



~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 of the House of Representatives (chaired by Mr. Kentaro Ishihara) held a free discussion session on February 21. The Chairman first stated, "The gathering of the executive members of the Committee has been conferring on how to narrow the candidate relocation sites. They are now studying this issue focusing on the concept, that the relocation site will be decided by the Committee after obtaining information by means of questionnaires from all members of the Diet. The Committee members listened to explanations on the capital functions relocation by a governmental witness and Diet officials, and then discussed the necessity of the capital functions relocation for various reasons, such as the alleviation of the excessive concentration of activities in Tokyo and the strengthening disaster preparedness capabilities. They also discussed procedures to narrow the candidate relocation sites.

House of Councilors

The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (chaired by Mr. Kiyoshi Nishikawa) dispatched its members to the "Mie-Kio Region" on February 18. On arriving, they listened to the briefings 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. They also conducted field surveys of facilities such as the Ayama Town Observation the Ayama Town Observation Platform in Mie Prefecture.



Capital Functions Relocation Video Prepared

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT) has prepared an easily understandable public relations video on the capital functions relocation. The video features witty conversations between Mr. Yumenosuke Sanshotei (a professional storyteller) and a woman playing the role of a newscaster and utilizing interviews with Mr. Taichi Sakaiya (an author) and Mr. Kisho Kurokawa (an architect) and Computer Graphics (CG).

We expect that the public relations video will deepen understanding and stimulate interest about the capital functions relocation among people on every social level and encourage national discussions.

This public relations video will be distributed to public libraries and visual and auditory center libraries throughout the country. Please be sure to watch the video.

Details of the Video (Running Time: 26 minutes)

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 What is the Capital Functions Relocation? (Definition, Significance, and Effects of the Capital Functions Relocation)
- Chapter 3 Outline of Candidate Relocation Sites (Process of Candidate Relocation Sites, Introductions of Each Candidate Relocation Sites)
- Chapter 4 Image of the New City (Image of the New City, Relocation Cost, and Others)
- Chapter 5 Interviews (Mr. Taichi Sakaiya (an Author), Mr. Kisho Kurokawa (an Architect))
- Chapter 6 Overseas Capital Functions Relocation -- Canberra (Introduction of Examples, Interviews on the Spot)
- Chapter 7 Introduction of Points of the Issue about the Capital Functions Relocation
- Chapter 8 Procedures in the Future
- Chapter 9 Endings
(Sorry, Japanese Only)



Capital Functions Relocation Symposium Held

The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is being studied from a broad point of view in the Diet. MLIT not only cooperates with the Diet in their deliberation but also tries to stimulate national discussions through various public relations activities.

As part of the MLIT's activities, the second symposium in FY 2001 was held on February 13 (Wed.) at Tsuda Hall in Tokyo 336 persons participating.

Keynote Speeches

In the symposium, keynote speeches were first given by Mr. Taichi Sakaiya (an author) and Mr. Kazuki Kasuya (President of Toshi Shuppan Co., Ltd.).

Mr. Taichi Sakaiya stated that the capital functions relocation is necessary because Japan has not transitioned from a modern industrial society to an intelligent society. He further stated that major reform cannot be achieved without relocating capital functions even from the historical point of view, and that the relocation is the most inexpensive means of reforming Japan. He also made proposals necessary for promoting the relocation.

Mr. Kazuki Kasuya took basically the opposite position and spoke against the capital functions relocation. He mentioned that the condition required for improving politics is to expose it to the criticism of various common but refined audiences (the mass media and others), as in the case of kabuki. However, he also stated that some functions should be relocated from Tokyo and that a "state" system should be considered if correction of monopolar concentration is necessary.



Panel Discussion

After the keynote speeches, a panel discussion was held by four panelists, Ms. Kuniko Inokuchi (Professor of Sophia University), Ms. Reiko Okutani (President of the R Co., Ltd.), Mr. Masayasu Kitagawa (Governor of Mie Prefecture), and Mr. Koichi Hori (President of Dream Incubator Co., Ltd.) with Mr. Hiroyasu Saito (Executive Commentator of NHK) as coordinator.



The major opinions expressed are presented below.

- (1) Relocation should be promoted because the postwar catch-up activities have come to a dead end and sense of stagnation pervades throughout Japan. The relocation should be promoted to overcome this situation.
- (2) Construction of a mature society is a problem in the twenty-first century and requires a paradigm shift, that is, the relocation.
- (3) We had achieved success by concentrating limited resources in Tokyo in the postwar days, but this technique reached a dead end ten years ago. We cannot have a brilliant future by simply extending the past. We should do something new.
- (4) A country or an organization that postpone things because they are important but not urgent will be destroyed. Things should be considered not from the viewpoint of their urgency but from the viewpoint of their importance.
- (5) Present Tokyo should be maintained as a world city to win international competition.
- (6) Courage and antiheroism to withdraw the relocation plan are necessary. I propose the idea of "Increased Capital" to make the candidate relocation sites the second and third capitals.
- (7) Relocation is unnecessary if systems are reformed.
- (8) Structural reform should be implemented first, and then national consensus should be formulated on the relocation.

Lastly, each panelist proposed what is necessary now in discussing the capital functions relocation together with related keywords. The proceedings of the symposium will be published on the MLIT Homepage as soon as they are ready.



Panel Display of the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations

The MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division is exhibiting panel displays to introduce the present study status of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations. Displays are scheduled from the middle of March at the following places:

JR Sapporo Station Yard (from March 14 to 20); JR Hakata Station Yard (from March 21 to March 27); JR Oita Station Yard (from March 14 to 20); The Center Plaza on the second floor of Shin-Chitose Airport; Fukushima Airport (During March (Date TBD)); Community Gallery Corner in Nagasaki Airport (March 3 to 23); 3F Gallery in Naha Airport, Okinawa Prefecture (March 6 to 17); 2F Waiting Room in Tokushima Terminal (Ferry Terminal) (from March 1 to 31); 2F Gallery in Matsuyama Sightseeing Port (from March 3 to 16); Honjo Port Plaza "Aqua Pal" (from March 22 to 31); Yamoto Town Library (from March 26 to April 2) and others.

Please take a look at them.



Kasumigaseki Station of the Subway in Tokyo



In Ayabe Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kyoto Prefecture



Allec City "Oyakata" Show Window in Fukui Prefecture

Posters are also being displayed at various places, such as major railroad stations and freeway service areas, throughout the country.

"On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

On the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Homepage, lecture meetings have been held with thirty six knowledgeable persons in various disciplines such as academic and economic sectors and the following lecture is newly added:

http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online/online_f.html

<March> Mr. Takashi Mikuriya (Professor of the Political Research Graduate School University
Theme: "Viewpoint Based on Cultural Theory Should be Considered Seriously in Relocating Capital Functions"

Capital Functions Relocation Being Studied at Various Places



Agro-Environmental Engineering Course, Department of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University

On February 18, an MLIT official visited the Agro-Environmental Engineering Course of the Department of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University to give a lecture on the capital functions relocation. About forty juniors listening to the lecture deepened their understanding on how the capital functions should be in the future. To the question, "Have you ever heard the phrase 'Capital Functions Relocation'?", all students answered, "Yes," presumably because they are living very near to the candidate relocation site.



Second Gathering for Discussion on Natural Environment Related to the Capital Functions Relocation

On February 19, an MLIT official gave a lecture on natural environment preservation measures related to the capital functions relocation as part of the Gathering for Discussion on Natural Environment Related to the Capital Functions Relocation sponsored by the "Capital Functions Relocation Realization Workshop (Investigation Subcommittee for Preservation Area Designation)," an internal organization of the "Gifu-Tono Region League for Promoting Attraction of Capital Functions." In the gathering, Professor Toshihiro Tanaka of Gifu Pharmaceutical University also gave a lecture on vegetation in Gifu-Tono Region and administrative officials of local cities, towns, and villages and local residents exchanged their opinions earnestly on preserving nature in the region.



Capital Functions Relocation Symposium

In the symposium held on February 25, in Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture, the Director of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division gave a lecture utilizing a personal computer. More than four hundred persons participated in the symposium. The active event included a keynote speech given by Mr. Jitsuro Terashima (President of Mitsui Global Strategic Studies Institute.) and a panel discussion session.

Changes of the "New Era" Addressees

Please report any changes in working places or addresses of the "New Era" addressees to us at the address shown at the bottom of this page. We will change the mailing address to the new working place or new address.

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

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