

On the 10th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake



March 11, 2021 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and I would like to offer my deepest condolences for all those who lost their lives and my heartfelt sympathy to all those who were affected.

On that fateful day, a tsunami hit Sendai Airport 70 minutes after the earthquake, flooding the runways, terminal buildings, and other areas, and halting all the airport's operations.

Approximately 1,700 people, including passengers, local residents and airport staff took shelter in the airport. They were forced to remain in the terminal building due to the flooding and damage to the local infrastructure, and it took six days for everyone to evacuate the airport.

Initially, it was expected to take a considerable amount of time to recover from the damage, but thanks to the tremendous support from the U.S. Armed Forces, the Japan Self-Defense Forces, Miyagi Prefecture, and other parties throughout Japan, as well as from overseas, the first restored flight was operated on April 13, 2011, just one month after the earthquake. Regularly scheduled flights were resumed subsequently.

We would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation you provided to Sendai Airport.

In July 2016, five years after the earthquake, as a part of the Creative Reconstruction projects initiated by Miyagi Prefecture, Sendai Airport became the first privatized national airport in Japan under the slogan "Bringing the World to Tohoku." We have aimed to revitalize the entire Tohoku region through increasing visitors to Tohoku and have taken steps forward towards realizing this vision.

To operate an airport that requires a high degree of public service, it is necessary to function as a disaster relief base in the event of an emergency as well as providing functions for flight operations.

We at Sendai International Airport, which has its root in Miyagi and Tohoku, will never forget the tragic events and lessons learned from the earthquake. We will continue to work together with all the airport's stakeholders to make it even safer and more secure.

March 11, 2021

Sendai International Airport Co., Ltd.
Chief Executive Officer

Akito Toba