

The 351<sup>st</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February 2015 Regular Session)

1) Session: February 17, 2015 (Tuesday) to March 18, 2015 (Wednesday), 30 days

2) Outline

The 351<sup>st</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February regular session) was held over a period of 30 days from February 17 to March 18, 2015. 165 bills were approved in original form, including the preliminary budget bill to allocate 1.4259 trillion JPY for the FY2015 general account. FY2015 marks the second year of the reconstruction stage outlined in the Miyagi Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Plan, and during his statement, Miyagi Governor Yoshihiro Murai emphasized that “we are accelerating our efforts to bring the prioritized policies into shape in order to visibly illustrate the achievements of our creative recovery.”

Discussions were actively carried out during the representative and general inquiries, which focused on the following: preliminary budget bill (including regional revitalization), tourism promotion policies, designated final waste disposal site and other issues.

3) Bills Voted On

1. Resolutions (total): 1

■ Resolution to pursue reliable countermeasures for contaminated water leaked into the ocean from the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

2. Motions (total): 1

■ Ordinance to amend a section of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Committee Ordinance

3. Proposals (total): 2

■ Proposal to extend the period of concentrated reconstruction and to continue special financial support

■ Proposal to create and secure stable employment for work related to the Great East Japan Earthquake restoration and reconstruction

4. Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 165

■ FY2015 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Budget, etc.

5. Petitions (total): 1

■ Petition regarding the usage of the Miyagi Environment Tax (approved)

■ Petition regarding Miyagi Prefecture’s independent Academic Ability Test (not approved)

4) Main Content of Inquiries Asked During the Assembly

1. Efforts related to the national government’s regional revitalization policy

It is necessary to stimulate regional revitalization and development by creating a sustainable region (through lifestyle maintenance and workplace creation) and by adopting vitalization measures. The prefecture hopes to develop the Miyagi Prefecture Regional Vitalization General Strategy by October while collaborating and complementing the general strategy developed by the local municipalities.

## 2. Final disposal of designated waste

There is a large volume of contaminated waste from the agricultural and forestry industries in the prefecture. Because dispersal and storage of this waste is not stable, it must be disposed of as quickly as possible. Based on discussions during the local municipality mayors' meeting, the prefecture will continue to make requests to the national government to take on the responsibility of disposing of the designated waste.

## 3. Doctor securement policies

In addition to the current doctor securement policy, the prefecture will also promote its doctor location policy, taking into careful consideration career support for doctors who are employed in local medical institutions and graduates of the newly established medical department.

## 4. Tourist attraction policies

In the highly competitive regional tourism market, it is important for the prefecture to assume it is at risk of losing its tourists, and actively carry out efforts to attract tourists to Miyagi. In FY2015, Miyagi Prefecture used local media from the Tokyo area to transmit tourism information and collaborated with airline companies to attract tourists from central and western Japan.

## 5. Promotion of the agricultural industry

Based on the events of the Great East Japan Earthquake, reforms made to the national government's agricultural policy and the change in prices of rice, the "Miyagi Food and Agricultural Citizens Ordinance Basic Plan" is currently being reviewed. Together with projects to promote further acceleration of market demand-based agricultural production, the prefecture will also take into consideration projects to support the growth of agricultural corporations, promote mutual collaboration, strengthen the development of large-scale land use management organizations and promote the agricultural industry in accordance to land conditions, etc.

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

From January through the beginning of February, a study was carried out on the coastal towns and cities, the chamber of commerce and industry and fish processing companies. The issues raised during the study were addressed during the February 12 opinion exchange meeting with the vice chairperson of the assembly and Miyagi constituency national diet members.