



New Era



Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

vol.28

February 2002

~ Think Together about the Capital Functions Relocation of Japan ~

Trends in the Diet

House of Representatives

In the meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations held on January 21, Mr. Kentaro Ishihara was newly appointed Chairman of the Committee.

House of Councilors

In the meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations held on January 21, Mr. Kiyoshi Nishikawa newly appointed Chairman of the Committee.

"On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

On the Capital Functions Relocation Homepage of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT), lecture meetings have been held with thirty-four knowledgeable persons in various disciplines such as academic and economic sectors. and the following lectures are newly added. Please visit this web site. (<http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online-f.html>)

<February> Mr. Terumasa Nakanishi (Professor of Kyoto University)

Theme: "The Capital Functions Relocation is an Issue of Selection on a Scale of Cultural History"

Mr. Yoichiro Murakami

Theme: "The New City Should be Constructed to Support the Administrative Functions"

Panel Display of the Capital Functions Relocation to Be Widely Developed throughout Japan

The MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division prepared panels to introduce the capital functions relocation and is planning to display them at various places, such as major railroad stations throughout the country. The Division is also soliciting proper places to display them. If you know of any proper places or chances suitable for displaying the panels to many people, please contact the Division at the address shown on the bottom of Page 4.

At the same time, the Division is also planning to display posters.

Part of the panels are introduced here.

The image shows four panels of information related to the capital functions relocation. Each panel contains text, images, and charts.

- Panel 1 (Left):** Titled "みんなであそぼう。国会等の移転" (Let's play together. Relocation of Diet etc.). It discusses the relocation of the Diet and other organizations from Tokyo to other regions. It includes a photo of a man and a diagram showing the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.
- Panel 2 (Second from Left):** Titled "「私達の生活は、良くなるのかな?」" (Will our lives get better?). It discusses the relocation of the Diet and other organizations and its impact on the lives of citizens. It includes a photo of a man and a chart showing the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.
- Panel 3 (Second from Right):** Titled "「どんな新都市が、できるのかな?」" (What kind of new city can be built?). It discusses the relocation of the Diet and other organizations and the construction of a new city. It includes a photo of a man and a chart showing the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.
- Panel 4 (Right):** Titled "「今後の首都は、どうなるのかな?」" (What will the future capital be like?). It discusses the relocation of the Diet and other organizations and the future of the capital. It includes a photo of a man and a chart showing the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.

Urban Construction of the Capital Functions Relocation Site in Canberra

When Australia became independent of the United Kingdom, the capital functions were relocated to Canberra to construct a capital symbolizing federal unification in a site other than the two large cities, Sydney and Melbourne. In this issue, Mr. Masao Nobe, who is familiar with Canberra, introduces how they coped with the urban construction in Canberra.

Urban Construction in Canberra

Contributed by Mr. Masao Nobe of Assistant Professor of the Department of Education, Okayama University

Canberra is the capital of Australia, and is located 120km southwest of Sydney. The city consists of five blocks called towns, and each town is occupied by fifty to ninety thousand residents. Inner Canberra was developed at the center of the city. Lake Barley Griffin, an artificial lake located in the middle of Inner Canberra, and its surroundings were designed by Walter Barley Griffin. This district is designed geometrically to create a beautiful landscape full of variety making the best use of water and greenery. There is a town center, called the Civic, with offices and retail stores on the north coast of the lake, and the new Federal Diet Building and the government office district are laid out on the south coast. The Federal Government first placed the Federal Diet Building and government offices in Melbourne but constructed Canberra to accommodate relocating them from Melbourne to Canberra. Canberra has grown to a city with a population of 310 thousand people.

(The Reason Canberra Became the Capital)

When Federal Australia was established in 1901, there was a lively discussion on whether Sydney or Melbourne should be the capital, but it was unsettled. An inland site located between the two cities was therefore chosen as the site of the capital, and the New South Wales State ceded the site to the Federal Government. That was how the city was borne. Canberra at that time was an almost barren land made of limestone.

(History)

Canberra is a comparatively new city and has undergone full-scale development since around 1960.

1912 The Federal Government solicited the urban designs of Canberra throughout the world and selected the draft by Walter Barley Griffin.

1927 A temporary Federal Diet Building was constructed, and the Federal Diet was held in Canberra. After that, however, construction of Canberra slowed to a crawl due to the major stock market crash and World War.

1958 The Capital Development Committee was established and started full-scale development of Canberra.

1960 to 1975 Government Offices were relocated from Melbourne to Canberra and many people moved to Canberra accordingly. Towns were developed one after another to accommodate the increased population.

1964 Lake Griffin was completed.

1988 The new Federal Diet Building was completed, and Canberra was roughly ready as the capital.



Fig. 1 Location Map of Canberra

(Canberra consists of five towns, Inner Canberra, Warden and West Creek, Berconen, Tagranon, and Gangrene Town. Gangrene Town is under development now.)

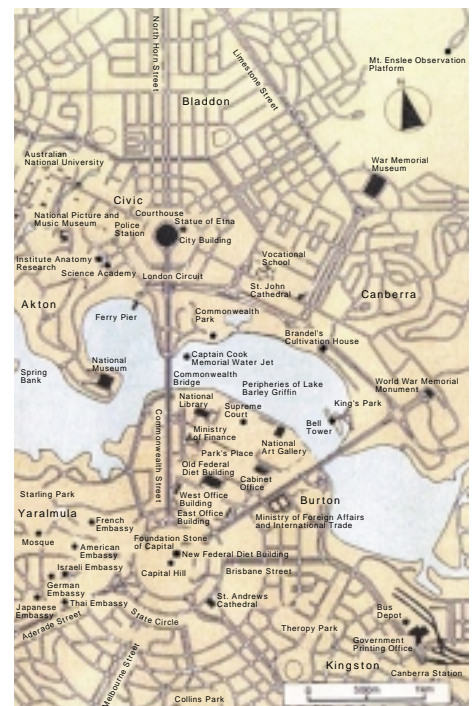


Fig. 2 Peripheries of Lake Barley Griffin

(Human-Friendly City)

The magnificent buildings of the Federal Government include the new Federal Diet Building, the National Library, the Supreme Court, and the National Museum, on the periphery of Lake Barley Griffin. If you visit Canberra, you can see such buildings. Canberra is superior to other cities in that it is resident-oriented.

Suburb Areas are equivalent to elementary school districts, and about twenty of them compose a town as mentioned before. Each suburb has a neighborhood park, and vast open spaces (forest zones) are provided between towns. Most of the residences are detached houses, each with a wide garden, so the population density is kept very low. Many trees were planted since Canberra became the capital, so it looks like a city amid a forest when viewed from the skies above the city. For this reason, Canberra is also called the Bush Capital (meaning the capital amid the forest). Furthermore, measures to improve the landscape of the city have been taken. Telegraph poles are rarely seen because cables are buried under the ground, and building walls around front gardens are not permitted. The landscape of the city is excellent owing to those measures.

Furthermore, motorways separated in two directions are constructed deliberately. Trunk roads with a sufficient width are constructed on the periphery of the suburbs and meandering roads within the suburbs. Trunk roads are used to allow traffic pass through without cars entering the suburbs. Pedestrians and cars are completely separated because sidewalks are laid out along the motorway. Roads for cycling and horse riding also crisscross the city of Canberra.

When I say to Australians living in Melbourne and Sydney, "I lived in Canberra for five years." they say, "How could you live in such an artificial city so long?" I guess that Australians who have never been to Canberra get such an impression because the city is a planned city. According to a survey, residents in Canberra rate their living environment very highly. I suppose it is due to human-friendly measures taken by the government.



Picture 1 Lake Barley Griffin

(The city is looked down from the west. The new Federal Diet Building, National Library, Supreme Court, and National Art Museum are on the land (with bridges constructed) which juts out to the lake shown in the middle of the picture.)



Picture 2 New Federal Diet Building



Picture 3 National Library



Picture 4 Supreme Court



Picture 5
Housing Area in Inner Canberra
(Houses are enclosed with many trees.)



Picture 6 Cycling Road

Capital Functions Relocation is Being Studied at Various Places

Environmental Science Research Course of the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo

On January 18, lectures were given on the "Capital Tokyo Project" as part of the "Seminar on the Theory of Space Environment Formulation" in the Environmental Science Research Course of the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo. After a MLIT official gave a lecture on the capital functions relocation, Mr. Shin'ichi Okada, an architect, gave a lecture on a development plan focusing on Tokyo Bay on the theme of "Transmission from Tokyo towards National Land Renovation -- Tokyo DC2300 Plan." Opinions were also exchanged actively between the lecturers, educators, and students, extending the seminar for an hour over the scheduled time.



Training of Kanazawa City Officials

On January 25, an MLIT official visited a special training course for Kanazawa City officials and gave a lecture on the capital functions relocation. He answered questions asked by the audience on subjects, such as images of and items to be considered for the new city, response to national land measures, and processes of the candidate relocation site decision to let them deepen their understanding about what they doubted.

Report of the Capital Functions Relocation Symposium

The Capital Functions Relocation Symposium was held on February 13 in Tokyo. Proceedings of the symposium will be published on the MLIT Homepage or other media. The panel discussion in the symposium will be broadcast in the "Friday Forum" on the NHK Education Television Program from eleven o'clock p.m. on March 15 (Fri.). Please watch the program.

Miniature Information on Capital Functions Relocation "Non-Wood Paper and Soybean Oil Ink"

The MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Division has prepared several kinds of pamphlets to introduce the capital functions relocation, and non-wood paper (kenaf or bagasse) and soybean oil ink are used for most of those pamphlets, because using non-wood paper instead of paper made from wood pulp is useful to protect forest resources. Non-wood paper made from the strained lees of sugar cane called bagasse is also used for pamphlets prepared at the end of 2001. Usage of these sorts of non-wood paper contributes to the secondary utilization of agricultural waste and reduction of the waste.

Soybean oil is expected to be further diffused as eco-friendly ink because it reduces generation of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) compared with the conventional printing ink.

We intend to consider the global environment even in preparing such documents especially because environmental measures are strongly demanded for the capital functions relocation project.

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