

The 350th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2014 Regular Session)

(1) Outline

1. Session: November 22 (Wed.) to December 16 (Tue.), 2014 (twenty-one days)

*A commemoration ceremony took place on the day the assembly convened to mark the milestone of the 350th prefectural assembly

2. Bills Voted On

(1) Resolutions (total): 1

- “350th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Commemoration Resolution”

A resolution was made to commit efforts to accomplish the restoration and reconstruction work without delay and to receive the mandate and trust of the prefectural citizens.

(2) Motions (total): 2

- “Ordinance to amend a section of the ‘Ordinance Regarding the Fixed Number of Prefectural Assembly Members and Electoral Districts and the Number of Assembly Members’”
- “Ordinance to amend a section of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Information Disclosure Ordinance”

(3) Proposals (total): 5

- Request to extend period of Mountain Village Act and to improve policies based on the Forest and Forestry Basic Act
- Request for the enhancement of nursing service and improving the treatment of nursing care workers
- Request to continue measures to exempt diesel oil delivery tax and to establish measures for permanent tax exemption and others

(4) Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 90

- FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget and others

(5) Petitions (total): 3

- Petition to increase subsidy for private high schools: Approved
- Petition to increase subsidy for private educational institutions: Approved
- Petition to stop reduction of pension and to submit a proposal to achieve the minimum security pension system: Not approved

3. Main Content of Inquiries Asked During the Assembly

Sixteen assembly members asked “general inquiries” regarding regional vitalization, industrial promotion and other items.

(1) Regarding Regional Vitalization and General Strategy

- Inquiry: Please explain the awareness surrounding operations of local authority and response ability
- Response: Under the “Town, People, Job Vitalization Law,” the prefecture and local municipalities are obligated to carry out efforts in developing a general strategy. The goal to develop the prefecture’s general strategy is by October 2015. The prefecture also emphasized its support to local municipalities working towards developing their own general strategies by offering consultation and advice.

(2) Regarding industrial promotion

- Inquiry: Please explain the efforts in attracting the “National Bountiful Ocean Creation Convention.”
- Response: The prefecture is fully aware of the significance of hosting the event in this region, which is nationally renowned for its fishing industry. The event is being considered, as it will hopefully be held during the development stage when the prefecture expects to realize an even more competitive fishing industry.

(3) Regarding Harmful Rumors Surrounding the Nuclear Power Plant Accident

- Inquiry: Please explain the false perception spreading throughout Korea resulting in damage caused by false rumors about Miyagi Prefecture.
- Response: The prefecture is persistently advancing its methods for information transmission and steadily carrying out efforts to dispel the harmful rumors.

- (4) Resuming operations at the Onagawa Nuclear Power Station
- Inquiry: What is the prefecture's stance on future response in regards to the prefecture's nuclear power safety evaluation?
 - Response: In addition to Tohoku Electric Power's efforts in securing safety, the power station's "soft" field must also be confirmed. While carefully analyzing the national government's investigation and based on the discussions of the prefecture's review committee, the prefecture will thoroughly confirm the safety of the Onagawa Nuclear Power Station.
- (5) Regarding the Prefectural Ordinance Currently in Consideration to Strengthen Regulation of "Dangerous Drug"
- Inquiry: What are the prefecture's thoughts on having governor-designated drugs other than the designated drugs in this category and an investigation system for manufacturing and distribution businesses?
 - Response: The prefecture will make itself aware of the current situation of "dangerous drug" distribution, laws and the situation of ordinances implemented in other prefectures, and evaluate the effectiveness of implementing such policies. The prefecture will collaborate with affiliated institutions and groups to eradicate the "dangerous drug."
- (6) Regarding the end of the concentrated recovery period at the end of FY2015
- Inquiry: I believe the earthquake disaster is being forgotten throughout the entire nation. What are the prefecture's thoughts on this?
 - Response: The prefecture is aware and concerned that the disaster is being forgotten as time passes. The prefecture will continue to appeal to the national government to make restoration and reconstruction a priority at the national level.

4. Committees

During the November regular assembly session, a new framework was implemented for the assembly steering committee and standing committee. The Special Budget Committee and the Special Great Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Policy Investigation Committee remained, and five new special investigation committees were established. Nominations were also made for the Public Relations Committee members.

(1) Special Budget Committee

On December 8, after deliberations were made by 10 committee members, reviews were conducted on each subcommittee and the FY2014 General Account Supplementary Budget was approved.

(2) Newly established special committees

- ① Special Regional Vitalization Investigation Committee
- ② Special Child and Childrearing Environment Investigation Committee
- ③ Special Sixth Industry Promotion Investigation Committee
- ④ Special Airport Privatization Investigation Committee
- ⑤ Special Sports Promotion Investigation Committee

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

The Special Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Policy Investigation Committee met on December 19, and conducted a study at Ichinoseki City (Iwate Prefecture) and Iitate Village (Fukushima Prefecture) on contaminated waste disposal. From the end of January to the beginning of February, a study throughout the prefecture is planned to take place in order to comprehend the current situation of coastal towns and cities.