



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

### Trends in the Diet

#### House of Representatives

In the meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives held on June 11, Mr. Takashi Kawamura was nominated Chairman of the Committee.

In the Executive Committee meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation and Other Organizations of the House of Representative held on July 25, the following agreement was made.

Agreement on the Request Concerning Future Proceedings of the Committee  
(Agreed upon by Chairman and Executive Committee of the Special Committee of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations on July 25, 2002)

We sincerely request each party to understand the purport of the following three items, consult with each other, agree, and handle them properly prior to the next session of the Diet.

1. The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations will immediately start to study on reviewing concepts, including the scale and form of the relocation, and new relocation techniques (such as Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and securitization) based on the present severe social and financial circumstances.
2. Whether the relocation should implemented or not will be resolved in a plenary session of the House of Representatives of the FY 2003 ordinary session of the Diet based on the results of the study.
3. There will be as many members of the Special Committee as possible. About half of them will be from the three candidate relocation sites and the other half will be from regions other than the candidate relocation sites in order to smoothly implement proceed the above study.

Chairman and Executive Committee Members of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives

A meeting of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was held on July 30, and the Chairman of the Committee reported the above agreement of the Executive Committee. He was then authorized to order the Secretariat of the House of Representatives to make a preliminary investigation into item 1 of the agreement.

#### House of Councilors

A meeting the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Councilors (chaired by Mr. Kiyoshi Nishikawa) was held on July 31, and the Chairman reported the following Executive Committee agreement.

Agreement on Future Proceedings of the Special Committee

(Agreed upon by the Executive Committee of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations on July 31, 2002.)

Each party shall try to properly organize their opinions to reach a conclusion on the relocation of the diet and other organizations as soon as possible.

#### The Three Government Parties

In closing the ordinary session of the Diet on July 29, the three leaders of the Government parties agreed on seven items. In one item, they declared, "We will try to reach a conclusion on the problem of the capital functions relocation during the next ordinary session of the Diet, sincerely considering changes of circumstances, such as society, economy, and public opinions."

## Roundtable Talk on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Held

The outlines of the Talk held on April 10 are introduced here following the two last issues of this newsletter.

Participants Mr. Taichi Sakaiya: an Author

Mr. Hiroshi Ouchi: Professor of the Engineering Department, Shibaura Institute of Technology

Mr. Takashi Onishi: Professor of the Frontier Science and Technology Research Center, the University of Tokyo

Mr. Jitsuro Terashima: Director of the Strategic Research Institute, Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

Mr. Kazuo Hiramoto: Executive Director (in Charge of Research) of the Mitsubishi Research Institute Co., Ltd.

< Relationship between Changes of Economic Conditions and Promotion of the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations >

Mr. Sakaiya First, what economic conditions have changed?. First, the financial situation has become more serious. Second, Information Technology (IT) and construction of an intelligence-valued society has been widespread. Third, aging and concentration into Tokyo has progressed. With regard to financial conditions, the necessity of relocating capital functions has greatly increased because it will reduce financial expenses. I think operational expenses after the relocation will be decreased considerably.

The second problem is the IT and an intelligence-valued society. An Intelligence-valued society means multifarious concepts and increased wisdom are borne in competition with each other. Therefore, it is necessary to change the society into a dispersion type if conversion to an intelligence-valued society is wanted. IT popularization also becomes very profitable for a dispersed society, because this is not an era when people gather and meet each other.

The third problem is aging. When aging advances rapidly, each city and each region should create an environment in which healthy persons of advanced age can live in comfortably. In such a huge city as Tokyo, the elderly who want to get a job must commute spending one to two hours. The elderly should be able to be employed under conditions of reduced work load and reduced time for commutation, attending school, and going to a hospital necessary for sustaining their labor. The elderly cannot work in such a city where they must spend two hours to commute in a crowded trains. An urban construction to enable any desired jobs done at any desired place throughout Japan and international jobs or design works even in a local city is absolutely needed. Thinking in that way, I think monopolar concentration to Tokyo starting in 1996 is a formidable phenomenon to produce a miserable life. Therefore, I feel that the economy and society will rapidly accelerate this problem.

Mr. Terashima I want to say one more thing. I do not think an internationally central city would not be attractive if it were an uninteresting city occupied by only politicians and administrative bureaucrats. I have continued to say that Geneva is the model of an internationally central city with abundant internationality. I suggest we attract an international organization or other similar organizations to the new city. The initiatives of international organizations should be pursued in the area in which Japan is competent or organizations, such as centers, or responsible persons to make the nucleus for solving various problems in the Asia Pacific Region. We should also recruit broadly international persons. Unless the new city construction is implemented in such a conception, the city becomes an uninteresting political city.

Mr. Sakaiya With regard to the problem of function, roads become congested throughout Tokyo whenever national guests visit, and this is a serious issue. Therefore, I think it is very nice to construct an always pleasant city by getting rid of such phenomena. Actually in the late 1990s when monopolar concentration to Tokyo progressed, the Japan's international situation was degraded rapidly. For example, Osaka Futures Market led the world in 1991 but it is now only one tenth of Chica-

go now. The spots market in Tokyo is also degrading rapidly. The reason is that there are no pleasure and no merits at the place other than Tokyo because of concentration to Tokyo.

< Towards Realization >

Mr. Onishi I feel that it is necessary to decide decisively to show the go-sign for the relocation at least in a near future. We must first confirm that we are to relocate and then decide the relocation site, and thence let its cultural effects be known by as many people as possible. This is too abstractive to understand but it is not a civil engineering and construction project but a cultural project. I feel that such a concept should be fully understood.

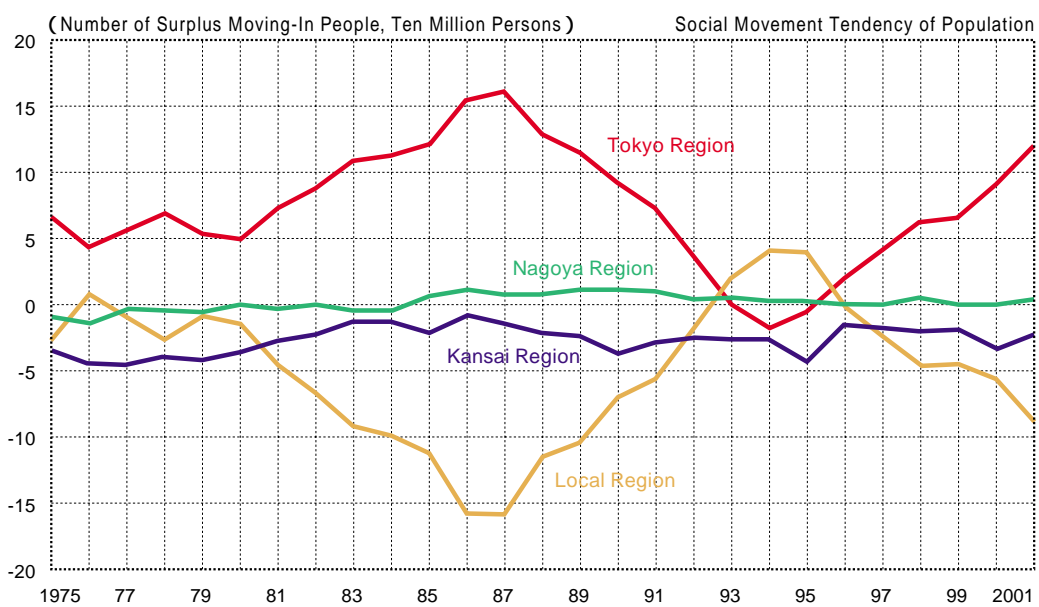
Mr. Hiramoto It is the most important to discuss the capital functions relocation focusing on conditions of whether the capital functions should be left in Tokyo or relocated to another place. We should review not only geographical differences but also the significance of the relocation.

Mr. Uchi Japan sought to become a major military power or economic power after the Meiji era in the twentieth century but it will thoroughly change its direction and the symbol of the change is the new city. That is what we would like to demonstrate in course of the relocation..

Mr. Sakaiya Japan should change because the times have changed. I think that is the largest premise. This capital functions relocation will change Japanese culture, society, economy, and all others. The times will change from the beurocrat-led one-dimensional era to the era of really multifarious wisdom. I think the relocation is not only a premise for the change but also the most necessary condition. Therefore, we should consider the relocation as a project to persuade the world and the nation that Japan will change. I would like you to consider the project never from an idea that it is a public project of civil engineering and construction but as a big cultural project for the Japan to change itself.

( The End )

### Monopolar Concentration is Accelerating Rapidly



Source: Prepared by the MLIT National and Regional Planning Bureau Based on the "Population Movement Report Based on the Resident Basic Registers" Prepared by the Cabinet Office

< Status of Population and Function Concentration to Tokyo >

Twenty-six percent of the national population is concentrated in 3.5% of the national land, and this is anticipated to be 26 to 27% in 2025.  
 Information and Network Enterprises (Number of Software System IT Industrial Establishments) 41.6% in 2000.  
 Financial Function (Volume of Stock Exchange) 73.3% in 1990 to 80.3% in 1999.  
 Commercial Function (Wholesales Volume) 41.2% in 1991 to 44.0% in 1999.  
 Floor Area of Offices, Shops, and Others 27.0% in 1990 to 28.0% in 2000

## Your Opinions Solicited

Round table talks of knowledgeable persons have been published in this and the previous two issues of this newsletter. We are soliciting your impressions and opinions about those talks in order to contribute to the Diet discussions on the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.

In the last session of the Diet, the relocation was discussed from a wide point of view. Agreements were reached in the executive committee meetings of the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Furthermore, the Special Committee of the House of Representatives decided to immediately start study on reviewing concepts, including the scale and form of the relocation and new relocation techniques (such as PFI and securitization). We also would like you to give us your opinions and proposals on this concept review. Please send your opinions and proposals to the address shown at the bottom of this page.

## ★ T o p i c s

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

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Council for Promoting New Capital Conception in Eastern Mino and the Northern part of Western Mikawa

The Director of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division gave a lecture on the recent tendency concerning relocation of the Diet and other organizations to the Council members on June 20 in Tajimi City after they finished their meeting.



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

On June 26, the result of the "questionnaire survey on the capital functions relocation" conducted simultaneously with an event held at the JR Tokyo station by the three candidate relocation sites of the Diet and other organizations as part of their joint public relations activities. The results are outlined below.

- Among the 1,122 questionnaires returned. 77% were answered by people in the Tokyo Region (Tokyo Metropolis and Kanagawa, Chiba, and Saitama Prefectures).
- About 80% said know very well or fairly well about the relocation.
- To the question "What factor has the maximum effects on Japan?," about 60% answered "Correction of monopolar concentration to Tokyo."
- About 50% gave "Stimulating national consensus" as the problem in promoting the relocation.

### 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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