

Chapter 9: Promoting Local Diversity

**[Directions in regional and national development]**

MLIT is not only implementing the national land plan at both the national and regional levels, but also conducting comprehensive review of national land and working to reform the national land planning system. The ministry is also promoting the regional hub development, as well as supporting regional and community development.

**[Regional and community development that builds on local characteristics]**

MLIT is supporting a wide range of local initiatives, including: revitalizing downtown areas; community development that takes advantage of natural, historical and cultural resources locally available; developing networks that facilitate exchange and cooperation among municipalities and other local entities; developing regional communication nodes and town-making that make good use of local characteristics. In extending such support, the ministry fully respects local initiative and encourages the active involvement of local residents in these development processes as well as supporting affiliation of cities, towns, and villages.

A landscape in Otsu city (Miidera Temple)



Yokohama Custom-House building



**[Providing local public transport service and promoting regions that need special attention]**

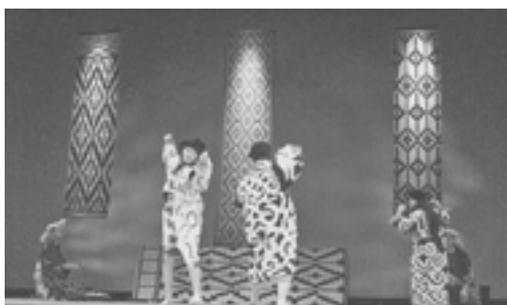
MLIT is committed to ensuring that local residents have access to public transport for their daily activities. To this end, the ministry offers support in such fields as the modernization of small- and medium-sized railway operators, the continued operation of bus service in rural areas, and transport to and from remote islands.

Furthermore, MLIT is proactively promoting the development of heavy snow belts, remote islands—including the Amami Islands and the Ogasawara Island—and peninsulas that need special attention.

**[Promoting comprehensive development of Hokkaido]**

The initiative to develop Hokkaido is addressing a number of issues. Among them are: strengthening the function as a food production base; nurturing new industries, environmental conservation; tourism exchange promotion; development of hubs for international exchange and human resources development; development of safe, relaxed and comfortable communities; and promotion of the growth of key networks of people, commodities and information. The ministry is working on comprehensive promotion of the Ainu culture.

Demonstration of traditional dance by the Ainu



**Regional development with distinctive characters through “Scenic Byway Hokkaido,” an initiative to build beautiful roadside landscapes.**

*Conserving and even creating beautiful and distinctive landscapes in northern Japan*

