

### ◆ Iwate Prefecture Features

#### (1) Large Land Area

Iwate Prefecture is located in the northeastern part of Japan, and with an area of 15,378 km<sup>2</sup>, is the second largest prefecture in Japan after Hokkaido, accounting for 4% of the total area of Japan.

#### (2) Delicious agricultural, forestry, and fishery products

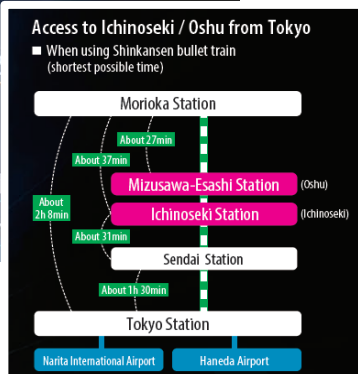
Iwate Prefecture is blessed with agricultural resources such as vast farmlands and varied weather, and is also rich in delicious agricultural, forestry, and marine products due to its rias coastline and fishing grounds off Sanriku.

#### (3) Renewable Energy Potential

Iwate Prefecture has the second largest amount of estimated renewable energy available in Japan for onshore wind and geothermal power, and the sixth largest amount for offshore wind power, making it one of the most advantageous local resources in Japan.

#### (4) World Heritage

Iwate Prefecture has three World Heritage sites, ranking first in Japan along with Nara and Kagoshima prefectures. It also has a wealth of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage sites, including Hayachine Kagura (Shinto music and dance).



### Why the Kitakami Mountains were chosen as a candidate site for ILC

In August 2013, the ILC Site Evaluation Conference, consisting of Japanese researchers, evaluated the Kitakami Mountains, which straddle Iwate and Miyagi prefectures, as the best candidate site for ILC construction from technical and social environmental perspectives. Researchers from around the world also supported this conclusion, and the Kitakami Mountains are currently the only candidate site in Japan.

The reasons why the area straddling Oshu City in Iwate Prefecture and Kesenuma City in Miyagi Prefecture was evaluated as a candidate site are: the area has stable bedrock with no active faults in the vast granite, and it is easily accessible from Sendai, the core city of Tohoku, and important ports such as Ofunato Port.