

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 342<sup>nd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2013 Regular Meeting)

### 1. Overview

1. Session: September 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues.) – October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues.) 2013: 31 days

2. Assembly Proposals Total: 1

“In regards to the alteration of designation of independent management authority”

3. Resolutions Total: 1

“Resolution for the pursuance of stronger national anti-water pollution measures, including those concerning radioactive waste”

4. Assembly Suggestions Total: 9

- I. “Suggestions regarding the augmentation of private school subsidies”
- II. “Pursuance of special legislative measures to lengthen the deadline for claims of restitution due to losses incurred from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station incident”
- III. “Suggestions regarding basic policy proposals of ‘the Children and TEPCO Nuclear Disaster Victims’ Support Act”
- IV. “Suggestions regarding securing of sustainable finances etc. for the improvement of the mental health of disaster affected victims”
- V. “Suggestions in regards to construction of final disposal facility of designated waste such as polluted rice straw”
- VI. “Pursuance of lifting Korea’s ban of Miyagi Prefecture fishery products”
- VII. “Suggestions regarding the promotion of earthquake-resistant reinforcement of Japanese-styled and Western-styled hotels, etc.”
- VIII. “Pursuance of improvement of wildlife protective measures”
- IX. “Pursuance of continued adherence to the government’s financial contribution and management of the compulsory education system”

5. Bills Submitted by the Governor Total: 81

- 2013 Miyagi fiscal year general accounting supplementary budget revisions, etc. (6 items)
- Partial amendment of ordinances on the establishment of government organizations, etc. (18 items)
- In regards to the finalization of construction sub-contracting contracts, etc. (53 items)
- In regards to the authorization of the 2012 Miyagi fiscal year general accounting settlements and all special account settlements, etc. (2 items)
- “In regards to pursuing consensus on the appointment of members to the Board of Education”

## 6. Petitions Total: 1

“In regards to the pursuance of the submission of suggestions concerning education subsidies from the national government and the Diet”.....Adopted

## 7. Questions & Inquiries

2 assembly members made representative inquiries while 16 assembly members made general inquiries in regards to issues facing the prefecture in the midst of its transition from the restoration stage to the reconstruction stage.

## 8. Results:

Assembly Proposals	1 item approved
Resolutions	1 item approved
Assembly Suggestions	9 items approved
Bills Submitted by the Governor	81 items approved
Petitions	1 item adopted

## **2. Main Details of the Assembly Inquiry Session**

### 1. In regards to the various recovery challenges for life in Miyagi:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about the various recovery challenges of life in Miyagi, including that of preventing population decrease and the promotion of stable residency, employment and housing creation.
- Reply: The resumption of disaster affected businesses thanks to, amongst others, “The Group Subsidy” is moving forward. Also, with the creation of the “Subsidy for the Location of Businesses for Creating Employment in the Areas Affected by the Tsunami and the Nuclear Accident,” businesses have begun establishing facilities in the coastal areas. In order to promote stable residency and prevent population decrease, we believe that ensuring housing, such as public housing for the disaster affected, and stable employment are of the utmost importance.

### 2. In regards to measures for reimbursement or partial reimbursement of medical fees for the disaster affected:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about requested re-imbursement measures for medical costs.
- Reply: Upon conducting a survey of prefectural cities, towns, and villages (the bearers of the cost of paying out insurance monies), municipalities answered that “the national government should bear the entire financial burden in consideration of municipality insurance contract conventions.” Miyagi prefecture intends to demand that the national government take on all financial burden of, amongst others, low-income earners.

### 3. In regards to seawall construction plans:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about the plans to construct a seawall in Kesenuma City's central bay area, among other areas.
- Reply: We are making all efforts to collaborate with local regions and build consensus for preparations of sea walls, which constitute a large part of the recovery effort in the disaster affected areas. We intend to work closely to move forward coordination with local areas and Kessenuma City as we set up local recovery plans in which seawalls are of central importance to town planning.

#### 4. In regards to plans to maintain rivers:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about the prospects of maintaining rivers, taking into account recent climate conditions and flash rains that occur.
- Reply: In all regions, the danger of floods has increased greatly; from upstream to downstream areas, flood control measures will need to be taken. We intend to continue efforts to reevaluate river maintenance plans in their early stages.

#### 5. In regards to tourism:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about efforts to bolster Recovery Tourism.
- Reply: The tourism industry, with its broad influence and importance for economic growth, plays a vital role for the prefecture. Keeping in mind that Sendai Airport can be privatized, we are making efforts to attract tourists from west Japan and abroad as a part of our larger tourism strategy. The passing on of experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake is also one of the prefecture's responsibilities. We are also engaging in preparations for disaster educational tours.

### **3. Standing Committees**

#### 1. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

- We conducted surveys in Kurihara City and other areas about the issues and current situation of recovery projects and the effects of TPP. We also conducted surveys in Kumamoto Prefecture regarding their Kumamon mascot promotion efforts.
- Assembly bill "Partial Amendment of Ordinances on the Establishment of Government Organizations" etc. was reviewed and ratified.

#### 2. Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee

- Surveys were conducted at Toyama City in regards to, among others, small-scale hydro-electric usage projects and projects to establish and advertise a regional cuisine brand.
- In regards to the finalization of construction sub-contracting contracts (Sabusawa region's coastal levees and post-disaster reconstruction projects) assembly bills have reviewed and ratified.

#### 3. Health and Welfare Committee

- A survey was conducted in Hokkaido in regards to policies for the securing of doctors and efforts

to provide comprehensive regional medical care based on community based nursing homes.

- Assembly bill to Partially Amend the Ordinance ordaining standards on the Management, establishment and personnel of Support Center for the Disabled was reviewed and approved.

#### 4. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

- A survey was conducted in, among others, Ishikawa Prefecture in regards to the advertisement campaign of the opening of the new bullet train line, collaborating among Japan's three most scenic spots, and issues regarding the recovery and situation of tourism.
- Assembly bills regarding the relinquishing of rights were reviewed and approved.

#### 5. Construction Enterprise Committee

- A survey was conducted in Nagasaki Prefecture regarding, among other issues, the long-term plans of the Port of Nagasaki and in New Kansai International Airport in regarding, among other issues, to the privatization of its airport.
- Assembly bills such as the "Ordinance for the Coastal Fishery Business Management Fund of the Sendai Shiogama-Sendai Port Area" was reviewed and ratified.

#### 6. Education and Public Safety Committee

- Assembly bills concerning the acquisition of wealth (i.e. land for Miyagi Prefectural Agricultural Senior High School construction) etc. were reviewed and ratified.

### **4. Special Committees**

#### 1. Special Budgetary Committee

On September 19, the special budgetary committee conference was held. After a question and answer session comprised of 10 committee members was held, the 2013 Fiscal Year Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget was ratified after undergoing review by all committees.

#### 2. Special Account Settlements Committee

Established on September 18, the Special Account Settlements Committee on September 27 conducted a question and answer session comprised of 10 committee members.

### **5. Miscellaneous**

#### 1. Demands towards the National Reconstruction Agency and the Cabinet Office

The Miyagi Prefecture Assembly has completed policy requests to the National Reconstruction Agency and the Cabinet Office in regards to policies concerning reconstruction and recovery since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The assembly has hand delivered to Minister of State and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and National Reconstruction Agency Minister Takumi Nemoto documentation of demands that also summarizes the results of surveys conducted in regards to the stigma owing to the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station incident and surveys conducted in

the prefectures disaster affected towns by the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction and Recovery Policy Survey Committee. After delivery an explanation of the items of demands and an opinion exchange meeting was held.

(From Minister Nemoto)

The national government will work towards systems that contribute to recovery such as the group subsidies program are utilized effectively based on the situation at the disaster affected areas.

(From Minister of State and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga)

We plan to continue swift relay of information on efforts dealing with the nuclear incident as the proceeds to enact and utilize policies as we face this dilemma.

## **The 343<sup>rd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (October 2013 Irregular Meeting)**

1. Session: October 30<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) – October 31<sup>st</sup> (Thus.) 2013: 2 days

2. Bills Submitted by the Governor Total: 7

In regards to the finalization of construction sub-contracting contracts (Recovery agriculture and industry projects and the organization of construction districts in Oya) etc. (7 items)

3. Petitions Total: 1

“Pursuance to strengthen school adherence to Miyagi Prefecture’s Board of Education Secretariat ordained educational materials in regards to middle school history and social studies textbooks” (1 item)

4. Results:

Bills Submitted by the Governor	7 items approved
Petitions	1 item adopted