



~ 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 (chaired by Mr. Hiroshi Nakai) held from ten o'clock a.m. to twelve o'clock a.m. on February 19, they had an opinion statement, questions and answers session inviting Mr. Tatsuo Hatta (Professor of the Space Information Science Research Center of the University of Tokyo) as a witness.

Major opinion statements are described below.

Mr. Tatsuo Hatta

1 Introduction

Comments on the capital functions relocation are incorrect. Furthermore, they lack viewpoints, such as international inter-city competition, with cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai.

(1) Causes of Monopolar Concentration in Tokyo

- Monopolar concentration in Tokyo was caused by the third industrialization, the improvement of inter-city transportation convenience (decrease in moving expense decreases, and time saving).

(2) Monopolar Concentration is Not a Demerit for Tokyo.

- Merits of accumulation should be utilized to the maximum through international competition.
- However remarkably information networking may progress, personal face to face relationship is important.

(3) Monopolar Concentration is not a demerit for the whole of Japan.

- The decentralization of power is important, but the relocation will not accelerate the decentralization.
- Large cities cannot help but develop in Japan, which develops with the third industrialization as a mainstay.
- The relocation causes lack of information, hindering the policy planning capability of the government.

2 Anti-Earthquake Procedures and Others

- There are risks of earthquake and other disasters throughout Japan. It is not the capital functions relocation but the construction of backup systems that is important for responding to those risks.
- When a disaster does occur, the role played by the government is limited. In order to establish an emergency control system, it is important for government officials to live near their governmental organizations and undergo training at ordinary times so as to be prepared.
- The elimination of densely built-up areas with low buildings should be the first consideration.

In the meeting of the Special Committee of the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives held from 1 o'clock p.m. to three o'clock p.m. on February 26 had an opinion statement and questions and answers session inviting Mr. Taichi Sakaiya (an author) as a witness.

Major opinion statements are described below.

Mr. Taichi Sakaiya

- To begin with, the relocation of the Diet and other organizations is necessary for reforming Japan in response to new eras, such as the wisdom era, and, therefore, it is a problem of civilization and culture. The relocation has been somewhat reduced to a matter of overpopulation prevention and anti-earthquake measures. I hope the relocation will be deliberated as a problem of structural reform, which is its original nature.

- As the society becomes intelligent, Japan alone is strengthening its standardized mass production structure in which all functions concentrate only in Tokyo. Foreign countries tend to separate or disperse their centers of political administration and those of economy and culture.
- The major cause of Japan's present bewildering confusion is monopolar concentration, and this is a phenomenon peculiar to Japan that has been promoted by the bureaucratic system.
- Although the world has become networked information society, Japan is still clinging to face-to-face communication.
- Dividing government functions into three parts and relocating each part to different places is the best way. By networking the information exchange between the three functions, the whole of Japan can be converted from a face-to-face society to a communication information society.
- The relocation of the Diet and other organizations can produce financial income through site utilization, enabling thorough financial reform and change of civilization.
- There is a monopolar concentration of information, such as publications, culture, and broadcasting stations. Japan cannot be revived under monopolar concentration. Therefore, Japan's position in the world has largely declined. and it will become like Argentina if this tendency continues.
- The three new cities can be constructed for a total national expense of one trillion yen, and the sale price of the vacant sites after relocation from Tokyo is estimated to be 4.7 trillion yen. If a half the sale money is appropriated to the relocation expenses, there will be a surplus of 1.3 trillion yen.
- Only relocation will overcome the young people's pessimistic view of Japan. The relocation of the Diet and other organizations should be considered as a long-range plan for the nation.

* The above major statements were prepared by the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT), from listening to opinions expressed in this issue.

* For further developments in the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations of the House of Representatives, please refer to "Trends in the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations" corner in the Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Homepage.

(Homepage Address: <http://www.shu-kokkaiiten.go.jp/index2.html>)

On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

On the MLIT Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Homepage, lecture meetings have been held with forty eight intellectuals in various disciplines, such as academic and economic sectors, making presentations. The following new lectures have been added. Please visit this web site.

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

< March >

Mr. Kazumi Kurokawa (Professor of the Department of Economy of Hosei University)

Theme : Let Us Discuss the Functional Renovation and Potential Improvement of Tokyo

- Items :
- Make Tokyo an attractive city by further functional renovation.
 - Let us begin by promoting the internationalization of Tokyo.
 - The capital functions relocation should be discussed considering improvement of the potential of the whole of Japan's.
 - The capital functions relocation should be considered together with decentralization.



Mr. Kazuhiko Komatsu (Professor of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies)

Theme : Revival of Tokyo and New City Construction from the Viewpoint of Urban Folklore

- Items :
- A city that has an appropriate scale for human living.
 - The sharing of urban space is necessary for Tokyo.
 - The new city is also necessary to make Tokyo a balanced space.
 - Let us construct a beautiful city in accordance with the idea of internationalization.



Mr. Shizuo Nakamura (Professor of Otsuma Woman's University)

Theme : "Implementing Japan's Capital Functions Relocation by Learning from the Federal Capital Berlin"

- Items :
- In the German federal republic system, administrative organizations competes with each other to establish independence.
 - The capital functions relocation of Berlin was achieved by forming a consensus.
 - The German federal system produces the self-reliance of regions
 - The realization of regional sovereignty and a "Mobile Diet" that enables the realization of a durable city



Environmental Image of the New City, Relocation Site

As introduced in the "New Era" vol. 36, the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT) intends to create, together with the support of you people, an environmental image of the new city in the concept of "With Voluntary Spirit and Amity (Circle, Ring, a meaning "Wa")". This is in line with the following ideas in order to construct the new city, the site of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations, which can respond to the various problems that modern cities encounter, and realize a living standard suitable for the 21st century.

It should be a leading project of eco-friendly urban construction.

Not only should the preservation of the present stable environment be sufficiently considered, but also a new natural environment should be created, actively introducing various knowledges and technologies.

We should create an example of a leading city in the world, in which human beings come close to nature and coexist with the environment.

From this point of view, examples and collected reference cases of lifestyle in the new city (information is to be added whenever necessary) are published on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Homepage to solicit your ideas and opinions.

The following advisors who are familiar with environmental problems, cooperated in creating an environmental image of the new city:

Ms. Tamiko Akaboshi Cartoonist, Essayist

Mr. Kazuo Iwamura Professor of Musashi Institute of Technology, Representative Director of Iwamura Studio Co., Ltd.

Mr. Shinichi Kitamura Professor of University of Yamanashi

Mr. Masaaki Naito Professor of Kyoto University

Ms. Konoe Fujimura Executive Director of Japan Association of Environment and Society for the 21st Century (NPO), Representative Director of Eco Planning Co., Ltd.

The Homepage design by Advisor Akaboshi is understandable and approachable, and is winning popularity. To submit your ideas, please refer to the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Homepage (Address: <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/kankyo/index.html>)



On exiting from the ticket gate, you find an agreeable atmosphere, deep blue sky and greenery. The Diet building, the symbol of Japan, can be seen over there. When you look around, you can see people who appear to be sightseers or groups of inspectors. This is Japan's new city. The capital functions relocation site attracts worldwide attention as a city that has considered the environment and energy.

Everybody! Let us experience the new city together. Mr. Burley Walter Griffin, the winner of the design competition for the Australian capital Canberra, said, "I produced a city unparalleled in the world. I planned an ideal city." We would also like you to gather together and plan an ideal city superior to his, in which the environment and energy are considered.

Material Collection by the ROK TV Broadcasting Stations

Taejun Cultural Broadcasting Station (MBC Taejun)

On February 12, Reporter Hs -Zhuchao of the ROK Taejun Cultural Broadcasting Station (MBC Taejun) visited MLIT to gather materials concerning the trend of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations in regard to the public commitment of President No Mu-hyon on the relocating the administrative capital. Reporter Hs asked the MLIT Director of the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division questions about the activities and member composition of the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations, and their efforts to invoke public opinion, etc.

ROK Cultural Broadcasting Station

On February 24, Correspondent Kuo-Tsukuo (in Japan) of the ROK Cultural Broadcasting Station (MBC) visited MLIT to collect materials about Japan's endeavor as part of the production of a special program covering the capital functions relocation, scheduled to be televised in the middle of March.

Director-General Kubono for Policy Planning explained the status of discussions and the recent tendencies in the relocation of the Diet and other organizations. Correspondent Kuo then asked questions, such as why the relocation was being discussed in Japan, how national discussion had been stimulated, and what was the role of the MLIT in this matter.



★ T o p i c s

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

On March 19, The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Council for Promoting the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations held a lecture meeting on the theme of "Imminence of a strong local earthquake in South Kanto District" inviting Mr. Megumi Mizoue as a lecturer.

From March 25 to 26, The three candidate relocation site jointly held an enlightening event at the Sapporo Station Event Plaza. They provided display corners for public information of the significance and necessity of the capital functions relocation and distribute enlightening goods around Sapporo Station.

Change of the "New Era" Addressees

Please Report any changes in your working place addresses designated as the recipients of the "New Era" or your addresses to the addressee listed below. We will update our records with the changes so you will continue to receive your copy of "New Era".

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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