

## Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 367th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February 2019 Regular Session)

### 1. Session

February 13, 2019 (Wed.) to March 15, 2019 (Fri.), 31 days

### 2. Outline

The 367th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February regular session) was held over a period of 31 days from February 13 to March 15, 2019. A total of 113 bills were approved in their original forms, including the preliminary budget bill to allocate 1.1103 trillion JPY to the FY2019 general account budget. During his statement, Governor MURAI Yoshihiro stated “FY 2019 is the second year of the “development stage” of the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan. This is an extremely important year for working toward the completion of the recovery”. Regarding the budgeting policy, Governor MURAI stated “the budget was allocated by prioritizing the disaster recovery, while also emphasizing on policies that deal with regional economy recovery and solving new administrative challenges”. The motion to conduct a public referendum ordinance on the issue of restarting the No. 2 reactor at the Tohoku Electric Onagawa Nuclear Power Plant which has been in suspension since the Great East Japan Earthquake was defeated with 21 ayes and 35 nays. The representative and general inquiries included a lively exchange of questions and answers about the public referendum ordinance, disaster recovery, tourism promotion, and other topics.

### 3. Bills Voted On

#### (1) Motions: 2

“Greetings”

“Ordinance to change part of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Committee Ordinance”

#### (2) Proposals: 3

“Proposal requesting supplementary teachers for a medium to long-term period in prefectures affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake”

“Proposal requesting quality assurance of afterschool daycare for children”

#### (3) Bills Submitted by the Governor: 109

FY2019 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Budget (approved)

Request for a public referendum ordinance on restarting of the No. 2 reactor at the Tohoku Electric Onagawa Nuclear Power Plant (rejected)

#### 4. Summary of Representative and General Inquiries Made During the Assembly

##### (1) Regarding the public referendum ordinance on the restarting of Onagawa Nuclear Power Plant

The significance of the signed petition by the prefectural residents has been recognized. Opinion on determining the pros and cons of restarting nuclear power plant by public vote as well as challenges faced by implementation were submitted. A neutral stance on the matter was adopted in order to avoid influencing the discussion in prefectural assembly.

##### (2) Regarding tourism policy

The tourism resources of all municipalities as well as food items and other specialties will be strongly promoted in the Sazaesan promotional video. The Miyagi Sant Juan Bautista Museum is an important tourism asset to the prefecture, and its managements etc. in the future will be carefully considered. Relevant information regarding IR incentives is not available and research will be conducted.

##### (3) Regarding Wide-area Disaster Management Bases in Sendai/Miyaginohara

Land allocation will be conducted by the end of FY2022, construction will commence from FY2023. The original compensation is set to increase by 2.9 billion yen to a total of 32.4 billion yen. Regarding care for population groups vulnerable to disasters, management plans for formulating activity contents and dispatch schemes, etc. will be created this fiscal year, and we hope to enable the dispatch of teams by the first half of the next fiscal year.

##### (4) Regarding countermeasures for hikikomori (social recluses)

Regarding hikikomori countermeasures, examination will be carried out regarding the implementation of independent researches and examples from other prefectures will be used as reference. Preparations are being made for voice recognition applications to be implemented in 2 schools next fiscal year. In view of accepting foreign workers, a system that allows for additional supplementary teachers for the 59 people that require Japanese instructions is being planned.

##### (5) Regarding Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi Children's Fund

Regarding Great East Japan Earthquake Miyagi Children's Fund, the results of a survey conducted on the matter show that there are concerns about the cost of after school extracurricular activities as well as the cost of living alone as a university student. In the future, the monthly amount will be increased and graduate school students will also become eligible. Different amounts will be applied for those living at home and those living outside their home starting in April. For non-disaster related orphans, a grant-based scholarship will be established.

#### 5. Activities of the Prefectural Assembly in Relation to Restoration and Reconstruction Efforts

Research on disaster-affected cities and towns was conducted from early February to mid-March for 3 days. Through the exchange of opinions with city and town assembly members, etc. it was possible to confirm the progress of restoration and reconstruction efforts, as well as share awareness of various challenges faced in the first year of “development stage” of the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan.