

Revival of Facilities That Protect Human Life Heartfelt Friendship from Taiwan



▲ A stone monument expressing gratitude to Taiwan installed in front of the Minamisanriku Hospital and Social Welfare Care Centre Minamisanriku. President of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of China (Taiwan Red Cross) (second from right), advisor from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan (far right), mayor of Minamisanriku (center), and director of Minamisanriku Hospital (far left), who were present at the inauguration ceremony on November 25, 2015.

On December 14, 2015, Minamisanriku Hospital and Social Welfare Care Centre Minamisanriku opened on high ground in the Shizugawa district. The town's core medical facility had been Shizugawa Hospital, a five-story building, which had flooded up to the fourth floor; as a result, 74 patients and nurses had died. The need to revive facilities that protect and support human life was urgent. The new hospital is equipped with 90 beds and has 10 departments, including internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics. Functions provided by the Health and Welfare Division, the Regional Comprehensive Support Center, the Home Nursing Station, the Minamisanriku Social Welfare Council, the Child Care Support Center, and the like were also consolidated into this facility.

Construction costs for the new hospital were supported by relief funds from Taiwan. Of the construction cost of approximately 5.6 billion yen, 2.22 billion yen, or about 40%, were donated by the Red Cross Society of the Republic of China (Taiwan Red Cross).



▲ Minamisanriku Hospital and Social Welfare Care Centre Minamisanriku

The building of the hospital allowed Minamisanriku and Taiwan to deepen their friendship, with visits happening to and from both places. Interactions with the Minamisanriku community were deepened, with an intern from Taiwan sent to the Minamisanriku Tourism Association and students on a study tour from Taiwan staying in lodgings in a private residence during their visit.