

The 352<sup>nd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2015 Regular Session)

1) Session: June 15, 2015 (Monday) to July 3, 2015 (Thursday), 19 days

2) Outline

The 352<sup>nd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2015 regular session) was held over a period of 19 days from June 15 to July 3, 2015. 68 bills and ordinances were approved, including the supplementary budget bill to add an additional 25.484 billion JPY to the FY2015 general account, and the ordinance proposed by an assembly member to promote small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale businesses. Decisions were made on setting aside a large portion of the supplementary budget for the recovery efforts and issues regarding the introduction costs for regional hydrogen stations.

Discussions were actively carried out during the general inquiries regarding the recovery costs and the burden on local municipalities, volcano countermeasures for Mt. Zao, regional revitalization (progressive relocation of residents, etc.) and other issues.

3) Bills Voted On

1. Motions (total): 1
  - Ordinance to promote small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale enterprises
2. Proposals (total): 7
  - Proposal to continue special financial support related to the Great East Japan Earthquake
  - Proposal to improve the fixed number of teachers in order to enhance school education
3. Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 60
  - FY2015 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget, etc.
4. Petitions (total): 1
  - Petition to thoroughly discuss the national security legislation (not approved)

4) Main Content of Inquiries Made during the Assembly

1. Burden on local municipalities in regards to recovery budget

Comments made by the Minister for Reconstruction were surprising; however, because of the persistent requests made to the national government, financial burden on coastal towns and cities was limited and the prefecture's requests were considerably reflected.

2. Regional revitalization

In addition to strengthening the competitiveness of the agricultural, forestry and fishing industries, support will also be provided to ensure the securement of stable employment in this region and to ensure the steady flow of human resources, including the younger generation. The prefecture will also establish the "Miyagi Relocation Support Center" in Tokyo and Sendai to provide one-stop service for those who wish to relocate to this prefecture.

### 3. Mt. Zao volcano measures

Tourist safety measures are being implemented (establishment of new sirens and speakers) and employees have participated in emergency drills in order to ensure safety. The promotion of volcanic mudflow countermeasures and the establishment of temporary barriers and other infrastructure measures will be implemented sequentially. In order to bolster tourism, the prefecture is collaborating with Yamagata Prefecture in putting out tourism information.

### 4. Sendai Airport – Privatization of the airport and tourism promotion

By taking advantage of the airport's privatization, we will promote the cluster of new industries and development of surrounding areas in order to increase economic incentives for the entire Tohoku region. Efforts will be made to promote inbound tourism and recovery tourism in the coastal areas and to revitalize the region by increasing the number of tourists, thus achieving our vision of a "Tourism Kingdom Miyagi."

### 5. Hosting the National Competitive Exhibition of Wagyu

The purpose of hosting this event is to help Sendai Beef become the top beef in Japan. This event will bring everyone together as one to carry out efforts to improve Wagyu beef and increase enthusiasm among the breeders. If Sendai Beef becomes number one in all of Japan, income for farmers will increase and the prefecture's brand will strengthen with Sendai Beef offered at more eating establishments.

### 5) Activities of the Prefectural Assembly in Regards to the Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Efforts

The Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Measures Investigation Special Committee conducted on-site studies outside of Miyagi from May 26 to 28. At the Osaka Municipal Wholesale Market and the Miyagi Prefectural Government Osaka Office, the committee studied the current state of Miyagi product distribution in the area after the earthquake disaster, as well as the actual situation of the general market in order to support market expansion of Miyagi products. A visit was also made to the Hitachi Zosen Sakai Works to learn about moveable flap-gate type seawalls. On July 7, the committee also investigated the recovery efforts and situation in Iwanuma City and Natori City.

The prefectural assembly held an opinion exchange meeting on July 21 with the chairs of 15 coastal city assemblies to share thoughts on the issues related to restoration and reconstruction efforts.