

2.3.3. Five-Year Investment Plan for Ports and Harbors

Beginning in the late 1950s, the Japanese economy saw rapid growth for approximately twenty years based on a series of national economic plans. The development of ports has proceeded systematically according to five-year plans for port improvement formulated along the lines of each national economic plan. Since these five-year port development plans are based on Emergency Measures Law for Port and Harbor Development, decisions on the scale of investment during the period of the plan follow Cabinet meetings. Based on the port development budgets submitted by port management bodies, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport compiles a budget for the Ports and Harbors Department designed to ensure the systematic implementation of these plans. The budgets for executing the plans at the port management body level are determined each fiscal year by the Ministry of Finance, and the public port development projects are implemented after appropriate resolutions in the Diet.

2.3.4. Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development

Recently the needs for public enterprises have been more and more complicated and socioeconomic situations are changing fast. It is also necessary for us to develop high quality infrastructures efficiently, and within budget. To correspond to such a situation, MLIT changed the way it set its long term investment plans.

Formerly, long term investment plans were developed in the fields of port, road, airport, and river respectively. In 2003, they were consolidated into the Priority Plan for Social Infrastructure Development. The consolidation made it possible to accomplish plans by collaborating with other Ministries, Bureaus and Departments. Besides this, the point of view was changed from “Input” to “Output”, which stands on the nation’s point of view.

In the current plan, there are four priority targets, 1) Vitality, 2) Environment, 3) Safety and 4) Life, covering the five-year period from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2007.

