



~ Think Together about the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations ~

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 April 4. They discussed changes in the recent social and economic circumstances and the significance of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations, such as disaster response capability, after listening to the Diet members' explanation of the "Summary of answers given by each ministry concerning administrative organizations that are subject to the relocation of the Diet and other organizations."

Panels and Posters Introducing Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Displayed throughout the Country

The Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT) is displaying panels and posters throughout the country to introduce the present status of the study of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations. Displays are scheduled at the following places, such as JR stations in Tokyo and other places around the period of Golden Week, be sure to look out for them.

JR Shinjuku Station (From April 29 to May 5) / JR Shibuya Station (From May 10 to May 21) / JR Shinagawa Station (April 29 to May 5)
JR Shinbashi Station (April 29 to May 5) / JR Yurakucho Station (From May 3 to May 9)
Kanto Regional Development Bureau / Shikoku Regional Development Bureau / Kyushu Regional Development Bureau / Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau



NEW Chitose Airport



Naha Okinawa Airport



JR Ikebukuro Station



JR Tokyo Station

Lecture Meeting on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Held

The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is undergoing review in the Diet. The MLIT is not only cooperating in this deliberation but also trying to stimulate public opinion through the use of various public relations activities. As part of the activities, a lecture meeting on the relocation of the Diet and other organizations was held on April 9 (Tues.) at the Teijin Hall in Osaka with 230 persons participating.

Video "Think Together about Japan in the Twenty-First Century and the Capital Functions Relocation" Shown

Before starting the lecture meeting, a video prepared by the MLIT in March 2002 was shown to enable the participants to understand the outline of the relocation.



Guest Speaker

Ms. Fusae Ota (Governor of Osaka Prefecture) was an honored guest and gave a speech

In her speech, Governor Ota mentioned that over concentration is problematic in maintaining public security and that relocating the capital functions from Tokyo is the most effective measure for correcting over concentration.

She also referred to the Importance of Kansai Region and others.



Lectures

In the lecture session, speeches were given by Mr. Taichi Sakaiya (an author) and Ms. Yumiko Sato (Department Director of Research Institute on Continuity and Change in Life).



Mr. Taichi Sakaiya stated his views on the necessity of the capital functions relocation as follows: (1) The present structure of Japan has remained the same as in the era of standardized mass production, although it has already converted from the era of standardized mass production to the era of diversified wisdom; (2) Historically speaking, an era has never converted from one to the other without relocating the capital; (3) There are no inexpensive policies other than the capital functions relocation, so it should be implemented even under the present tight financial conditions; (4) From a worldwide viewpoint, capital functions and economic functions decentralized. He also stated that discussions involving the whole nation are necessary for the capital functions relocation.

Ms. Yumiko Sato described the present problems of the capital functions relocation and how the relocation should be discussed in the future as follows: (1) It is important to build a situation in which each district is able to show its vitality and discuss issues on equal terms under their own values, though present status is that Tokyo is presently the hub to which people and information gather and other districts are not; (2) From worldwide viewpoint, Tokyo may already have lost its charm; (3) The capital functions relocation is an opportunity to involve the younger generation, and it is important to establish a mechanism whereby their opinions are reflected.



The details of this lecture meeting will be published on the MLIT Homepage as soon as they are prepared.

"On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

On the MLIT The relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Homepage, lecture meetings have been held with thirty-seven intellectuals 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/online_f.html

- April
- Mr. Toshibumi Yada (Professor of Kyushu University)
Theme "Decentralization of Power and Small Capital Functions Relocation"
 - Mr. Sakuji Yoshimura (Professor of Waseda University)
Theme "Sympathy of the Nation is essential for the Capital Functions Relocation"
 - Ms. Noriko Konya (Senior Researcher of the Japan Stock Economy Research Institute (Incorporated Foundation))
Theme "Increasing Roles of the Government and the Importance of Social Capital Establishment"
 - Mr. Takao Sato (Senior Researcher and Director of the Urban Construction and Disaster Research Laboratory, Japan System Development Research Institute (Incorporated Foundation))
Theme "Disaster-Resistant Compact City Full of Identity Should be the base of the New City Construction"
 - Mr. Nobutsugu Fukukawa (Advisor of Dentsu Inc. and Director of the Dentsu Research Institute)
Theme "The Capital Functions Relocation Should be made an Opportunity to Overcome Japan's Disease"

The Panel for Studying the New City, Relocation Site, as an International Political City

The "Panel for Studying the New City, Relocation Site, as an International Political City" (chaired by Professor Takashi Todokoro of the Regional Policy Department of Takasaki City University of Economics) has investigated and reviewed "Assurance of Functions as an International Political City" cited as one of items to be considered in constructing the new city, the relocation site, in the report of the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (dated December 1999).

In the Panel, various opinions and proposals concerning the roles that should be played by Japan's international political city and international political city functions required for the new city, the relocation site, were given by each panel member after analyzing information about cities considered to be international political cities (cities such as Washington, D.C., Brussels, Geneva, and Vienna).

Based on the opinions and proposals given by each member in the three Panel sessions, we intend to prepare pamphlets describing the roles and functions to be played by the new city, the relocation site, as an international political city forwards the end of May.

★ T o p i c s

Japan Productivity Center For Socio-Economic Development Announced Proposals

The Panel for the Capital Functions Relocation (chaired by Professor Takashi Onishi of the University of Tokyo) established in Japan Productivity Center For Socio-Economic Development announced its urgent proposal, "Let's Change the Shape of the Country through the Capital Functions Relocation -- Towards the Separation of Politics and Economics" on March 20. Points of the proposal are as follows:

Part 1. Verification of Arguments by Metropolitan Government Tokyo

Part 2. Urgent Proposals -- Towards the Separation of Politics and Economics

- Capital Functions Should be Relocated to Promote Structural Reform Now Reaching a Decisive Moment
- Capital Functions Should be Relocated; As an Urgent Response to Disasters
- To Promote Urban Revival
- To Initiate a Chance to Reduce the Emperor's Burden with the Emperor's constitutional acts
- The Diet Should Narrow the Candidate Relocation Sites by May 2002.

For further information, please visit Japan Productivity Center For Socio-Economic Development Homepage or contact the the General Planning Department, Japan Productivity Center For Socio-Economic Development (Phone: 03-3409-1137)

Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Being Studied at Various Places



The Capital Functions Relocation Promotion Committee of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (a corporation) held a meeting on March 22 in Tokyo. The members watched the recently completed public relations video and listened to the lecture given by the Director of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division utilizing presentation with a personal computer. After the lecture, they exchanged opinions actively.

Recent Major Activities Related to the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations in Each Region

March 7 Three candidate relocation sites, placed advertisements in newspapers.

March 26 Three candidate relocation sites implemented informative activities, such as distributing the pamphlet "Let's Create Japan's Future!!," jointly prepared by the three regions, in Tokyo (JR Yurakucho Station, and Ginza).

Changes of the "New Era" Addressees

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