



4. Bills Submitted by the Governor:

- i. The 2012 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget, etc. (4 items)
- ii. Ordinance Amending One Section of the Miyagi Prefectural Tax Ordinance, etc. (7 items)
- iii. Official designation of prefectural roadways, etc. (23 items)
- iv. Personnel affairs related to the appointment of Public Safety Committee members (1 item)

5. Assembly Question Time:

16 assembly members asked general questions regarding the various challenges faced by the prefectural administration in restoration and recovery from the earthquake disaster.

6. Proposals:

- i. Proposal Seeking Resumption of the Emergency Housing Repair System that is based on the Disaster Relief Act
- ii. Proposal Seeking New Construction of Medical Schools in order to Revive Local Medical Care Services in Disaster-Stricken Areas
- iii. Proposal Seeking Improvement of Projects which Create Employment to Aid Business Recovery
- iv. Proposal Seeking Continuation of the Restoration and Maintenance Subsidy Project for Facilities of Small and Medium Enterprise Groups
- v. Proposal Seeking Continuation of Measures to Partially Cover the Medical Expenses of Those Insured Persons who were Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake
- vi. Proposal Seeking Extension of Financial Support for Measures to Reduce Nursing Care Insurance Payments as well as Financial Support for Measures to Reduce Food and Housing Expenses for Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake
- vii. Proposal Seeking Enhancement and Strengthening of Local Government Finances
- viii. Proposal Seeking Reconstruction of Social Infrastructure through the Disaster Prevention and Reduction New Deal
- ix. Proposal Seeking Prompt Establishment of National Qualifications for Those Working in the Field of Psychology
- x. Proposal Seeking Environmental Improvement oriented towards Promotion of Renewable Energy
- xi. Proposal Seeking Designation of Cockayne Syndrome as a Target Illness for the Research Project for Overcoming Intractable Illnesses (Clinical Survey Research Field) and the Research Project for Treatment of Rare Chronic Childhood Illnesses
- xii. Proposal Seeking Development of Legislation Regarding Foreign Capital Land Sales
- xiii. Proposal Seeking Development of Legislation to Protect the Senkaku Islands, which are inherently Our Country's Territories

7. Supplementary Opinions of the Special Budget Committee:

Supplementary opinions regarding the 2012 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget:

Concerning restoration and recovery assistance project expenses for small and medium-sized enterprises, the committee would like the prefectural government to dedicate their utmost efforts to securing the necessary budget to respond to incoming applications for aid.

8. Petitions:

Adopted petitions (2 items):

Regarding establishment of a system to protect children and expectant and nursing mothers from radiation  
Seeking the submission of a proposal concerning the continued issuance of nursing care insurance payment reduction/exemption certificates for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

9. Results:

Bills submitted by the governor	35 items passed, approved	
Bills submitted by assembly members	Proposed bills (memorial address)	1 item passed
	Resolutions	2 items passed
	Proposals	13 items passed
	Petitions	2 items adopted

## 2. Main Details of the Assembly Question Time

### 1. Assistance for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Enquiry: Regarding the significant decrease in this fiscal year's initial budget for small and medium-sized business facility improvement and promotion assistance projects carried out independently by the prefecture in order to help disaster-affected businesses restart their operations

Response: We will continue to carry out comprehensive examinations considering such issues as the state of restoration of prefectural small and medium-sized manufacturers, applicant numbers, group subsidy trends, as well as the utilisation of other support measures.

### 2. Embankment Maintenance

Enquiry: Regarding each region's variable response to the height of embankments being restored by the prefecture

Response: The basic principle is to compare the estimated levels of tsunami and high tides, then build embankments to the height of whichever is decided to be higher. In some cases, if there are no houses or other such structures to protect, the embankments are being restored to pre-disaster heights.

### 3. Debris Disposal

Enquiry: Since it is difficult to find other areas willing to assist in debris disposal, should the prefecture not concentrate its efforts on expanding its own waste processing capacity?

Response: Under the objective of managing debris disposal to the extent of the prefecture's abilities, we are currently in the process of expanding waste processing operations. While considering the impact on the

thoughts and feelings of those living in the disaster-stricken areas, as well as regional recovery plans, we are aiming to complete disposal operations by March 2014. Taking into account also the processing costs, we are dedicating all our strength to dealing with the issue while combining waste disposal efforts both within and outside the prefecture.

#### **4. Forest Embankments**

Enquiry: Regarding the proactive implementation of the “Green Tide Embankment” initiative, which utilises disaster debris for embankment maintenance

Response: The forest embankment initiative will be carried out as part of efforts to create coastal disaster prevention forests and disaster prevention landscapes. We are thinking of progressive, multiple-level disaster prevention methods such as reconstruction of embankments, elevation of roads and railways, and establishment of a residential evacuation system. We will present this to the world as “The Miyagi Model.”

#### **5. Regarding the Rumour Damage Following the Incident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant**

Enquiry: Regarding the fact that compensation for damage caused by harmful rumours about agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products in Miyagi Prefecture is not incorporated in the national interim guidelines

Response: We have continued efforts to bring attention to the actual state of affairs in regard to rumour damage, but a substantial investigation remains to be conducted and the guidelines are still unrevised. This will not suffice by any means. Residents and business owners must substantiate their damage claims individually on a case-by-case basis; it is extremely unfortunate that this status quo is not more sympathetic to the disaster victims’ situations.

#### **6. Crisis Management in Schools**

Enquiry: A large number of schools lacked tsunami evacuation manuals and disaster supply reserves to deal with the crisis of the Great East Japan Earthquake. What countermeasures will be taken?

Response: Disaster prevention officials will be stationed in all public schools starting in April 2012. Around September, a set of “Basic Safety Guidelines for Miyagi Schools (temp. name)” will be decided upon and presented in the prefecture’s municipalities and all schools in order to reconstruct the safety management system in cooperation with the surrounding regions.

### **3. Reviews and Surveys Carried Out by Standing Committees**

Bills and petitions were reviewed during the May Extraordinary Meeting and the June Regular Meeting.

May 2012 Extraordinary Meeting:

Environment, Lifestyle, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Committee (Other standing committees were not held due to lack of relevant proposed bills.)

Bill regarding the conclusion of the construction consignment contract (Disaster-Related Waste Disposal Affairs, in charge of disaster-related waste disposal, facility construction, etc. (Kesenuma District, Kesenuma City))

June 2012 Regular Meeting:

- i. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee  
Bills such as the ordinance amending one section of the Miyagi Prefectural Tax Ordinance were reviewed and voted on
- ii. Environment, Lifestyle, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Committee  
Bills such as that regarding the conclusion of the construction service contract (reconstruction of the Onagawa Fishing Harbor wharf) were reviewed and voted on
- iii. Health and Welfare Committee  
Review of the petition seeking establishment of a system to protect children and expectant and nursing mothers from radiation
- iv. Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Committee  
Bills such as that regarding settlement and damage compensation amounts were reviewed and voted on
- v. Construction Enterprise Committee  
Bills such as the ordinance amending one section of the Building Lots and Buildings Transaction Business Act Enforcement Ordinance were reviewed and voted on
- vi. Education and Public Safety Committee  
Report regarding the selection of public high school students for the 2013 academic year, etc.

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

1. Appeal to Minister for Reconstruction Hirano and Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction Kori (2012.4.18)  
The Miyagi Prefectural Assembly, the National Association of Chairpersons of City Councils, and the National Association Chairmen of Town and Village Assemblies made a joint appeal to the Reconstruction Agency and the government. More than a year has passed since the earthquake disaster, but the road to recovery is still long, and a number of issues remain to be resolved.  
Under these circumstances, a formal appeal was submitted, addressing significant current issues. The three targeted issues included "Reconstruction/Recovery-Oriented Response Measures According to the Actual Conditions of Affected Regions," "Response Measures to the Diffusion of Radioactive Materials," and "Continued Advancement of Disaster-Related Waste Disposal." Each issue presents a great challenge for both the citizens and the local governments of disaster-stricken areas. Following the submission of the appeal, an opinion exchange took place.
2. Opinion Exchange with Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction Kori (2012.5.25)  
An opinion exchange was held with Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction Kori at the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly.  
22 members attended from the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly, including: Vice-Chairman Sasaki; the chairman, vice-chairman, and the director of the Special Committee for the Survey of Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Recovery Measures; as well as the chief and vice-chairs of each of the sub-committees. From

the Restoration Agency, Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction Kori was in attendance as well as 7 members from the Miyagi Reconstruction Office.

Beginning with opinions concerning the distribution of recovery subsidies, the discussion covered a wide range of topics, including assistance for soil level elevation, flexibility in responding to the double-loan problem, assistance for relocation to higher ground, the Restoration and Maintenance Subsidy Project for Facilities of Small and Medium Enterprise Groups, response to the damage caused by rumour damage to the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as well as the tourism industries, and furthermore, the utilisation of debris for embankment building.

i. Restoration and Maintenance Subsidy Projects for Facilities of Small and Medium Enterprise Groups

3. A Forum Discussion among the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sendai City Assembly and the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (2012.7.9)

The third forum meeting with the Sendai City Assembly was held. The chairman and vice-chairman of both assemblies met to discuss cooperation in reconstruction and recovery efforts, and also the mutual undertaking of a collaborative search for solutions to such issues as independently implemented assistance measures for reconstruction of disaster-stricken households and the lack of manpower among disaster-affected local governments.