

Think Together about the Capital Functions Relocation of Japan

Trends in the Diet

House of Representatives

The governors of the prefectures concerned were invited to the meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations held on November 17, and they stated their opinions and had question and answer sessions. A summary of their opinions is briefly introduced below.

Governor Kitagawa of Mie Prefecture

In the process of realizing grand dreams such as the Apollo Project, for example, it is deemed necessary in the field of national administration to cope with the promotion of reform or abolition of various social, economic, and cultural systems to break down the sense of restrictiveness. It is my desire that the capital functions relocation be discussed in the Diet, and this discussion should include the propriety of the systems in continuation since the Meiji Restoration or the postwar systems.

Governor Kunimatsu of Shiga Prefecture

Towards a new era in the future, it is necessary to think about the strategic significance of the capital functions relocation from both global and historical points of view. The image of the capital (in scale and concept) should be expressed clearly in discussing the relocation destination.

Governor Kajiwara of Gifu Prefecture

From the civilization theory and international points of view, the capital functions relocation is a symbolization of the Heisei Restoration realized through factors such as the promotion of the decentralization of power, and should be realized as a symbol of reforms such as those from a major economic power to a major civic power, from an industrial society to an information society, and from a pyramidal type authorization structure to a network type authority structure.

Vice Governor Kochi of Aichi Prefecture

Aichi Prefecture intends to establish the Gifu-Aichi New Capital Concept in cooperation with Gifu Prefecture utilizing the excellent traffic infrastructures in the Gifu-Aichi Region and the accumulation of major city functions and research and development functions in Nagoya City. In addition, we are endeavoring to formulate a widely ranging consensus utilizing media such as an Internet Homepage.

Governor Sato of Fukushima Prefecture

Regional residents have stated opinions that the capital functions relocation can be effective for creating a new Japan in the twenty-first century, and it is also a good opportunity for recognition of the merits of their own region.

Organizations such as the five prefectural governors conference (Fukushima, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Miyagi, and Yamagata) are participating in various activities for transmitting the magnificence of the region, and are conducting a survey for establishing a fundamental concept proposing the Tochigi-Fukushima Region as the relocation destination.

* Orders of mention are according to the orders of remarks, and Vice Governor Saito of Tochigi Prefecture also attended the question and answer session.

For details of the opinions, questions and answers, please refer to the Internet Homepage "Proceedings of the Diet Retrieval System (<http://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/>).

Panel for Studying How the Capital Functions City Should Utilize IT

The "Panel for Studying How the Capital Function City Utilize Information Technology (IT)" (Chaired by President Hideo Aiso of the Tokyo University of Technology) sorted the results of their investigation in the past and announced them as an intermediate proposal. The announcement is summarized below. For further details, please refer to the National Land Agency Capital Functions Relocation Homepage (<http://www.nla.go.jp//daishu/info/into f.html>).

Items to be Considered in Investigating the Capital Functions Relocation

In view of the rapid progress of IT networking, the following items should be considered in investigating the capital functions relocation:

- (1) It is possible that the progress of IT networking may face problems in real space (such as an urban problem) and augment the importance of person to person space.
- (2) In a increasingly globalized society as a result of IT, the establishment of an identity is rather necessary for individuals, regions, and countries in order to be recognized, Particularly those transmitting information.
- (3) To independently cope with the long-term changes of an IT society and its political and administrative systems, concrete strategies should be formulated for realizing target objectives.

Significance and Effects of the Capital Functions Relocation in the Era of Advanced Information Networking

The significance and effects of the capital functions relocation are recognized even in the era of advanced information networking, and it is expected that the capital functions relocation and IT networking will produce multiplier effects if coordinated effectively (refer to the questionnaire survey on items such as enterprise siting and regional construction in the era of advanced information networking (conducted in September 2000/published on the New Era Vol. 17 and <http://www.nla.go.jp/daishu/index.html>)).

Proposals for Formulating Strategic IT Land Based on a Long-Term Point of View

We propose deliberating the capital function city, the relocation destination, and the Tokyo Region after relocation as a national strategy for the next generation, for augmenting Japan's vitality and bringing out potential capabilities, and as factors that promote the expected IT land formulation

In other words, in the Tokyo Region, we propose deliberating a strategy to arrange attractive conditions to enable talents related to IT, engineers and researchers in the frontier technology to develop advanced research, development, and business activities. The aim of this is to further raise the global centripetal force as part of the urban renovation to be promoted through activities such as utilization of the sites left after the capital functions relocation.

Furthermore, in the capital function city, we propose deliberating a strategy for the next generation contributing to not only realizing advanced work style and life style such as boldly coping with environmental problems utilizing IT, but also integrating Japan's excellent capabilities in a wide range of areas, and further contributing to realizing a horizontal network structure. This strategy will also formulate the country's international political activities which sufficiently play Japan's role in the global era,

* "IT Land: "A national land where equal opportunity of information transmission and receiving is realized throughout the country. The structure connecting cities and regions is not based upon a social stratum depending on the relationship between the "center" and "dependency" on it but transits to a horizontal network structure based on "independence" and "complementary to each other," for regions to grow in accordance with their characteristics.

Proposals on Measures Related to the IT of the Capital Function City

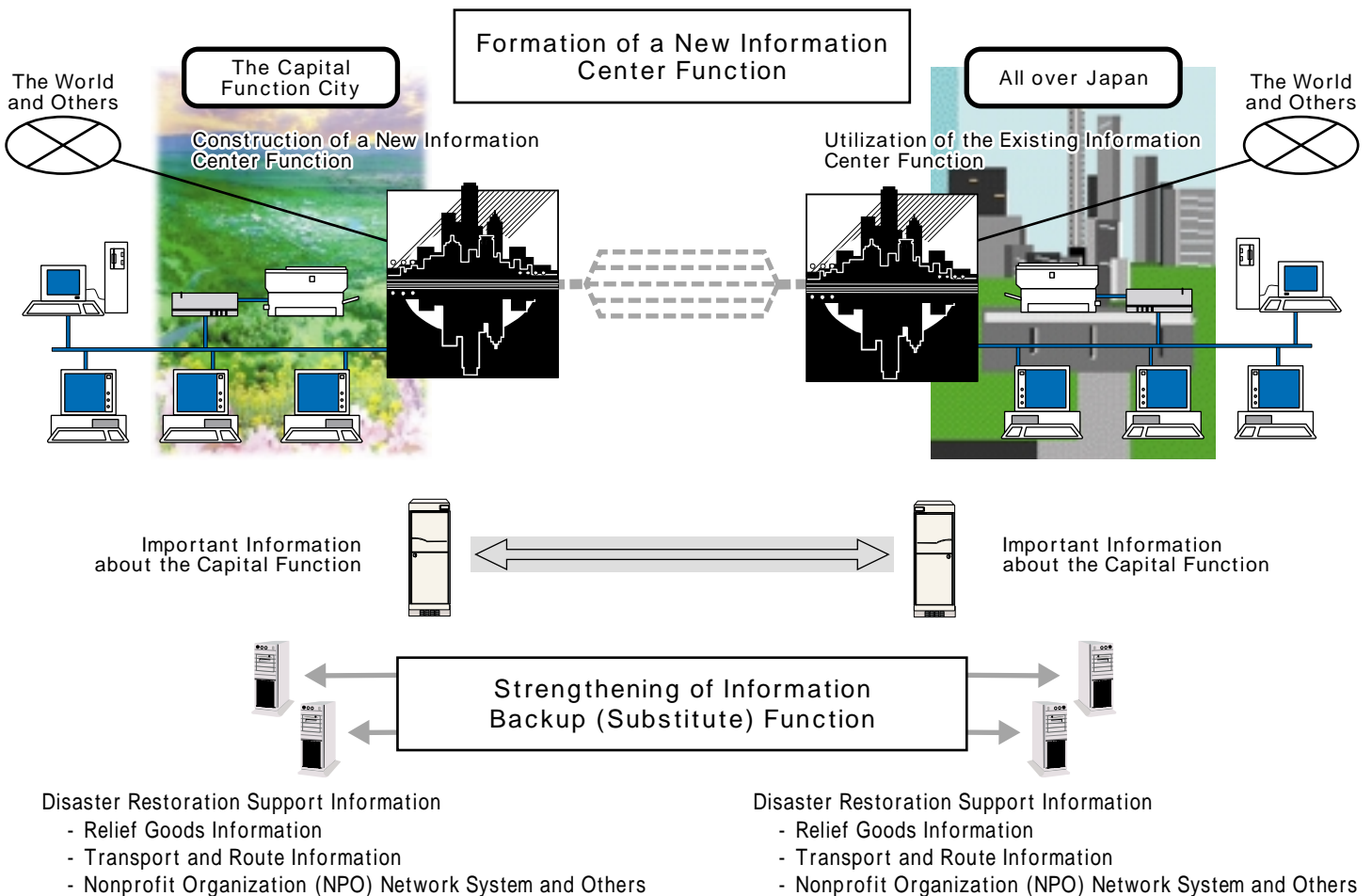
For the capital function city, it is expected that Japan's capabilities in all areas would be comprehensively applied in maintaining targets suitable for the next generation. These will include the creation of new state politics and determining the proper roles and factors of a leading city, or an experimental city for culture creation.

Furthermore, considerations of the capital function city should also include the existing work and life styles throughout Japan and the problems in regional construction.

The measures to be actively adopted in the capital function city are as follows:

- (1) Realization of democracy (Formation of the capital function city to realize an electronic democracy (e-democracy)) presupposing a well-informed public.
- (2) Construction of a national participation type capital function city formulation and maintenance system.
- (3) Realization of knowledge-based government.
- (4) Dispersion of information center functions from the emergency control viewpoint (strengthening of information backup function).
- (5) Assurance of toughness, durability, and safety of the information communication network infrastructures
- (6) Construction of an IT communication base (platform) to support contents transmission capability.
- (7) Construction of a universal network for realizing equal opportunity of information transmission and reception throughout Japan.

Image of Dispersion of Information Center Function from the emergency control viewpoint



★ Topics

Introduction of Various Opinions about the Capital Functions Relocation

There are various opinions about the capital functions relocation, including approval and opposition. Many opinions have been sent to the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division of the Land Agency via mail or electronic mail. Part of the opinions given recently are introduced here. (Opinions appearing in this issue are summarized to the extent that the purport of the opinion is not impaired due to the limitations of space.)

- (1) Mankind has create cities suitable for each society in accordance with the changes of the time, and this will also be the same in the future. In present day Japan, facing an era of major social changes globally and domestically, it comes as no surprise that a new city created under a new concept (Tokyo Metropolis; Thirty-year old; Company Employee by E-mail)
- (2) I approve of the capital functions relocation. However, what I approve of is the prospect in the long-term view. Summarizing factors considering all points of view, I presume that the capital functions relocation in the present status would be extremely difficult because of the many problems, and I also oppose the relocation of all capital functions. I think priority should be given to administrative reform rather than capital functions relocation. (Thirty-three years old; System engineer, by E-mail)
- (3) Considering Japan's present financial condition, the plan should be frozen in its present situation, entrusting the vision of "Capital Functions Relocation" to future generations. (Mie Prefecture; Male, by E-mail)

We are awaiting a wide range of opinions from you all.

Major Recent Trends Related to the Capital Functions Relocation In Each Region

October 26, winning works of the "New Capital Shining in the Twenty-first Century" Capital Functions Relocation Painting Contest was announced in Aichi Prefecture.

October 30, the Hida Regional Region Women's Conference on the Capital Functions Relocation was held.

November 2, the Tokyo Metropolis announced the "Cost-Effect Verification of the Capital Functions Relocation."

November 8, the "Sendai Symposium for Realizing the Capital Functions Relocation" was held in Sendai.

November 29, the "Urban Construction in the Twenty-first Century"-- Women's Conference for Deliberating the Capital Functions Relocation -- was held in Gifu Prefecture

November 30, the Gifu-Aichi Symposium on the Capital Functions Relocation was held in Nagoya.

From January 2001, the New Era will be published by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

Accessing Various Information

Various information concerning the capital functions relocation has been provided on the National Land Agency Homepage on the Internet.

Also if you are interested in items in this leaflet and others, please let us know. We will pleasingly send related documents to you. We are awaiting your contact.

We are Waiting for Your Contact

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