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01/ In the small fishing village near Cape Tappi you can see a large number of colorful beach shacks made from iron sheeting. 02/ Everyone seems to find a little more pace with multi-athlete Tetsuya Tanaka leading the way, riding between villages. 03/ Okutsugaru-Imabetsu Station on the Hokkaido Shinkansen line is due to be completed in 2016. Construction is progressing at a feverish pace. This will improve access to Tsugaru Peninsula. 04/ The pedestrian only Stairway Highway. Cyclists usually carry their bikes up this section. Other tourists cheer you on. 05/ A town signboard made using the blades from a wind turbine. "Welcome to the cape of the wind" it says along the road to Tappi. 06/ Looking out over the tip of Cape Tappi, said to have wind strong enough for a dragon to fly.

**Course 5 OKU-TSUGARU**

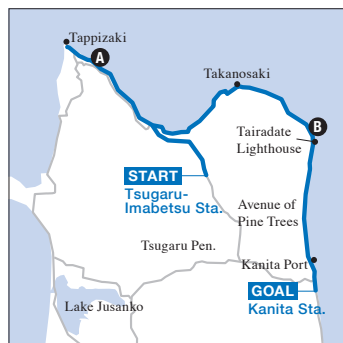
Distance: 73 km Duration: 5 hours

## Clear Northern Day Ride

Long ride to the tip of Tsugaru Peninsula with views of the Tsugaru Strait and Mutsu Bay

# 5

- A Tourist Information Center Tappi-Kan**  
59-12, Minmaya Tatsuhama, Sotogahama-machi  
TEL.0174-31-8025
- B Tairadate Road Station**  
Tarouemonsawa1-3, Tairadate, Sotogahama-machi  
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Tsugaru-Imabetsu Station will become Okutsugaru-Imabetsu Station with the opening of the Hokkaido Shinkansen in 2016. Departing from this station, we are guided on this course by multi-athlete Tetsuya Tanaka. Tanaka is a one-legged cyclist who represented Japan in the Paralympics.

Heading north along the coastal road, we pass by colorful shacks made of iron sheeting and buoys strewn along the beach. The Okuya Inn where the famous Japanese author Dazai Osamu apparently once stayed has been converted into the Cape Tappi Tourist Information Center. Photos are on display

showing the building in its heyday. No one would have imagined then that a wonderful cycling track would have been built right here.

Continuing on we come to Stairway Highway 339, a pedestrian only section. After climbing to the top we arrive at Cape Tappi, described in Dazai's novel *Tsugaru* as the "cul-de-sac of Honshu." Apparently the name Tappi originates from the fact that wind is strong enough for a dragon to fly. The sight of the Tsugaru Strait from the cliff top is breathtakingly beautiful.