sawayama areas respectively. The ground level in the

Machikata residential area will be raised about 2 meters to avoid being submerged.

1) Town redemarcation	4 areas, 52.5ha
2) Collective relocation	5 areas, 59.9ha
3) Public housing construction	980(Pref. 500, Town 480)

Otsuchi Elementary School and Otsuchi Junior High School will be reconstructed in the Sawayama area (Figure4).

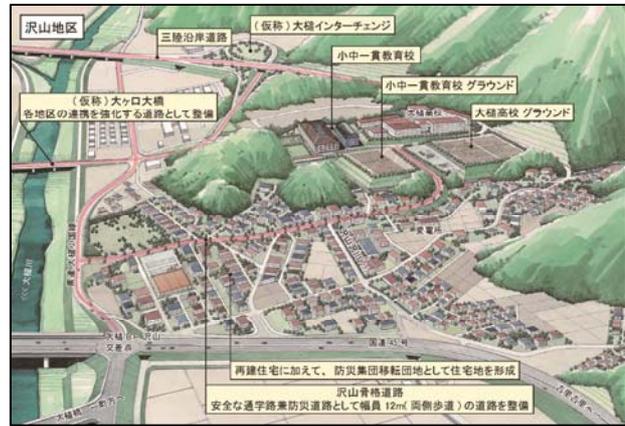
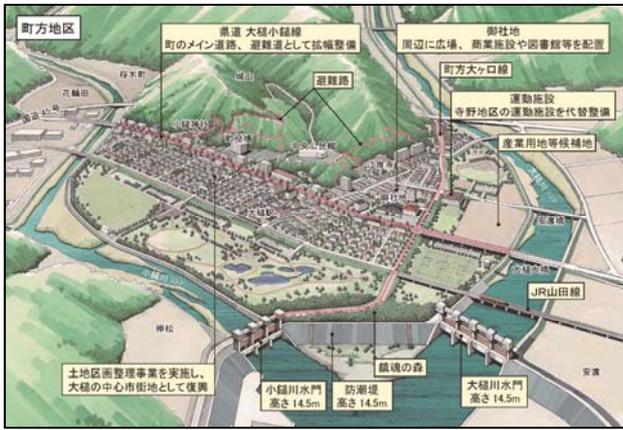


Figure3&Figure4. Overview of reconstruction plan: Machikata area (left) and Sawayama area (right)

## 2. Current progress of reconstruction plan

### 1) Town re-demarcation

Project commencement was agreed upon for 97% of the land. Preparatory works such as road re-routing and removal of existing concrete foundations are now underway. Re-plotting plans are being designed. Meetings to explain the plans to local residents will be scheduled.

### 2) Collective relocation

65% of the land which was originally inhabited but designated as hazardous after the disaster is purchased by the municipal government. 54% of the land which will be a new residential and commercial area is also acquired by the Town.

### 3) Public housing construction

125 houses (34 in Kirikiri, 70 in Ogakuchi, 21 in Yashikimae) were built in the fiscal year 2013 and already inhabited. In the fiscal year 2014, 36 houses (13 in Masanai, 23 in Ogakuchi 2-chome) will be built and the construction of 203 houses will begin.



Figure 5. Completed public housing at Ogakuchi

### 4) Other information

- Preservation plans for the collapsed town office will be studied and discussed.
- Archiving project to keep the record of residents who died due to the tsunami was started in May 2014.
- The Town of Otsuchi established a company in March 2013 for the promotion of town reconstruction..
- A task force will address population issues beginning in June 2014.



Figure 6. Current view from Shiroyama hill (May, 2014)

Contact: General Policy Planning Division  
 TEL: +81-193-42-8724  
 E-mail: sougouseisaku@town.otsuchi.iwate.jp