

## Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

- The 369th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2019 Regular Session)

1. Session

September 3, 2019 (Tues.) to October 4, 2019 (Fri.), 32 days

2. Outline

The 369th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September regular session) was held over a period of 32 days from September 3 to October 4, 2019. A total of 42 bills were approved in their original forms, including the supplementary budget bill to add 11.628 billion million JPY to the FY2019 general account budget and the “Food Kingdom Miyagi: Date Na Kanpai Ordinance,” which promotes using Miyagi-produced alcohol for toasts. The representative and general inquiries included productive discussions regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake recovery, the “Miyagi Operations and Management System” – an integration of 3 waterworks projects through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and tourism policies.

3. Bills Voted On

- (1) Motions: 3

“Food Kingdom Miyagi: Date Na Kanpai Ordinance”

“Ordinance revising existing Prefectural Assembly Committee Ordinance”

- (2) Proposals: 4

“Proposal requesting stronger and comprehensive support for private schools”

“Proposal requesting enactment of new depopulation countermeasure law” and others

- (3) Bills Submitted by the Governor: 39

FY 2019 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget

Ordinance regarding Specified Region Nurse Securement Measures School Loan Program

- (4) Petitions: 1

“Regarding request to submit to the national government and Diet the proposal for government subsidy for private education institutions” (approved)

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

- (1) Regarding resolving challenges to achieve complete earthquake disaster recovery

The next comprehensive plan will provide an outline of Miyagi Prefecture’s state in the next era. The new plan will be formulated by integrating the current three plans together: “Miyagi’s Future Vision,” “Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan,” and the “Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization General Strategy.” In regards to the current progress of

recovery, infrastructure projects are proceeding smoothly, and proper response will be carried out in collaboration with related organizations to strengthen support and resolve unintended consequences of recovery projects.

(2) Regarding preserving earthquake disaster records

Since August, a 10-year comprehensive review of Miyagi since the earthquake disaster has begun, and details will be documented as reports and video records. By using these records to train government staff who have not experienced the disaster and provide information to other prefectures, these records will serve as a compass when responding to future large-scale disasters.

(3) Regarding “Miyagi Operations and Management System”

This policy will reduce costs by maximally utilizing the strengths of the private sector while the prefecture will have final responsibility. This system is the most effective method of operation for the prefecture. Equipment and machinery will be procured by the private sector at their own discretion, but because property rights are transferred to the Prefecture upon completion, the Prefecture will diligently confirm quality and functionality.

(4) Regarding the repairs of Nanakitagawa River and other issues

The 14km stretch between Akozu Ohashi Bridge and Kamuribashi Bridge requires drastic flood control countermeasures; the “River Maintenance Plan” will be publicly announced within this fiscal year with the goal of starting construction in FY2021. For large-scale flood disasters, policies integrating both infrastructure work and support projects will be promoted.

The Miyagi Prefecture General Athletic Park will serve as the tentative, wide-area disaster prevention area until the use of the Miyagi Prefecture wide-area disaster prevention center commences.

(5) Regarding increase of Sendai Airport users

There is a need to discover and polish up tourist attractions in every prefecture in the Tohoku region. Since the privatization of the airport, the number of travelers reached a record high two years in a row with the number of overnight foreign travelers increasing to 145% of the previous year, hovering well above the nation’s average. Surveys regarding increasing domestic flight demands will also be conducted.