

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 347<sup>th</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (May 2014 Special Session)

1. Session: May 21 (Wed.) to May 22 (Thur.), 2014 (two days)
2. Bills Voted On  
Bills Submitted by Governor: 16 (including Conclusion of Construction Contract (Disaster Restoration Construction on Kosaba Fishing Port Pier))

## The 348<sup>th</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2014 Regular Session)

1. Session: June 13 (Fri.) to July 3 (Mon.), 2014 (25 days)
2. Bills Voted On
  - (1) Motions (total): 1
    - Condolence message (on the passing of His Imperial Highness Prince Katsura)
  - (2) Resolutions (total): 1
    - Resolution to request the establish of a new medical department in Miyagi Prefecture
  - (3) Proposals (total): 9
    - ① Request for support in improving the environment and carrying out regional efforts in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
    - ② Request to improve the business environment for small and mid-sized companies
    - ③ Request to expand and improve the support system targeted to rebuilding the lives of disaster victims
  - (4) Bills submitted by the Governor (total): 55
    - ① FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Supplementary Budget
    - ② Conclusion of contract (Disaster Restoration Construction on Shizugawa Fishing Port Seawall)
    - ③ Request to approve appointment of Vice Governor
3. Main Content of Inquiries Asked During Assembly

Sixteen assembly members asked general inquiries in regards to the Governor's position and the framework for establishing a new medical department within a prefectural academic institution rather than supporting the establishment within a private academic institution, the wide-area disaster prevention base project and other issues.

(1) Regarding the framework for establishment of a new medical department

Inquiry: Please explain the reason for changing positions from supporting private academic institutions to establishing a prefectural medical department

Response: After accepting the abandonment of plans created by universities including Tohoku Fukushi University and receiving requests to create a prefectural medical department, the prefecture reconsidered this issue. As a result of those deliberations, the prefecture decided to establish a new prefectural medical department.

(2) Regarding the wide-area disaster prevention base

Inquiry: Please explain the acquisition of land

Response: Discussions were held among Miyagi Prefecture, Sendai City, Sendai Medical Center and Japan Freight Railway Company in January of last year. The institutions reached a basic consensus to carry out studies on the construction of a wide-area disaster prevention base, and studies have begun.

(3) Regarding Sendai Airport

Inquiry: From the visit to Gold Coast Airport, it was confirmed that the airport is carrying out efforts to increase both its convenience and profit. Please explain those efforts in detail.

Response: In the international flight area of the Gold Coast Airport, efforts to improve airport convenience

for passengers include the establishment of duty free shops in the heavy customer traffic areas near immigration counters, which also connect to the increase in revenue for dining and other establishments. Based on these profits, the airport was able to establish flexible landing fees and successfully increase the number of flight routes and passengers.

(4) Regarding Onagawa Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 2

Inquiry: Should we not establish an inspection committee that will maintain independence and be able to conduct inspections from diverse aspects in order to verify safety?

Response: There are many issues that must be confirmed and highly technical, therefore the opinions of experts are being heard.

(5) Disaster Public Housing

Inquiry: Please explain the timeframe for the completion of construction

Response: Due to the delay in land acquisition and construction, the lack of materials and engineers, and the conditions of each municipality, it is unavoidable for the completion of construction of disaster public housing is estimated to be no earlier than FY2016 or later.

4. Standing Committee

(1) General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

- Bill to amend a section of the Miyagi Prefecture Tax Ordinance and other items were reviewed and voted on

(2) Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee

- Investigation carried out in Shiroishi City and other areas on damage caused to the agricultural industry by the heavy snowfall.
- Bill on the conclusion of construction contracts (disaster restoration construction work on the devastation prevention facility in the Omagarihama beach and forest areas) and other items were reviewed and voted on.

(3) Health and Welfare Committee

- Study on facility projects conducted at the Takuto Medical Treatment and Rehabilitation Center and Ishinomaki City Regional Comprehensive Care Center
- Bill on the submission of lawsuits reviewed and voted on

(4) Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

- Study on employment conditions and tourism industry conducted at Toyota Motor East Japan and Kurihara City
- Bill on ordinance to amend a section of the Polytechnic School ordinance and other items were reviewed and voted on

(5) Construction Enterprise Committee

- Study on the current situation of the disaster restoration construction work conducted in Ishinomaki City and other areas
- Bill on the conclusion of a construction work contract (disaster restoration construction work on National Road 398 Inland Bridge (temporary name)) and other items were reviewed and voted on

(6) Education and Public Safety Committee

- Study conducted to grasp current situation of schools and facilities, including Tohoku Electric Power Natori Sports Park and Miyagi Prefectural Natori Support School
- Bill on the ordinance to amend a section of the prefectural school ordinance and other items were reviewed and voted on

5. Special Budget Committee

On June 27, 2014, a general question and answer session was carried out by 11 committee members. Reviews were made by the subcommittees and the FY2014 General Budget was approved.

6. Activities of the Great Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Policy Special Review Committee  
Based on the studies conducted to date, on July 11 a request was made to the national government and to Diet members representing Miyagi Prefecture to extend the concentrated recovery period and to secure funding.