A little over nine years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, and recovery in the hard hit Tohoku region is progressing steadily. We interview Ishida Masaru, Director-General of the Reconstruction Agency of the Japanese government, to hear his thoughts on the overall state of recovery in the affected areas and the challenges that still lie ahead. We introduce some inspiring examples of reconstruction, such as the redevelopment of Onagawa Town in Miyagi Prefecture and the reopening of J-Village in Fukushima Prefecture, the national training center for football. We take a look too at some of the remarkable landscapes, culture and food that help to define the “North East” of Japan, Tohoku.

Photo: Tanaka Satoshi