

Introduction

The total population of Japan has decreased since reaching a peak of 128.08 million people in 2008. The population is expected to decrease to 88.08 million people by 2065; depopulation will continue to progress everywhere except in Greater Tokyo and some other regions. In 2016, the average lifespan for Japanese men was 80.98 years, while that for Japanese women was 87.14 years; Japanese people are some of the world's longest lived, and we may be on the threshold of an age in which life as we know it lasts 100 years.

In light of these circumstances, the Japanese government aims not to extend the existing social system predicated on population growth and life expectancy, but rather to promote efforts such as “Work Style Reform” in order to realize the “Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens.” For its part, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will also promote a “Productivity Revolution” in an effort to improve productivity.

In this day and age, the time-tested concepts of work-life balance and purpose in life—though never inconsequential—have assumed a more fundamental place in people's worldviews. As these concepts grow in importance, they should substantially change the way people live. “Work Style Reform” will change how Japanese people work. In the future, it appears that we will need “Lifestyle Reform” as well to fundamentally change the way we live. It is not an exaggeration to say that we are currently at the critical point of this change.

The administration of national land and transportation is intimately related to infrastructure, transportation and every other aspect of each and every person's lifestyle, and plays a major role in changing the way they live their lives. Thus, in an effort to achieve a society where everyone can shine, we must continue to consistently implement the administration of national land and infrastructure by working strategically and systematically while promoting stable, sustainable public investment.

In light of this background and our awareness of issues, and under the theme “National Land and Transportation Administration for Dramatically Changing Lifestyles: Aiming for a Society where Everyone Can Shine,” Part I of the MLIT White Paper for FY 2017 explains the present state and issues of Japan and presents analyses of the results of national attitude surveys from four perspectives—“work”, “leisure”, “housing”, and “mobility”—and also introduces our efforts in national land and transportation sectors in response to those issues and results.

Part II reports trends in various sectors of national land and transportation administration for FY 2017 for each policy issue.