



Ihatov – the land of Iwate dreamed of by famed author Kenji Miyazawa. Here the secret of the birth of the Universe is about to be unlocked.

The vast Universe that surrounds us is thought to have started by a huge explosion called the Big Bang. What, then, is the origin of the Big Bang?

13.7 billion years after the Big Bang, scientists worldwide are now seeking proof of the existence of the Higgs particle, a.k.a. the 'god particle,' which may hold the key to the mystery.

## A future arising from Tohoku

The International Linear Collider (ILC) will be the most powerful electron accelerator in history and will be the pinnacle of international particle physics research. Due to its size, it is agreed among researchers worldwide that only one such facility can be built on the globe. When it is completed, an international city will be created that will become a center for science of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There, scientists and engineers in various fields from all over the world will get together, learn, and work. Furthermore, numerous state-of-the-art technologies created by this research will go on to spawn and advance new industries. One can expect great economical benefits. In Iwate Prefecture, we are engaged in attracting the ILC to be built in Tohoku – as a symbol of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.