

Chapter 8. Creating Local Diversity

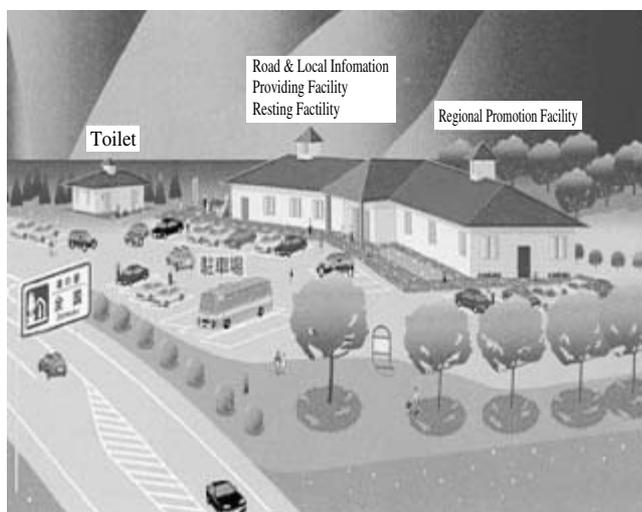
[Directions in local and land planning]

As we promote a unified land plan from national to the local level, we are making progress in reforming the national land planning system. Also, we are aiding the building of locales together with promoting the formation of local centers.

[Creation of vital locales that bring out individual character]

With the aim of creating attractive locales, we are promoting regional development that evokes nature, history and culture, beginning with revitalization of city centers. Also, in addition to promoting the formation of networks for the purpose of encouraging cooperation and exchange among localities, we are undertaking construction of central facilities for communication of information and the vitalization of regional exchange. At these times, we respect the independence of localities, including local citizen participation.

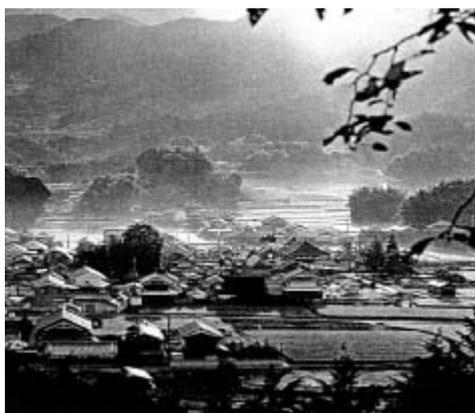
136. (Image of Michi-no-eki, roadside “ station ”)



137. (Image of waterfront plaza)



138. (Asuka Village landscape)



139. (Historic Port Environment Project (Yokohama))



[Guaranteeing local transit and designated district promotion]

In order to maintain needed transit lifelines for localities, we are guaranteeing bus lines to support life in sparsely populated districts and assisting traffic to outlying islands. Also, we are aggressively pursuing promotion of heavy snow areas, outlying islands, Amami, Ogasawara, and peninsular areas.

[Hokkaido Comprehensive Development Promotion]

In regard to the comprehensive development of Hokkaido, we are aggressively undertaking to:

1. Strengthen its role as a food production center;
2. Nurture new industry;
3. Preserve the environment;
4. Promote tourism;
5. Build international exchange and human development hubs;
6. Create a safe, comfortable and pleasant local society; and
7. Promote core networks for the flow of people, goods and information.

We are also promoting dissemination and enlightenment of knowledge about Ainu traditions, etc.

140. (Performing a traditional Ainu dance)

