

Part I Summary

The arrival in Japanese society of full-scale depopulation, birthrate decline and population aging is expected to create various issues and major changes to life in Japan. When that happens, we must do what it takes to be a society in which each and every citizen can lead fulfilling daily lives—where everyone can shine.

Part I of this white paper presented an overview of changes in the form of Japanese society and land, and the corresponding issues. This part of the white paper also presented research and analyses as to citizens' awareness and ideal visions in four lifestyle categories: how Japanese people work, have fun, live and move. This part of the paper also presented efforts in national land and transportation related to those categories.

In light of the above and to summarize Part I, let us review issues in terms of the four lifestyle categories, the path ahead, the form of lifestyles and the role of the MLIT in moving toward the future.

1 The Path Ahead and the Form of Lifestyles

In terms of how Japanese people work, as the workforce dwindles and other problems persist, we must find ways to engage women and elderly people, help the child-raising generation achieve work-life balance, improve productivity and more. The path ahead for addressing these issues includes finding new employment for women and elderly people, helping the child-raising generation achieve work-life balance, diversifying work styles based on life stages, and streamlining work by reforming attitudes and innovating technology.

In terms of how Japanese people have fun, issues include finding ways to fully capitalize on elderly people's strong motivation to contribute to society, increasing leisure hours for the working generation, finding places for young people to enjoy themselves, and creating recurrent education opportunities. The path ahead for addressing these issues includes creating leisure time through such efforts as continuing to promote work style reform, improving the appeal of tourism, creating opportunities for social participation and other means of diversifying and intensifying fun.

In terms of how Japanese people live, issues include dealing with elderly people living alone or with a spouse only—a segment that is expected to increase in urban areas—and maintaining community functions in rapidly depopulating rural areas. The path ahead for addressing these issues includes building sustainable communities, securing housing and otherwise creating environments in which elderly people and others can continue to live free of worry, and supporting ways of living that increase interaction between people, such as moving to the countryside or spending part of retired life in the countryside.

In terms of how Japanese people move, issues include traffic on roads and congestion on public transportation in urban areas, and the progression of automobile dependency and situations that force elderly people to continue driving in rural areas. The path ahead for addressing these issues includes mitigating traffic on roads and congestion on public transportation in urban areas, maintaining and reinvigorating public transportation and securing modes of transportation using autonomous driving and the like in rural areas, and using universal accessibility to ensure that elderly people and others can move around easily in both urban and rural areas.

Lifestyles should change significantly as progress is made in addressing these issues. As both structural and non-structural elements are made more universally accessible in the future, elderly people will be able to live with fewer worries; we will achieve secure living. By giving the child-raising generation, women and elderly people access to more flexible work styles, we will achieve diverse ways of living. By creating many places for enjoyment, activities that benefit society and other opportunities, we will achieve fulfilling lives. Finally, achieving these kinds of lifestyles should help us become a society in which everyone can shine.

2 The Role of the MLIT in Moving Toward the Future

Because national land and transportation are such important elements of the lifestyles of each and every person in Japan, they contribute largely to lifestyle changes. In light of this fact, moving toward the future, the MLIT will work diligently in its administration of national land and transportation to make infrastructure safer and more convenient in support of secure living, to promote work style reform through productivity revolution and other efforts that lead to diverse

ways of living, and through policies for diversifying and intensifying fun to create fulfilling lives, thereby making Japan a society in which everyone can shine.

