

Chapter 8: Promoting Local Diversity

[Directions in regional and national development]

MLIT is not only implementing national land planning at both the national and regional levels, but also looking into formulating new national land plans in view of the enactment of the “National Land Sustainability Plan Act.” 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: 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.

Bannai River Sabo Dam, registered as a designated tangible cultural property (Niigata Prefecture)



Roadside station “Fujikawa Rakuza” (Shizuoka Prefecture)



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

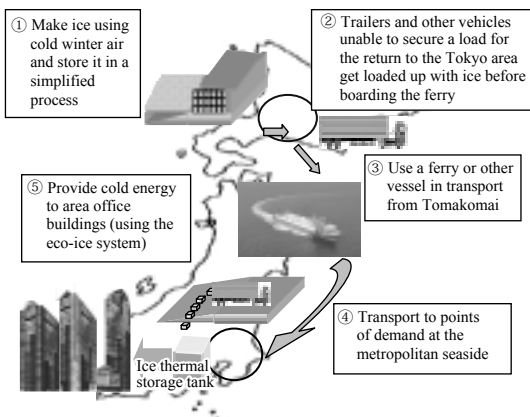
MLIT is committed to ensuring that local residents have access to public transport for their daily activities. To this end, the ministry offers support in such fields as the development of local railway facilities, the continued operation of bus service in rural areas, and the continued operation and revitalization of air and shipping line 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 Islands—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; regional development making use of clean energy; tourism exchange promotion, particularly in view of the Shiretoko area’s registration as a world natural heritage site; and infrastructure development that respects the autonomy of local governments. The ministry is working on comprehensive promotion of the Ainu culture, as well as the stabilization and promotion of the areas adjacent to the Northern Territories.

Creating a Snow Ice Shipping Logistics System



Example of activities in Ainu traditional living space: Tree bark peeling to be used for clothing materials

