



## ~ 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. Eiji Nagai) held a meeting on November 21 (Wed.), inviting Governor Shintaro Ishihara of Tokyo Metropolis, and had a presentation, question and answer session. A brief outline of his presentation is introduced here.

An international airport is essential for the capital at the present day. Internationalization of the Tokyo Metropolitan region will thus be assured when offshore expansion of Haneda Airport is completed. It is unnecessary to separate the center of three powers (administrative, legislative, and judicative powers) and economic functions that are already located very near. Merits of concentration and accumulation in Tokyo brought about by the current of history should be evaluated and utilized to the maximum.

In the Committee meetings held on November 28 (Wed.) and December 4 (Tues.), governors and other persons of the candidate relocation sites were invited as witnesses and held their presentation, question and answer sessions. Brief outlines of the presentation are introduced here (mentioned in sequence of their statement).

#### Governor Taku Kajiwara of Gifu Prefecture

Decentralization of power, deregulation, and the capital functions relocation are the most serious structural reform presently facing Japan. The "logic of Tokyo" representing interests of one region and the "logic of the capital" to be considered impartially all over the country are mixed up. They should be discussed while tackling the problem not in a short immediate time span but in a long-range plan for the nation. Relocation expenditures should also be calculated in objective figures from the standpoint of the Diet itself.

#### Deputy Governor Hiroaki Kawauchi of Aichi Prefecture

From the points of view of the present financial status and effects on the environment, early realization of the relocation should be planned by making the scale of the new city as compact as possible. The Gifu-Aichi Region can reduce the environmental load by utilizing the existing cities.

#### Governor Akio Fukuda of Fukushima Prefecture

From the point of view of disaster response capability, those regions where simultaneous disaster strikes can be avoided, where the possibility of traffic obstruction from Tokyo is low, and where alternate traffic routes can be secured are desirable. Those regions that can cooperate closely with Tokyo are suitable from the viewpoint of smooth relocation. When a compact central government is realized by restricting the national authority, resistance will be less even if relocation is carried out. The Diet should show a realistic image of the relocation.

#### Governor Eisaku Sato of Fukushima Prefecture

The trial calculation by Tokyo Metropolis uses data including its actual results and vividly shows the high infrastructure construction cost in the Metropolis on the contrary. Both Brasilia and Canberra have only domestic airports, and a city without an international airport cannot always become the capital. Discussions in the area of emergency control, such as where conferences should be held in case the Diet is stricken by disasters, should be promoted separately from those about the capital relocation.

#### Governor Masayasu Kitagawa of Aichi Prefecture

The present feeling of blockade is caused by deadlock of a system in which efficiency is pursued through concentration and accumulation and inability of obtaining an alternative system. Japan's image as a mature society must be viewed, and its keywords are "dispersion, independence, and diversity." The capital functions relocation should be discussed in such a context.

#### Governor Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu of Shiga Prefecture

Recognition of the era is important in discussing the capital functions relocation. The question now is whether the national construction is to be carried out as a continuation from the twentieth century or based on an insight into the new era and Japan's status in the world.

#### Governor Yashiya Kakimoto of Nara Prefecture

Bad effects of too much concentration of everything in Tokyo should be recognized. Since the image of the capital seen from overseas is very important, the new city should show both new facets of Japan and deep meanings of Japanese history.

#### Deputy Governor Keiji Yamada of Kyoto Prefecture

The capital functions relocation is a theme that should be understood with the image of large structural changes, such responsibility sharing between local and national governments.

## House of Councilors

The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (chaired by Mr. Tet-suo Kutsukake) held meetings on November 14 (Wed.) and 15 (Thurs.). Invited governors and other persons from candidate relocation sites as witnesses held presentation, question and answer sessions. Brief outlines of the presentation are introduced here (mentioned in sequence of their statements).

### Governor Masayasu Kitagawa of Mie Prefecture

The capital functions relocation is a theme that should be given priority by the Koizumi Cabinet as one of a structural reforms without any sanctuary. Changing forms is the most understandable way of promoting awareness of reform. Separation of the capital functions from Tokyo significantly influences achieving self-decision and self-responsibility in the region. The Mie-Kio Region will comply with the decision even if any other region is designated as the candidate relocation site.

### Vice-Chairman Sojiro Takahashi of Kinki Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The viewpoint of Japan's status in the world is important issue in relocating the capital functions. Based on a strong trend of grouping and globalization of the worldwide economy, Japan should consider Asia as most important. Therefore, the relocation site for the capital functions should be a region suitable for representing Japan. Would it be appropriate to evaluate a major national problem in a span of one to two hundred years only from most recent economic circumstances. Investment should be made for Japan's future over a long span of time.

### Governor Taku Kajiwara of Gifu Prefecture

The capital functions relocation is the symbol of the "Heisei Restoration" and should be realized in combination with decentralization and deregulation. There is too much discussion about the immediate future but not enough about a grand plan for the long-term future of the nation. The capital functions relocation is a huge historical and national reform, and it is natural that strong resistance or friction should be arise. There is no way other than thorough discussion. I hope the Diet would try to stimulate public opinion exchanges. When the relocation site is decided based on a grand plan for the long-term future of the nation, we will follow the decision.

### Vice-Chairman Hiroshi Suda of the Chubu Economic Federation

Discussions should be held among the people returning to the origin of the capital functions relocation to be promoted as part of the administrative and financial reform. The capital functions should be relocated to a place chosen by consensus of most of the people. The image of the capital to be realized is the capital based on responsibility sharing and cooperation. The capital functions relocation is misunderstood to be highly expensive but public funds expended is four trillion yen out of the maximum total expenditure of twelve trillion yen, and it need not be paid all at once. Money expended for solving problems in Tokyo is more than the public expenditure for the capital functions relocation.

Since the capital functions relocation is a grand plan for the long-term future of the nation, national consensus formulation is necessary at any cost.

### Governor Akio Fukuda of Tochigi Prefecture

The capital functions relocation is important and urgent issue, especially from the point of view of disaster response capability. The relocation site should be a place that enables close cooperation with Tokyo to accomplish the relocation smoothly. The Diet should quickly decide the relocation site and then create a vision of the new city. It is important to develop a small central government, and it is possible to prevent the new city from becoming like Tokyo by restricting the roles played the national authority.

### Chairman Masao Tsuboi of Fukushima Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The Tochigi-Fukushima Region allows the new city to cooperate most closely with Tokyo even after it has matured. It is unwise to stop discussing the capital functions relocation because of financial problems. Too much time has been spent. Discussion should be revived in the Diet. Discussion in the Diet is necessary to formulate a national consensus. We are not attracting the capital functions relocation to our region, but we approve of the relocation and suggest our region as a suitable relocation site.

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/>).

## New Pamphlets Prepared

The Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division, National and Regional Planning Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT), prepared two pamphlets titled "Let's Think Together: The Capital Functions Relocation of Japan" and "The Capital Functions Relocation in Foreign Countries."

These pamphlets explain clearly the capital functions relocation in a question-and-answer form and introduce overseas examples using pictures and maps.

They are being widely distributed to all sectors now. If you wish to obtain these pamphlets, please contact the Division's section in charge (Phone: +81-3-5253-8366). We are awaiting your contact.

"Let's Think Together: The Capital Functions Relocation"

- Volume: A-4 Type 20 Pages (Colored Printing)
- Details: Basic information about the capital functions relocation is presented in a question-and-answer form. Related data and various points related to the capital functions relocation are also introduced.

"The Capital Functions Relocation in Foreign Countries"

- Volume: A-4 Type 14 Pages (Colored Printing)
- Details: Examples of capital functions relocation in foreign countries (Germany, Brazil, and Australia and other countries), and the circumstances, objectives, and characteristics of their urban construction are introduced using pictures and maps.



## "On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

On the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Homepage, lecture meetings have been held with thirty knowledgeable persons in various areas such as academic and economic sectors, and the following new lectures were added. Please visit this web site

(<http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online/online-f.html>).

<December> Mr. Masayuki Fukuoka (Professor of Hakuho University)

Theme: "The Capital Functions Relocation Should Go Together with Political and Administrative Reform"

Ms. Hinako Sugiura (Writer)

Theme: "Revive "Edo City" as a Cooperative Organization"

## ★ Topics

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

- November 9 Nishinasuno Keiyuukai (Economic Association) held a symposium on the relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations.
- November 19 The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Council and the Fukushima Prefectural Residents' Council for Promoting the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations held the forum "Speak about the New City in the Twenty-First Century."
- December 4 A rally for realizing the relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations ~ Structural Reform in the Twenty-First Century Initiated by the Capital Functions Relocation ~ was held, being participated by related members of the Diet, prefectural governors, representatives from the economic sectors, and others.
- December 4 The Tokyo Metropolitan assembly carried the "Resolution Requesting Detraction of the Capital Relocation."
- December 5 The Hokkaido, Tohoku, and Northern Kanto Economist Council for Promoting the Capital Functions Relocation held the Capital Functions Relocation Symposium "Capital Functions Towards Hokuto" ~ Aiming at an Environmental Culture City ~.
- December 14 The Council for Promoting Gifu-Aichi New Capital held the Gifu-Aichi Capital Functions Relocation Forum.
- December 17 The Council for promoting Mie-Kio New Capital held the Mie-Kio Symposium "Future Capital of Japan."

# ★ Topics

## Capital Functions Relocation is Being Studied at Various Places

### Freshmen in the Training Course of Mie Prefectural Agricultural College

On November 8, officials of Mie Prefecture and MLIT visited the college and gave lectures on the capital functions relocation as part of the lesson given to the freshmen in the Training Course of Mie Prefectural Agricultural College. Students asked questions actively about the status of Tokyo after the relocation.



### Nagoya University

On November 14, a lecture was given by the Director of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division at Nagoya University using a presentation with a personal computer. Professor Tsuneyoshi Takeuchi an opinion exchange with the audience. They answered questions asked by the audience and also exchanged opinions with each other to deepen understanding about what they have doubts about. We could get various opinions and had a significant time in common.



### Koriyama District Wide Area Council for Promoting the Capital Functions Relocation

On November 16, a training meeting was held at the Koriyama District Wide Area Council for Promoting the Capital Functions Relocation, and officials of Tochigi Prefecture and MLIT visited the meeting to give lectures on the capital functions relocation.



### Symposium Held at the Research Institute of Comparative Policy of the Daito Bunka University

On November 19, the symposium "Think the Capital Functions Relocation Over Again" was held under the sponsorship of the Research Institute of Comparative Policy of the Daito Bunka University. After explanations about the capital functions relocation and keynote speeches by four panelists consisting of professors and assistant professors of the university, thorough discussions went on in a form of answering the questions asked by the audience.

## 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](mailto:itenka@mlit.go.jp)

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