

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 335<sup>th</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February 2012 Regular Meeting)

### 1. Overview

#### 1. Session

16<sup>th</sup> February (Mon.) – 16<sup>th</sup> March (Fri.) 2012 – 30 days

#### 2. Bills submitted by the Governor

- i. 26 items including the 2011 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget
- ii. 17 items including the 2012 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Budget
- iii. 1 item: the 2012 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget
- iv. 52 items including Expenses for Facilities for Disabled Children Board of Review Ordinance
- v. 10 items including A Bill Regarding the Consignment of Business Related to School Dinners
- vi. 1 item: A Bill Regarding the Acknowledgement of Matters being Executively Decided by the Assembly Chairperson
- vii. 20 items including A Bill Regarding the Conclusion of Construction Contracts
- viii. 1 item: A Bill Seeking Consensus Regarding the Appointment of Members to the Board of Education

#### 3. Question Time

2 assembly members posed questions representing their parties and 19 assembly members posed general questions related to the prefectural government including those regarding earthquake disaster reconstruction and recovery efforts

#### 4. Bills Submitted by Assembly Members

Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Committee Ordinance

A Proposal Seeking the National Government Initiate Further Measures to Completely Restore Tohoku and Build Hope for the Future

A Proposal Seeking a Response to Damage from the Accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

A Proposal Seeking an Extensive Overhaul of Reconstruction and Maintenance Support Projects for Group Facilities such as Small and Medium Enterprises

A Proposal Seeking the Enhancement of Support Policies Regarding Single-Father Households

A Proposal Seeking the Enactment of the “Mental Wellbeing Promotion Act (provisional title)”

A Proposal Seeking a Reduction in the Vote –Value Disparity in the House of Representatives and the Prompt Resolution of the Unconstitutional Situation

A Proposal Seeking the Timely Resolution of the Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea Problem

A Proposal Seeking the Extension of the Transition Period to New Public Service Corporations

A Proposal Seeking the Enhancement of Support Policies for the Devolution of Power to Local Government Entities

A Proposal Seeking the Continuance of the Expressway Toll Waive Measures Employed in Disaster Stricken

## Areas

5. Petitions: 5 items
6. Decisions: Bills submitted by the governor: 128 items passed, approved and ratified  
Bills submitted by assembly members: 11 items passed  
Petitions: 4 items adopted
7. Supplemental Opinions
  - i. 2012 General Accounting Initial Budget  
Make every effort to ensure that the budget for reconstruction/recovery projects is used appropriately and ensure to respect the opinions of local residents when projects are implemented.
  - ii. 2012/2011 General Accounting Supplementary Budget  
There is a large rift between the actual revenue budget and the amount that the national government stated was possible to be issued. Therefore, we expect more effort to be put into the securement of funds and budget usage.

## 2. Main Details of the Assembly Question Time

### 1. The Initial Budget for the New Year

Question: Regarding the guidelines for the initial budget for the New Year

Response: There can be no delays to our earthquake disaster response. The budget was prepared to focus on the policies stipulated in the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Plan utilising support from the national government and independent resources as much as possible.

### 2. The Problem of Radioactive Pollution Caused by the Accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Question: Regarding measures against radioactive pollution

Response: Having prefectural residents, experts and the administration discuss and share awareness and information about the crisis is more important than anything else. Furthermore, it is vital to maintain a system which can measure the radioactive contamination of food produce near to where residents live. It was also announced that radiation measuring devices would be provided for every municipality in the prefecture.

### 3. Bidding for Public Projects

Question: Regarding the issue of bidders not being decided for public projects

Response: The current cost of labour and materials has increased which has caused a rift between the estimated prices and actual prices. The cost of design labour has already been adjusted and we will explain the fact that adjustments will be made monthly after confirming the change in cost of building materials. We will designate an appropriate estimated price while observing future movements.

### 4. Disposal of Disaster Waste Material

Question: Regarding Anxiety at Radioactive Pollution and the Extensive Disposal of Disaster Waste

Response: We are making a DVD with a strong message in order to gain the cooperation of local governments outside the prefecture. We will show the plight of areas where the disaster waste is piled up high and emphasise the fact that the waste is safe, and has had radioactive material and asbestos etc. removed.

## 5. Disaster Public Housing

Question: Regarding disaster public housing which would allow disaster victims to rebuild their lives themselves

Response: The goal has been set to secure 12,000 houses by 2015 of which 5000 will be designed and constructed by the prefectural government after receiving requests from municipalities. In the initial budget of the New Year, 7.3 billion yen has been set aside for design costs for 1350 house and construction costs for 1150 houses. We will cooperate with municipalities and do our utmost to attain our targets.

## 6. The Intensification and Restructuring of Fishing Port Capabilities

Question: Regarding the appointment of hub fishing ports as part of fishing port capability intensification and restructuring

Response: We are working towards drafting a plan and are going directly on-site to hear the demands of people working in the fishing industry. Reconstruction efforts will be carried out as a priority at 10 fishing ports, of which 5 are marine produce base fishing ports.

## 3. Standing Committees

### i. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

Bills reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Number of Employees Ordinance

### ii. Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Industry Committee

Bills reviewed and voted on including A Bill Related to the Conclusion of Construction Contracts (disaster recovery construction work of the piers at fishing ports in Onagawa)

### iii. Health and Welfare Committee

Overview of the health checks carried out by Marumori Town independently after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, surveys carried out regarding the state of decontamination in the Hippo area, Marumori

Bills reviewed and voted on including the Expenses for Facilities for Disabled Children Board of Review Ordinance

A Petition Seeking the Establishment of a System to Protect Children and Pregnant Mothers from Radiation was carried over

### iv. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

Bills reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefecture Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion Machine Loan Ordinance

### v. Construction Enterprise Committee

Surveys in Miyagi on coasts, roads, bridges, ports and harbours, state of emergency reconstruction and future development plans

Bills reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefecture Regional Ports and Harbours Council Ordinance

### vi. Education and Public Safety Committee

Damage to marine industry high schools, classes at temporary school building and other issues

Bills reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Establishing Traffic Lights Standards based on the OAP/Disabled Person Smooth Transit Promotion Act

#### **4. Miscellaneous**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Sendai City Assembly, Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Forum (17.2.2012)

Now nearly one year on from the disaster, the Recovery Agency and the Recovery Bureau have been established, but they are still not fulfilling their functions adequately. Therefore, it is necessary to communicate the state of damage at stricken areas to the government. It was also agreed that it is important to cooperate towards the promotion of the disposal of disaster waste within the prefecture.