

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

- The 368th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2019 Regular Session)

1. Session

June 17, 2019 (Mon.) to July 3, 2019 (Wed.), 17 days

2. Outline

The 368th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June regular session) was held over a period of 17 days from June 17 to July 3, 2019. In this first regular assembly of the Reiwa era, a total of 33 bills were approved in their original forms, including a proposal concerning the amendment of administrative costs in response to the increase in consumption tax in October. During the session, assembly member, AIZAWA Mitsuya, was elected to succeed the former chairman, SATO Koki. The general inquiries included productive discussions regarding support for Great East Japan Earthquake disaster victims, reconstruction projects, attracting more tourists and development of the primary sector of the economy.

3. Bills Voted On

- (1) Motions: 1

“Greetings”

- (2) Proposals: 2

“Proposal to strengthen the disaster prevention system for responding to large-scale disasters as a next step after reconstruction is completed following the Great East Japan Earthquake”

“Proposal requesting the repletion and strengthening of the local government finances”

- (3) Bills Submitted by the Governor: 34

Ordinance to amend various net amounts of administration fees and user’s fees, etc.

4. Summary of General Inquiries Made During the Assembly

- (1) Regarding mental health care for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Minister of Reconstruction mentioned that financial support would be provided. The prefecture will strive to establish the necessary counseling system and continue to appeal to the national government to ensure continued support continues after the reconstruction and development stages. Regarding the promotion of initiatives under the Reconstruction Subsidy, the prefecture is moving forward in talks with the Reconstruction Agency to allow for the subsidy to be used for logging and recording of data concerning the disaster and reconstruction.

(2) Regarding the use of disaster ruins

Progress is being made to build connections between the management of memorial ruins within the Shinsai Densho Networking Committee. The prefecture would like to consider holding a forum in cooperation with the committee. The Prefecture continues to request the construction of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Prevention Facilities in Miyagi to the national government and argues for their effectiveness.

(3) Regarding tourism promotion

The prefecture will continue to promote Miyagi Olle and attract further visitors. The prefecture also work towards making the 1 year anniversary event a success. The Osaki City Olle course is scheduled to open in late September. At the same time, the Michinoku Coastal Trail will also be promoted with the hope to increase more overnight stays and number of local tours. Support will also be provided in developing an overseas market for Miyagi products.

(4) Regarding the opening of the Kesenuma-Oshima Ohashi Bridge

Notable results were observed, including tourist traffic in the one month of the opening of the bridge surpassing the entirety of the previous year. The Oshima-Namisakasen prefectural road is currently 84% built and its construction will be completed by FY2020. Construction work to widen the prefectural road running to the summit of Mount Kameyama has begun and the prefecture will move forward with the process as swiftly as possible.

(5) Regarding prefectural seed ordinance proposal

The prefecture will establish the Rocky-Shore Denudation Prevention Committee (temporary name) and consider ways to prevent denudation of aquatic plants. The prefecture will also respond flexibly to changes in fishing rights in the aquaculture industry. With regard to the heavy oil spill, the seabed has been continuously under survey since immediately after the accident occurred. No oil content has been detected since February. The assessment will be continued hereafter as well. Producers with requests can express their opinions to the survey committee.

5. Regarding activities of the Prefectural Assembly in relation to restoration and reconstruction efforts

From June 11 to 12, Assembly Chairman (at the time) SATO and the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Special Committee visited the Reconstruction Agency, and made requests to the Minister for Reconstruction, WATANABE, regarding continued efforts put into restoration and reconstruction measures as well as the successor organization of the Reconstruction Agency. In addition, on June 12, they also visited the headquarters of Tokyo Electric Power Company

Holdings, Inc. to request a quick and effective response to the victims of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster and bring about an early conclusion to the incident.