

# THE KITAKAMI TIMES

*Iwate, the International Linear Collider, and You*



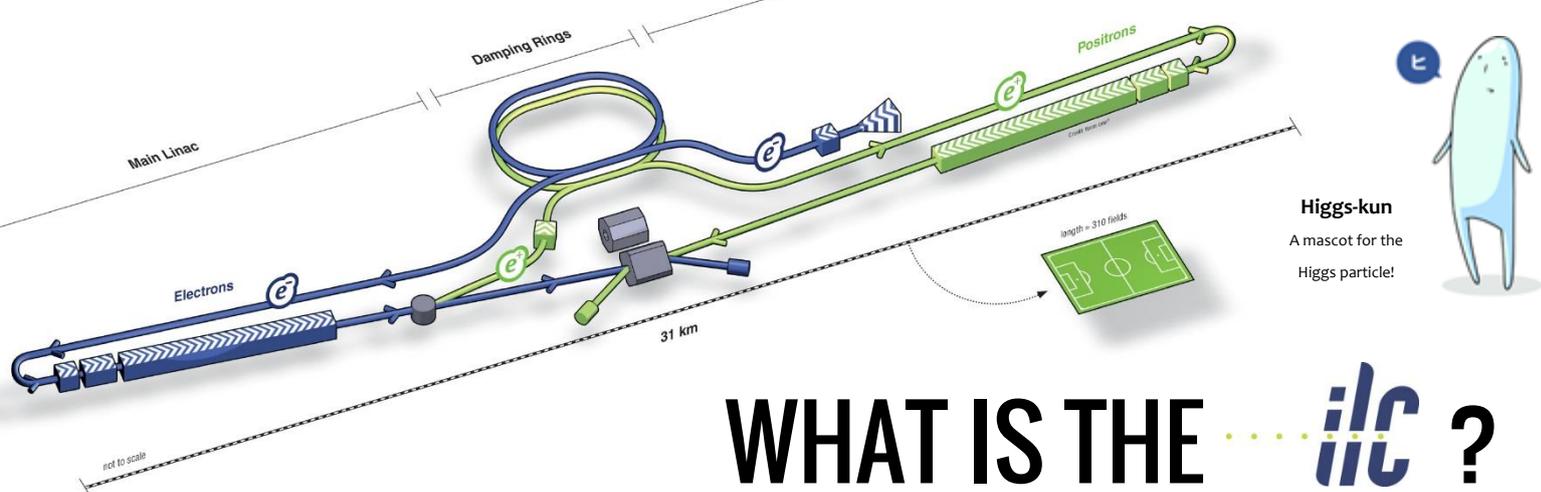
*In this issue...*

**An interview with Dr. Narita of Iwate Uni.**

*Learn more about the LCWS 2016 conference in Morioka*

**Plus, the delicacies of Kesenuma and a science camp in Ichinoseki!**

Boats in Kesenuma.  
ILC parts might be shipped through this port!



# WHAT IS THE ILC ?

The International Linear Collider (ILC) will be one of the world's largest scientific endeavors.

Built in a 31 km-50km long tunnel underground, this state-of-the-art device will accelerate electron and positron particles and collide them at near the speed of light. By measuring their output, we will be able to learn more about the newly-discovered Higgs particle, and quite possibly deepen our understanding of the Standard Model, the Big Bang, and the universe. Scientists and engineers worldwide are collaborating to realize this unique project, which will contribute to fundamental science, industry, and a more international society.

## THE JAPANESE CANDIDATE SITE

TOHOKU,  
NORTHERN  
JAPAN



### THE KITAKAMI MOUNTAINS ILC CANDIDATE SITE

#### Iwate Prefecture

A large prefecture in northern Japan, Iwate is home to the Kitakami candidate site for the ILC.

#### Miyagi Prefecture

Directly south of Iwate, Miyagi holds both Kesennuma and Sendai cities in its borders.

#### Oshu City

The ILC's northern end will lie in Oshu, which is also home to the Mizusawa National Astronomical Observatory.

#### Sendai City

Home to Tohoku University, Sendai is the urban center of the entire Tohoku region.

#### Ichinoseki City

The ILC will pass through Ichinoseki City, one of the largest cities in Iwate. The ILC's interaction point will be in the northeast district of Daito.

#### Kesennuma City

The southern tip of the ILC will lie in Kesennuma City. The city is hard at work rebuilding from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The Kitakami mountains are a range of gentle, rolling mountains in Iwate and Miyagi with a thick granite bedrock – perfect conditions for an underground particle accelerator. Kitakami is a name with a lot of history in the region, such as the Kitakami River, Kitakami City, and even THE KITAKAMI TIMES!

## FOR THE FUTURE

If the ILC becomes a reality, about 3,000 researchers will come with their families to live in the area. An international hub of knowledge will be formed in our backyard, with leading edge research that will inspire new industries: medicine, IT, biotechnology, and many more. The ILC will be a great beacon of hope to the people of Tohoku, Japan, and the rest of the world. The entire region is joining together to make it a reality.

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International Linear Collider

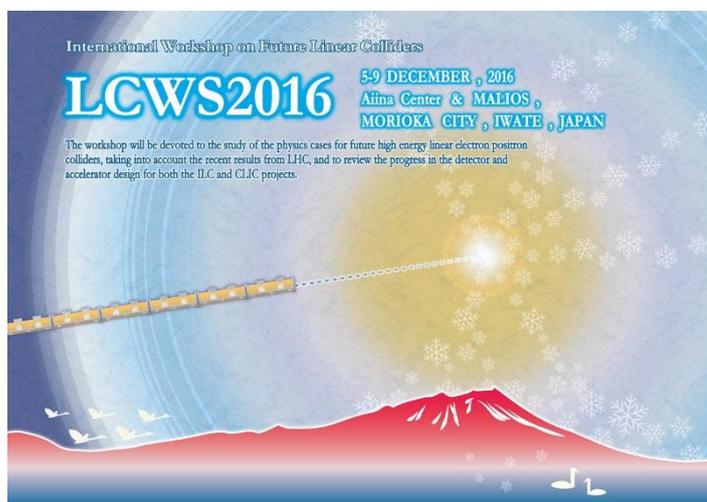
IWATE PREFECTURE

# Talking about 2016's LCWS with Prof. Shinya Narita of Iwate University

By Amanda Wayama



Prof. Shinya Narita, Department of Physical Science and Engineering, Iwate University



The logo for LCWS 2016

The Linear Collider Workshop is a yearly gathering of scientists from around the world in order to discuss future high energy linear electron-positron colliders like the International Linear Collider. This year it's happening in Morioka City in northern Japan, a short distance from the proposed site for the ILC, the Kitakami mountains!

We've got [a guide to Morioka](#) itself already online (go check it out on the Kitakami Times homepage!), but what about the LCWS? We met with Iwate University's Professor Shinya Narita, the local head of planning for the LCWS in Morioka, who told us what's going on, and what kind of help he's looking for from local foreign residents.

*\* The interview has been translated and edited for clarity.*

## Tell us about yourself.

My name is Shinya Narita and I'm a professor at the Department of Physical Science and Engineering at Iwate University (in Morioka City). I'm also the Chair of the Local Committee for the 2016 LCWS. My specialty is related to elementary particle physics – just like the ILC. This is something I've been doing since I was a university student.

## What kind of event is the LCWS?

LCWS stands for Linear Collider Workshop. It's the largest workshop in the world on linear colliders, which includes the ILC. The host switches every year from Asia, the EU, and North America, and this year is Asia's turn. Because things are moving forward with the ILC candidate site in Iwate, this year's LCWS was decided to be held in the capital of Iwate, Morioka City. We estimate around 300 researchers will be coming from around the world, representing many different specialties and perspectives on physics, accelerator detectors, and more.

## Aside from the workshop activities centered on physics, what kind of things do you want to show off about Iwate and the Kitakami site?

It will be a great opportunity for organizations like the Iwate Prefectural government, the Morioka City government, and the Iwate Prefecture ILC Promotion Council to show off Iwate while the researchers are in town.

As Chair of the Local Committee, I hope to collaborate with the events that are being planned by the local area, and have the researchers learn more about Iwate. We are planning an exhibition of local businesses with technology that could help with the ILC. We might even have the Sansa Odori (drum) teams from Iwate University and Iwate Prefectural University perform at the LCWS welcome reception.

The most important part of LCWS will be researchers discussing their latest research with each other. But the Iwate Prefecture ILC Promotion Council is also planning a large-scale event for Iwate residents, which we researchers would like to support. Iwate Nippo (a local newspaper) will be holding a presentation led by local students who recently went to CERN. It would be nice if we had some students help with setting up the venue, but the LCWS will be during school hours so... (laughs).

In general, I really think this will be a great chance for the people of Iwate to get involved with the ILC, and learn more about the project with any events open to the general public.

## Can you tell us about the plans for exchange between local businesses and the ILC researchers?

We're planning an exhibition of local businesses, where they'll show off the level of advanced technology in the prefecture. There are other things that are not confirmed yet, but we're also thinking of having a presentation session where local businesses would present their technology to foreign researchers. Or it might be the other way around, with the researchers talking to businesses about what kind of technology they need. Nothing is set in stone yet.



## What kind of fun stuff is there in Iwate for the researchers to do?

We're planning an excursion to the proposed site for the ILC for the afternoon of the last day of LCWS. But we'll have to arrange those plans just right, because it will be dark by 4pm and traveling from Morioka takes quite a while. I also know that Iwate Prefecture and Morioka City are planning on setting up a tourist information booth while the LCWS is in session, as some researchers may be coming with their partners and/or families. It will be too soon for skiing, but they could go to the hot springs. (The Tsunagi Hot Springs are right near Morioka!)

The LCWS will be held right in the middle of the city, so researchers can take a ride on the Dendenmushi loop bus ([which has an English map!](#)) and explore the city. Local governments might want to place some English-language materials and tourism pamphlets by reception or in the handout packets.

## Will you be making any requests to the national government regarding a decision on the ILC during the LCWS?

I think that holding a successful LCWS with all of these international researchers will be a great appeal in itself. It's important to show just how dedicated the research community is towards the ILC. We'll be sharing information on the LCWS in a number of different ways, in hopes that the rest of Japan will get interested in the ILC project. And that will be another boost for the national government.

## What can foreign residents in Iwate and the rest of Japan do to get involved?

We researchers will be handling everything for the LCWS meetings, but it would be nice to have volunteers to help with showing researchers around the station or around Morioka. Maybe they could help with signage towards the venue from the station. It would also be great to have some volunteer interpreters for the local business exhibition, as paying for a professional could be cost-prohibitive for some local businesses. I hope we can count on your cooperation!

## What message do you have for the scientists of the world?

Please come to Morioka! You'll see how great this place is once you arrive. If things go as planned and the ILC is decided upon, you'll know what kind of place you'll be doing your research. Participants will see how big Morioka is, and what life is like in Ichinoseki and Oshu (which have populations of around 100,000 people, and the infrastructure to go with it). So you'll really get to see how people live their lives.



### The Author's Take

Dr. Narita asked me to talk about my own experiences in Morioka. It's true – I had never heard of Iwate before I came to live here, but I fell in love with place the second I arrived. It's quieter and more laid-back than Tokyo or Kyoto, but it's packed with its own history and charm. And many people agree with me: the "classic" tourist spots of Japan are very nice, but Morioka can't be beaten for its wonderful atmosphere. I'm looking forward to seeing you in December!

### Morioka Must-Sees

- 1 Morioka Castle Site Park
- 2 Observatory on the top floor of the MALIOS building (GREAT view of Mt. Iwate)
- 3 Morioka Tenmangu Shrine and its guardian dog statues

## LEARN MORE ABOUT IWATE

[Iwate Prefecture Official Homepage](#)

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Iwate Prefecture (English)

[Iwate Prefecture's Facebook](#)

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Rock on Iwate PR in English

[Guide to Morioka from THE KITAKAMI TIMES](#)

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LCWS Morioka 2016 ILC

ICHINOSEKI CITY

# ILC summer camp at an Ichinoseki hot spring resort

By Nate Hill

A summer camp on the ILC accelerator and physics/detectors for 2016 was held at a hot spring resort in Ichinoseki City from July 23 to 26. The annual summer camp, which began in 2010, is a forum for accelerator scientists and elementary particle/high energy physicists in Japan to share information and develop a common awareness with regard to the ILC, and to promote exchange between young researchers and between researchers in different fields, with the goal of realizing the ILC and furthering research in elementary particle physics.

The camp was held at a hot spring resort located beside the emerald green waters of Genbi Gorge, about 20 minutes west from central Ichinoseki. Flags supporting the ILC could be seen outside stores in the area, and even attached to a basket which traverses a wire across the gorge, delivering “dango” - a rice flour based snack

coated with various toppings – to customers waiting on the other side.

Some 70 scientists, physicists, post-docs and graduate students from across Japan gathered for the camp, and presentations on the first day were about accelerators, beam dynamics, gravitational waves, and strategy to realize the ILC.

Dr. Atsuto Suzuki, president of Iwate Prefectural University, presented on the second day about regional efforts to realize the ILC. Presentations followed regarding efforts by the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) in Ibaraki Prefecture near Tokyo, as well as about superconducting cavities, the Higgs boson, neutrino oscillations, and more.



Participants take in the surroundings near the proposed site for the ILC



← Junior high school students at the library session with researchers

↓ An article about the summer camp in the July 24 edition of the Iwate Nichinichi newspaper



In the afternoon, a session was held at the library in central Ichinoseki for junior high and high school students to chat with researchers. Professor Masao Kuriki of Hiroshima University talked about what led him to become one, and said: “people with good grades aren’t necessarily suited to being a researcher. Rather than learning formulas, I think people that try to understand how the formula works are suited,” adding: “I think the first step to becoming a researcher is not memorizing the content in textbooks, but understanding it.”

Prefecture, home of the candidate site for the ILC, and we received a great deal of support from local government, making for a very meaningful camp.

“This year’s participants felt the energy and passion for the ILC from the local community, and seemed even more determined to realize the ILC in Japan, to pursue mysteries of the universe and reveal the origins of matter. I ask for the ongoing support and co-operation from everyone to bring the ILC to fruition.”

Presentations about physics, detectors and more were held on the third day. On the fourth and final day, Dr. Hitoshi Murayama, Director of the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe and Deputy Director of the Linear Collider Collaboration, gave the final presentation of the summer camp, about what is anticipated of the ILC.

Some 20 camp participants then took part in a bus tour to the vicinity of the proposed site for the ILC, in the town of Daito in the northeast of Ichinoseki City. Participants noted signs supporting the ILC, and took in the surroundings of houses nestled between rice fields and green hills.

Professor Shinya Narita of Iwate University, one of the organizers of the camp, said afterwards: “The ILC Summer Camp has been held every year since 2010 for researchers concerned with ILC physics, accelerators and detectors to share updates about their research with each other, particularly between young researchers. This year the camp was held in Iwate

## LEARN MORE ABOUT ICHINOSEKI

[Ichinoseki City’s ILC Promotion Division](#)

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Ichinoseki City ILC News Web

[Ichinoseki City’s ILC Facebook](#)

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Ichinoseki and the ILC

A sample of the delicious dango!



KESENNUMA CITY

# Kesennuma:

## Unusual treats, sake, biking, and sea frolicking

By Anna Thomas

As you know, the ILC candidate site goes through three cities: Oshu City and Ichinoseki City in Iwate, and Kesennuma City in Miyagi. If you live inland, Kesennuma could be one of the places you and your family could go for a nice beach vacation, or you might live and work in Kesennuma. While I usually cover Oshu City, I wanted to share my first trip to Kesennuma with you. Along the way, we'll explore the seafood, *chinmi*, and local sake that you can enjoy in Tohoku.



## WHAT'S CHINMI?

What is *chinmi*? Ask a dictionary and *chinmi* (珍味) seems to come up as "delicacy," but I would define *chinmi* as food that might seem a little strong and unusual that is usually seafood. It often goes well on top of rice and/or with sake.

**"Sometimes it's picked, sometimes it's dried,  
Muster up your courage and give it a try."**

About local sake (*jizake*): If you like having a drink, I highly recommend having your *chinmi* with a local sake. There are many sake refineries around, and Kesennuma is no exception.





Moka no hoshi (raw salmon shark heart)



Local sake



Abe-san and his lovely wife



## TRIP TO KESENNUMA

After taking the Ofunato line train from Ichinoseki to Kesennuma (a leisurely hour and 20 minutes), I arrived in Kesennuma Station and immediately went to the nearby tourist information center for a rental bicycle. Because Kesennuma has its share of hills, both electric and regular bicycles are available.

It took a short bike ride to drop off my luggage at my oceanside hot springs hotel, and it was time for lunchtime and *chinmi* stop #1. Lunch was a rice bowl topped with raw skipjack tuna, scallop and salmon roe. This was seafood-y enough but lacking in *chinmi* factor, so I tried something called *moka no hoshi*, which means: raw salmon shark heart. It had a spongy texture and mild flavor, and was served with a tangy sauce.

After a bath in the hot springs, I ventured to the nearby Umi no Ichi, the complex which includes restaurants, the shark museum (only one in Japan!), another tourist information center, and shops. Here the shops served as *chinmi* stop #2: the first floor has many food samples.

There you'll find an assortment of *shiokara*, most of it made from squid. *Shiokara* is fermented seafood, often made from squid or sea urchin. Depending on the store, there will be no small plate or napkin for the sample, so you eat the food off your palm and wipe your hand with the nearby wet towel. (Or you could use a tissue or small cup if you prefer.)

There was also a wide assortment of *tsukudani*, which is a sweeter miso preserve of seafood or seaweed.

If it looks like a sample, it most likely is a sample, but this is the kanji to watch out for: *Shishoku* (試食) means a food sample. If you want to try something else but can't find a container, try asking in Japanese:

**"Shishoku dekimasu ka?"**

Shee-shoh-coo deh-key-mah-s kah?

Another lovely family of *chinmi* are dried seafood snacks, which go well with a beer (or sake).

*Chinmi* stop #3 was going to be dinnertime, and sake was involved, so I returned my rental bicycle at the Umi no Ichi tourist information center (you can rent and return at either location) and went to meet Abe-san from Kesennuma City Reconstruction and Policy Planning Division, which handles ILC-related business.



## CHINMI PAIRED WITH LOCAL SAKE

There are two main sake distilleries in Kesenuma, so I was obliged to try both. From Otokoyama, I sampled “Sotenden” and from Kakuboshi, I tried “Mizutoriki Daiisho” and a nice *yuzu* citrus liquor. They were all delicious.

They also served raw sea squirt, or *hoya*. If you’ve ever seen Kesenuma mascot “Hoya Boya,” this is what he’s based on. Sometimes called a “sea pineapple,” *hoya* in no way tastes like pineapple but is kind of shaped like one. I’m unsure how to describe *hoya*’s flavor other than “complex”: slightly sour, slightly bitter, slightly something else. It is definitely best enjoyed as fresh as possible, or not at all. Abe-san taught me that sake (and other drinks) tastes sweet after a bite of *hoya*.

The next day, I took the ferry to Oshima Island, zipped around on an electric bicycle and got a sunburn swimming at Kodanohama beach.



Hoya Boya

When you come to the ILC candidate site, I hope you enjoy our *chinmi*, our sake, and swing over to Kesenuma for a lovely day at the beach.

Check out Kesenuma’s English Facebook page and say hi! And while you’re at it, please like Oshu’s ILC Facebook page as well:

### LEARN MORE ABOUT KESENUMA

[Kesenuma City’s Homepage \(JPN only\)](#)

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Oshu ILC Promotion Division



*Hoya*, the sea pineapple

IWATE PREFECTURE

# A wonderful summer full of “natsu-matsuri”

By Amanda Wayama, Nate Hill, and Anna Thomas

Another year, another summer. Japan’s summer season may be hot and humid, but it’s also full of traditional events that center on family and the community. Many of these “natsu-matsuri”, or summer festivals, are held in August during the O-bon holiday, which is all about paying your respects to relatives who have passed. It’s also a time to perform the various ceremonies and dances that have been passed down in each region for hundreds of years.

Summer is one of our favorite seasons for exactly this reason. You are surrounded by traditions with rich history, and the air is alive with drum beats and the chatter of people. We want to share some of our favorite memories from this summer, where we also took the opportunity to talk about the ILC with festival-goers.

## SANSA ODORI DRUM FESTIVAL

Morioka City



Sansa Odori: bells, flutes, and tens of thousands of *taiko* drums. Every August 1-4, the streets of Morioka City are packed with the largest parade of drums in the entire world.

This year, the Office of Science and ILC Promotion of the Iwate Prefectural Government once again gathered a team of people to proudly show off the ILC project. You can see here the huge banner they carried through the street. Behind them marched the entire Prefectural team, which won a prize for their performance this year!

\*Check out [THE KITAKAMI TIMES #2](#) from October 2015 where we talked about last year’s Sansa!



## MIZUSAWA MERCHANT'S FESTIVAL

Oshu City

The ILC Support Committee (a group of international Iwate residents for the ILC) and Oshu International Relations Association manned the ILC booth at the Akindo Matsuri (Merchant's Festival) held in Mizusawa, Oshu City on June 12th. As in previous years, the main dish was "International Linear Co-Weiners," with different sauces on each side representing electrons and positrons. Children and their parents flocked to Higgs mascot "Higgs-kun" and had a go at the fun ILC quiz.

## ICHINOSEKI SUMMER FESTIVAL

Ichinoseki City

In early August, the ILC Promotion Division in Ichinoseki took part in the parade at the local summer festival with the rest of the city office team, holding an ILC banner at the front and handing out plastic ILC fans to wave off the summer heat. There was also an event for kids to help carry portable shrines around, and one of the groups carried the ILC-themed shrine they made last year, beefed up this year with support for the Olympics.



## ZATTZAKA FESTIVAL

Oshu City

Festivals are a fun way to get involved in your community. Oshu International Relations Association is waiting for you to join the international team for Zattzaka Festival, held in Mizusawa, Oshu every year in August.



## ICHINOSEKI CITY FAIR

Ichinoseki City

In the last week of August was the Ichinoseki City Fair, where the ILC Promotion Division set up a booth. International residents of the city also took part in promoting the ILC, wearing ILC T-shirts Ichinoseki has made and chatting with people stopping by at the booth.



## GINGA FESTIVAL

Oshu City

The popular Iwate Ginga festival on August 20<sup>th</sup> is held every year in Oshu at the NAOJ Mizusawa Observatory and Oshu Space and Astronomy Museum. Lots of families came to this science/space extravaganza. The ILC area/booth included a wooden ILC model, freebies like Oshu City's ILC bumper stickers and info on upcoming events.

## NATIONAL CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Ichinoseki City

In mid-August, there was Ichinoseki's annual National Craft Beer Festival. 79 breweries from 40 prefectures across Japan, plus one from Germany and one from Belgium, served up more than 200 brands of beer over three days. Many people involved with the ILC in Japan came to enjoy the craft beer and local food, and plastic ILC fans were also handed out at this venue to the many visitors.



## IN THE NEWS

### August 8<sup>th</sup>

#### [Five Iwate junior high students return from a fulfilling study trip abroad](#)

**Iwate Nippo:** Five Iwate junior high students who are members of the IWATE ILC 2030 Project (run by Iwate Nippo Newspaper) returned on August 9th from a study trip to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. Kotomi Sato (Hanaizumi JHS, 2nd year) said, "I asked lots of questions to accomplished international scientists who answered them seriously. It was an experience that you almost think wouldn't be able to happen in your lifetime."

### August 30<sup>th</sup>

#### [Tohoku ILC Preparation Office - Physical office opens in Sendai - Creating an environment for moving quickly on projects](#)

**Iwate Nippo:** The Tohoku Conference for the Promotion of the ILC opened a physical office for its activities on August 29th for its Tohoku ILC Preparation Office. It will accelerate its deliberations on ILC technology and community planning, as well as create an environment where officials can move quickly on projects once the national government makes a decision on the ILC. Office Fellow Dr. Satoru Yamashita said, "We want to create a situation where everyone knows... that we are 100% ready for ILC construction."

### August 31<sup>st</sup>

#### [110 million yen requested for ILC-related items in MEXT's FY2017 budgetary allocations](#)

**Iwate Nippo:** MEXT released their requests for budgetary allocations for fiscal year 2017. A total of 110 million yen was requested for investigations and technical development related to the ILC. The request was broken down into 60 million yen for risk analysis, investigation, and research related to the international large-scale accelerator plan, and 50 million yen for developing the core technology needed to improve performance, reduce size, and lower the cost of a future accelerator.

### September 8<sup>th</sup>

#### [Requesting information be shared abroad: The Tohoku Conference for the Promotion of the ILC visits with LDP politicians and MEXT officials](#)

**Iwate Nippo:** On September 7th, representatives met with politicians of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, Culture, and Technology (MEXT), and the non-partisan Federation of Diet Members for the ILC (FDMILC). There, they presented a formal request for more information to be shared with foreign governments among other things.

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with Oshu City, Ichinoseki City, and the ILC Support Committee

Find THE KITAKAMI TIMES, news article translations, and more online at <http://www.iwate-ilc.jp/en>  
Our next issue is planned for October. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions!

Thanks for your one year of support!