



~ Think Together about the Capital Functions Relocation of Japan ~

Trends in the Diet

House of Representatives

The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (Chaired by Mr. Hidetoshi Nagai) dispatched its members to the "Gifu-Aichi Region" (on July 2), "Tochigi-Fukushima Region" (on July 3) and "Mie-Kio Region" (on July 31).

In the "Gifu-Aichi Region," the members were given general explanations by Governor Taku Kajiwara of Gifu Prefecture and Governor Masaaki Kanda of Aichi Prefecture on the spot and conducted field survey of major locations in the "Aichi-Gifu Region," including aerial inspection using a helicopter.

In the "Tochigi-Fukushima Region," the members were given general explanations by Governor Akio Fukuda of Tochigi Prefecture and Governor Eisaku Sato of Fukushima Prefecture on the spot and conducted field survey of areas of interest, such as the Nasuno-ga-hara in Tochigi Prefecture and surrounding areas of the Fukushima Airport in Fukushima Prefecture.

In the "Mie-Kio Region," the members were given general explanations by Governor Masayasu Kitagawa of Mie Prefecture, Governor Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu of Shiga Prefecture, Governor Teiichi Aramaki of Kyoto Prefecture, and Governor Yoshiya Kakimoto of Nara Prefecture, and conducted field survey of areas of interest, such as the Ayama Town Observation Facility.



The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives Has Inaugurated Its Homepage

The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives is opening its homepage to solicit citizens' opinions about the capital functions relocation. The address of the homepage is at <http://www.shu-kokkaiiten.go.jp>.

■ Concept of New City in Each Region to be Introduced

Each the Northeastern Region including the Tochigi-Fukushima Region, Gifu-Aichi Region, and Mie-Kio Region, has prepared concept of the capital functions relocation on its own initiative since the report of the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was submitted. Three concepts will be introduced in turn in the newsletter starting with this edition. The Mie-Kio Region concept is introduced first.

■ Mie-Kio Concept of the New City "New City to Create New Japan"

Mie-Kio - - Pioneering the Future

The future form and mind of Japan will be forged in the Mie-Kio Region, which encompasses the history, culture, and original landscape of Japan

Prepared by the Mie-Kio Council for the capital functions relocation
(Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, and Nara Prefectures)



Four prefectures, Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, and Nara Prefecture, developed and announced the "Concept of Mie-Kio New City" in October 2000.

The report of the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations submitted in 1999 pointed out that the Mie-Kio Region has "advantages that neither of the other two candidate areas has." The four prefectures endeavored to develop a concept based on the advantages pointed out in the report. The prefectures were also able to enumerate possible solutions for the problems in high-speed transportation networks pointed out in the report.

The Mie-Kio Region is blessed with beautiful scenery clad in fresh greenery as shown in the picture below. Because there are numerous problems, such as how to establish harmony, and coexistence with environment and scenery in constructing the new city, the Council desires to promote discussions with this concept as the starting point.

I Resources and Characteristics

Located in Central Japan and the Nodal Point between Kansai and Chukyo

Accumulation of Intellectual Resources such as Frontier Scientific Research Functions

Wealth of Historical and Cultural Resources to be Proudly Displayed to the World

Extensive Infrastructure for International Exchange

Diverse and Charming Natural Environment

II Basic Ideas

If located here, the capital city would:

Constitutes a Balanced National Land Structure,

Realize Advanced Policy Formulation Function, Inherit Traditional Culture and Create New Culture,

Expand Global Exchange, and

Coexist with an Environment Supported by Diverse Functions.

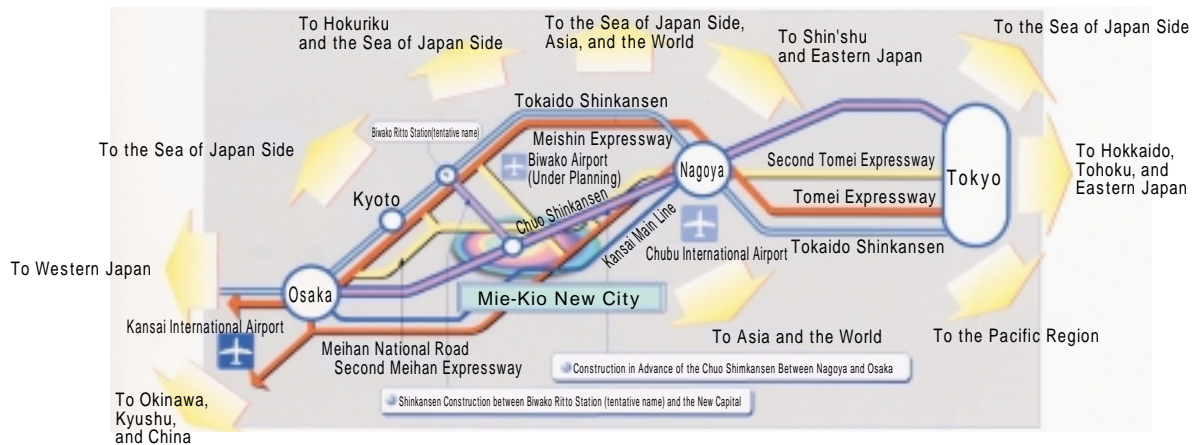


Picture Taken from the Ayama Town Observation Facility in Mie Prefecture (Kio 2 Area)

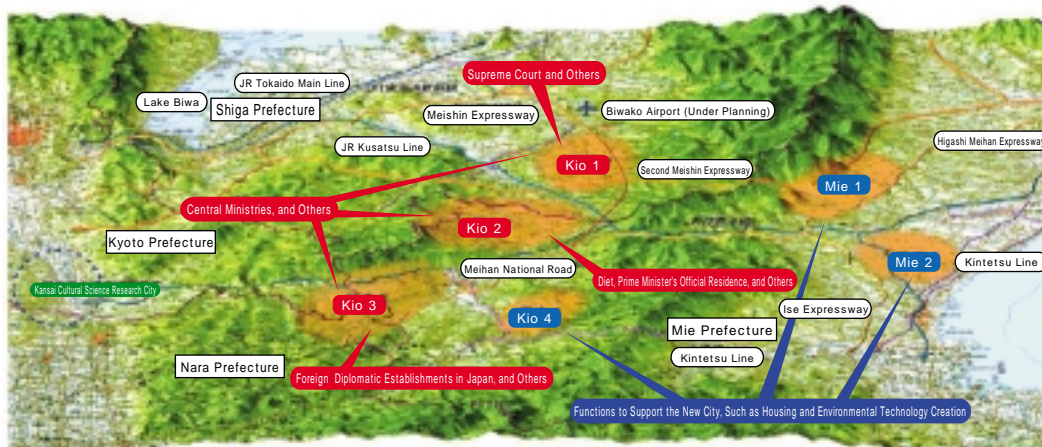
Transportation Networks Proposed

The following two measures were proposed for constructing a high-speed transportation network. Implementation of these measures will provide a transportation network that enables more effective utilization of two international airports and that has excellent accessibility from Tokyo, all over the country, all countries in the world.

How transportation Network Should be Constructed before Opening the New City
 The railroad section between Nagoya and Osaka of the Chuo Shinkansen, which forms the main axis of the high-speed transportation network, should be constructed in advance.
 Biwako-Ritto station (tentative name), which is being planned for construction, should be established at the intersection of the Tokaido Shinkansen and Kusatsu Line, and a new Shinkansen (about 25km) from Biwako Ritto station (tentative name) to the new city should be constructed.



Basic Idea for the New City Structure



For details, please contact the Mie Prefecture Capital Functions Relocation Promotion Office, Secretariat of the Mie-Kio Region Council for the Capital functions relocation (Phone: +81-59-224-2085.)



Major Recent Activities Related to the Capital Functions Relocation in Each Region

July 11, 2001 The "Symposium to Reconsider the Capital Functions Relocation" was held under the sponsorship of the Chubu Headquarters of the Mainichi News Papers. After Mr. Taichi Sakaiya's keynote speech, a panel discussion was held with Mr. Nobuhiro Okuno (Vice-President of Nagoya University) as coordinator. Mr. Taku Kajiwara (Governor of Gifu Prefecture), Mr. Hiroshi Suda (Vice-Chairman of the Chubu Federation of Economic Organizations), and Ms. Sumie Goto (Professor of Nihon Fukushi University) who participated in the panel as panelists actively discussed the issues.

July 19, 2001 The "Capital Functions Relocation Big Talk Show" was held with participation of governors of Tochigi, Gifu, Mie, and Fukushima Prefecture and attracted more than 1500 attendants at the site of Utsukushima Future Museum. Opinions were exchanged on the necessity and significance of the capital functions relocation, and a joint appeal was adopted, stating, "The capital functions relocation . . . is a very important national project, and now is the time to realize it to manifest a suitable approach for twenty-first century Japan to take domestically and overseas."



July 12 The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations and the Fukushima Prefectural Residents' Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations published the "Tochigi-Fukushima Region" public relations video.

July 16 The Council for Establishing a Basic Concept of Promoting the Capital Functions Relocation announced the "Basic Concept of Relocating the Capital Functions to Hokuto Region."

July 24 Shiga Prefecture displayed a three-dimensional model of "Mie-Kio Region" in the Mie Prefectural Office and in the office of the Koga Region Promotion Bureau.

July 27 The Gifu Bloc Council of the Japan Junior Chamber Inc. published the Capital Functions Relocation Video.

July 27 Shiga Prefecture published the Capital Functions Relocation enlightenment Video.

"Children's Kasumigaseki Visiting Days"

The "Children's Kasumigaseki Visiting Days" was held on August 22 and 23, and many schoolchildren and junior high school students also participated in the events at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT). At the MLIT, officials explained the capital functions relocation, and participants experienced a virtual capital function city using the "Capital Function City Experiencing CD-ROM."

Accessing Various Information

Various information concerning the capital functions relocation has been provided on the MLIT Homepage on the Internet. Please visit this web-site.

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

Address : Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division, National and Regional Planning Bureau, MLIT

1-2, Kasumigaseki 2-Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8918 Japan

Homepage : <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/index.html>

E-Mail : itenka@mlit.go.jp

Telephone : +81-3-5253-8366 FAX : +81-3-5253-1573