

July 15, 2009

Mie Prefecture

A National Governors' Conference was held at the "Mie prefectural-run San Arena" in Ise City, Mie, on Tuesday the 14th and Wednesday the 15th of July.

At the conference, opening addresses were delivered by President Aso and Governor Noro from the host prefecture, Mie. Active discussions were conducted on issues such as "Proposals and Requests regarding the National Government's Policies and Budget for FY2010", local governments' contribution for central government controlled projects, evaluation on government commitment and supporting political party, local allocation tax, local tax revenue sources, future action course of decentralization reform as well as local consumer tax.

As a result of the consultation, "Proposals and Requests regarding the National Government's Policies and Budget for FY2010", "Payment Standards and Future Abolishment Policy on Local Governments' Contribution for Central Government Controlled Projects", "Proposal to Restore and Strengthen the Local Allocation Tax", "Proposal to Secure and Increase the Local Tax Revenue Sources", "Proposal to Support Keep Working while Raising Children" and "Proposal to Increase Local Consumer Tax for the sake of Ensuring Services to Citizens" were resolved.

Regarding the evaluation on government commitment, the National Governors' Association will focus on the decentralization issue and assess under objective and lucid standards. Furthermore, it was decided that the Association will not support any specific political party. In addition, as for the proposal made by the National Governors' Association aimed at increasing the local consumer tax, readjustments will be made to change the title and contents so that it will be easier to understand. Besides, for the handling of accumulated assets, it was decided that measures will be taken according to the results of the study PT.

The establishment of "Strategy Council" and "Study Group on Exploring the Nation's Future" in the National Governors' Association was resolved. The "Strategy Council" will aim at setting priority political targets, and deciding strategies and action policies to achieve the targets. The "Study Group on Exploring the Nation's Future" will research the direction Japan should take from a mid- to long-term standpoint.

After the conference, President Aso, Mie Prefecture Governor Noro, Chairperson Nii of Construction and Transportation Standing Committee and also a Chairperson of Local Governments' Contribution for Central Government Controlled Projects Issue PT (Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture), Chairperson Kato of Special Committee for Future

Projections of Municipality Finance and for Local Consumer Tax (Governor of Ehime Prefecture), Chairperson Yamada of Special Committee on Decentralization Promotion (Governor of Kyoto-fu) and Chairperson Furukawa of Special Committee on Government Commitment Evaluation (Governor of Saga Prefecture) held a press conference.