

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 349th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2014 Regular Session)

(1) Outline

1. Session: September 17 (Wed.) to October 16 (Thur.), 2014 (thirty days)
2. Motions (total): 1
 - Ordinance to amend a section of the “Miyagi Prefecture Natural Energy and Energy Conservation Promotion Ordinance”
3. Proposals (total): 6
 - ① Request to receive continued financial support for Great East Japan Earthquake restoration and reconstruction efforts
 - ② Request to receive comprehensive support in order to establish stable operations for the disaster affected fishing industry
 - ③ Request for urgent measures in response to the falling prices of rice and others
4. Bills submitted by Governor (total): 93
 - ① FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget
 - ② Request to approve the appointment of board of education members
 - ③ Finalizing the FY2013 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting and each special accounting and others
5. Petitions (total): 2
 - Petition to maintain the Natori Sport Park Medeshima Stadium: Approved
 - Petition to submit a proposal on private school subsidy to the national government and Diet: Approved

(2) Main Content of Inquiries Asked During Assembly

Two prefectural assembly members represented the assembly and asked “representative inquiries” in regards to the thorough investigation carried out by the national government on the designated final waste disposal facility for waste from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident. Sixteen assembly members asked “general inquiries.”

1. Designated waste disposal plant
 - Inquiry: Three municipalities that have been chosen as possible site candidates have voiced their stance against the construction of the disposal facility and investigations carried out in their regions. Please explain the situation that led other prefectures to demonstrate their acceptance of the thorough investigation in their own regions.
 - Response: After the request from the Minister of Environment, the opinions of the city, town and village mayors were collected. As a result, a general consensus of the mayors was made to conclude that there was no choice but to have the thorough investigations carried out.
2. Issues regarding the price of rice set less than production cost
 - Inquiry: Please explain the response to the drop in rice prices.
 - Response: The impact on the farm management is great. Various requests were made to the national government including the isolation of surplus rice from the staple food market, enhancement and reinforcement of measures to stimulate demand for rice, support for crop conversion and reinforcement of the production system.
3. Consolidation of temporary housing
 - Inquiry: Should not the prefecture make a request to the national government to burden the costs of relocation fees for consolidation?
 - Response: The prefecture has been requesting financial support; however, there are local municipalities that will develop consolidation plans within this year. Therefore the prefecture will develop its subsidy program for the maintenance of emergency temporary housing, and financially support half of the costs for the

consolidation projects, including relocation costs.

4. Regarding Sediment Disaster

- Inquiry: What are the reasons for the delay in designating special restricted zones in the prefecture based on the Act of Sediment Disaster Countermeasures?
- Response: In order to improve the precision of basic investigations, thorough reviews have been carried out. However, due to the fees and time required to do so, and due to the restoration and reconstruction efforts carried out, the basic investigations have declined, particularly in the coastal regions.

5. Crackdown on “Dangerous Drug”

- Inquiry: Should not steps be taken for aggressive measures to alleviate quasi-legal drug also known as “dangerous drug?”
- Response: In order to sever the distribution of the “dangerous drug,” the prefecture must collaborate together with the Tohoku Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare Narcotics Control Department and police headquarters to strengthen efforts including store inspections and imposing orders on store prohibition.

6. Establishment of a New Medical Department

- Inquiry: What was the governor’s reaction to Miyagi University losing the bid ?
- Response: Much effort was put into achieving the plan for establishing a prefectural medical department. I was disappointed that the plans were not selected, and wish to take this opportunity to express my apologies.

(3) Standing Committees

1. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

- Study conducted at the University of Hyogo and the Oita Prefectural Assembly in regards to the efforts carried out by the university to promote disaster prevention education, and the Oita Prefecture Regional Disaster Prevention Hub Scheme.
- A bill on the ordinance to revise a portion of the Miyagi Prefectural Tax Ordinance was reviewed and voted on.

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

- Study conducted at the Hokkaido Assembly, Hokuren Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives and other institutions to learn about the current situation and future issues in regards to the “One Village One Energy Project” and the views on operation conditions.
- 31 bills reviewed and voted on including a bill on the conclusion of construction contract (Ishinomaki Fishing Port seawall disaster restoration construction)

3. Health and Welfare Committee

- Study conducted at the Nagano Prefectural Assembly and Toyoma Prefectural Assembly to learn about the Shinshu style general doctor training project and the Toyama style day service
- 9 bills were reviewed and voted on, including a bill on the Advancing Kindergarten and Day Care Center and Certified Center for Early Childhood Education and Care Council Ordinance

4. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

- Study conducted at the Okayama Prefectural Assembly and the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly to learn about the agglomeration of the manufacturing industry by company attraction, the achievement and issues of earthquake disaster reconstruction follow-up (vitalization of shopping districts)

5. Construction Enterprise Committee

- Study conducted at Hokkaido and the Hokkaido Airport in regards to the Mt. Usu Countermeasures

Project (sediment control project) and the outline and operation methods of the New Chitose Airport

- 44 bills were reviewed and voted on, including a bill on the conclusion of a construction contract (Okawa revetment disaster restoration project)

6. Education and Public Safety Committee

- Study conducted at Saga Prefectural Assembly and Osaka Prefectural Police Headquarters in regards to the innovative ICT education promotion project and cybercrime countermeasures
- 3 bills were reviewed and voted on, including a bill to finalize the amount for settlement and compensation

(4) Special Committee

1. Special budget committee

On October 3, the special budget committee held its meeting and after deliberations were held with 8 committee members, reviews were conducted on each subcommittee and the FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget was approved.

2. Special account committee

The committee was established on October 2. On October 9, deliberations were held with 10 committee members, reviews were conducted on each subcommittee and the FY2013 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting and Special Accounting were approved.

(5) Activities of the Prefectural Assembly in Regards to the Great East Japan Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction

The Hokkaido & 6 Tohoku Prefecture Assembly Chairperson Meeting/Council was held on August 28, 2014 in Aomori City. During the meeting, it was concluded that a request will be made to the national government to extend the concentrated recovery period and to continue offering the special circumstance financial support. Upon hearing this, the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly concluded on a proposal during this assembly, and submitted it to the Prime Minister and the affiliated ministries.