



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

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

The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is being discussed in the Diet from broad points of view. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) is not only cooperating with the deliberation in the Diet but also trying to encourage public discussion through various public relations activities.

As part of MLIT's activities, a lecture meeting on the relocation of the Diet and other organizations was held under the auspices of Nishi-Nippon Newspaper Co., Ltd. on March 13 (Thur.) at the El Gala Hall in Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City with about 100 participants in attendance.

In the meeting, Mr. Koichi Hori (Representative Director of Dream Incubator Inc.) first gave a keynote speech on the theme of "How Will Japan Become? -- Paradigm Shift and Japan's Future". A tripartite talk session with Chairman Kenji Yasukawa of the Planning and Editing Committee of the Nishi-Nippon Newspaper Co., Ltd., Director Toru Aizawa of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division and Mr. Hori, was then held. The developments in the lecture were published in the March 30th issue of the Nishi-Nippon Newspaper. The outline of the developments of the lecture meeting are described below.

#### Keynote Speech

#### "How Will Japan Become? -- Paradigm Shift and Japan's Future"

by Mr. Koichi Hori (Representative Director of Dream Incubator Inc.)

At present, Japan is in a state of anxiety, such as what would be expected if the average stock price dropped below eight thousand yen and what would be the settlement in the March settling period. It is almost unbelievable that there are many enterprises that can predict increased profit settlement through business efforts, such as business restructuring, in the March settling period, yet now stock prices still depreciate. Whereas, by watching dealings in the stock market, this depreciation is clearly caused by American Hedge funds selling Japanese stocks.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which used to be as vigorous as the New York Stock Exchange, has already degraded to the equivalent of the ROK's. One third of its transactions are those inside of stock companies, one third are those by foreigners, and the remaining one third are those by companies and individuals. Only American capital makes a profit.

In Japan, there is private property with 1,300 trillion yen and savings of one million yen per citizen, yet there is no place to invest those surplus money. If people invested their assets, they would not discuss nor have any vision as to what kind of country they intend to make Japan in the twenty first century. They do not have any dream, hope, or policy on a national level. Investment will not become popular if they do not have dreams. Seen from the USA, Japan is the best target of investment. Investment is "to be bought" in China, but "to be sold" in Japan.

The relocation of the Diet and other organizations initially decided upon 1990, has not yet been accomplished. There is nothing for it but for Japan to be neglected by foreign countries. Japanese people's decisiveness has weakened and their behavioral capability has been lost.

It is now important to think of how to reform this country.



Mr. Koichi Hori

I agree with the relocation. In the past, Japan relocated its capital when its state of affairs was not satisfactory, such as the capital relocation to Kyoto in 794 and the capital relocation to Tokyo in the Meiji Restoration in 1868. Some may say that they cannot believe that the 'Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations' is possible, but our ancestors did it quite well, and we can do it if we want to. It becomes a serious problem when we never make a decision whether "to relocate" or "not to relocate" and leave it alone, and it is natural to be unable to have hope for a country which cannot implement the relocation. I would like you all to consider whether we can hand over our 'next-generation Japan' to our children with pride.

Tripartite Talk "All Think Together -- The Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations"

Participants: Mr. Koichi Hori (Representative Director of Dream Incubator Inc.)

Mr. Kenji Yasukawa (Chairman of the Planning and Editing Committee of the Nishi-Nippon Newspaper Co., Ltd.)

Mr. Toru Aizawa (Director of the MLIT Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division)

**【Yasukawa】** The problem of the relocation is an important subject of discussion that controls the future of Japan, but the nation appears to be little interested in it. Therefore, a wide range of discussions is necessary. How to grasp the present status of Japan and conceive of the future form to be taken by Japan should be made the starting point of this discussion. I think perhaps that the nation has been too much accustomed to the idea of leaving everything to others when it comes to make decisions.

**【Hori】** Thinking of the present status of Japan, figuratively speaking, it has entered "the third round" of a tournament since the Meiji Restoration Era. After the Meiji Restoration, Japan was a success due to a combination of Japanese spirit and Western learning in the first half of the round, but failed by being carried away by militarism in the second half. This could be called the first round. After the war, we thought that we were successful in our catching up efforts, but we failed when the "bubble economy" collapsed. This was the second round. After that, a sense of blockade has prevailed for more than ten years. However, there will be no bright future for Japan unless we endeavor with the intention of "Let's start the third round."

**【Yasukawa】** Regarding the systems that supported the postwar growth of Japan, and in particular centralization. It is now evident to everyone that these systems have reached a dead end. What direction will the world of the twenty-first century take? Japan should respond to the situation in a hurry.

**【Aizawa】** I presume that keywords for the twenty first century are "diversification" and "pluralization." I believe that severe competition will continue between the USA, China, the European Union (EU), and Japan. Speaking of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations, the functional separation of politics and economy is a worldwide trend. It is only Japan, the ROK, and Russia that have the central functions of politics and economy in the same city. Even in the ROK, the new president committed himself to relocate the capital from Seoul, and it was decided to start construction of a new city within five years.

**【Hori】** I presume that the world in the future will behave with the USA being in the center. China with a population of 1.3 billion and India with a population of 0.9 billion manufacture commodities to make the world's factory due to their ample populations. In which case, Japan's unemployment rate may jump up to more than 10%. Although the future form of Japan will not be materialized without earning foreign currency, Japan will obviously be threatened by such countries. I am afraid that all of us are feeling very secure even though we are in a pinch.



**【Yasukawa】** How should we think of the problem of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations based on such a situation?

**【Hori】** Throughout the human history people have overcome the sense of blockade when it prevails among them by achieving something new. A new direction cannot be achieved without risks. We should be determined to achieve it at any risk.

**【Yasukawa】** Mr. Hori insists on making the "relocation of the Diet and other organizations" a breakthrough to overcome the sense of blockade, but it is doubtful that only relocating the Diet and central ministries and agencies from Tokyo is a "mere change of location."



Mr. Kenji Yasukawa

**【Aizawa】** The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is not mere house-moving but a national project involving a great reform of the national systems. It is not a mere construction project but the creation of a model city to lead the world through introducing new information and environmental technologies.

**【Yasukawa】** For people living in a region, the relationship between a nation and a region is a great matter of concern, but it is not clear how a region will be changed by the relocation of the Diet and other organizations, that is, the relationship between the relocation and the "new form of a region."

**【Aizawa】** The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is closely related to the problem of how to change the form and systems of Japan and how to change the administrative systems with Tokyo as the core. National land construction should be implemented not in the style of taking care of the whole country under monopolar concentration like in the past, but in a so-called rivalry between warlords condition, that is, regions and national land should be constructed so that a home run or a single can be hit from any region. It is said that the relocation of the Diet and other organizations will give a great boost to the national land construction.

**【Hori】** The era of relying on Tokyo has ended. It is important to disperse monopolar concentration in Tokyo. We should execute the relocation anyway without giving a synopsis.

**【Yasukawa】** The Nishi-Nippon Newspaper is developing the "regional reform" campaign. It is necessary for regions to change, that is, the stage should be changed. The keyword for the campaign is "Free Access to and Joint Ownership of Information." The regions and Japan will not change unless the inhabitants play the leading part. Even though the problem of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations is an important theme to determine the form of Japan in the twenty-first century, discussion on it has not been popularized and many people are indifferent to it even 13 years after its resolution by the Diet. I suspect that this is due to many people thinking that the relocation is an "other people's affairs." It is necessary to encourage discussion on the "relocation of the Diet and other organization" and make it into a national discussion, where we ourselves are playing the leading part.



## On-Line Lecture Meetings" Being Held

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

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

### < March >

Mr. Hitoshi Nakamura (Special project coordinator of the Environment  
Free Academy (Curitiba, Brazil))

Theme : "Eco-Friendly Urban Construction"

- Items :
- Comparison between the Capital Brasilia and the Eco-City Curitiba.
  - Cities in Japan and Environmental Problems.
  - Eco-Friendly Cities.



## ★ T o p i c s

### Posters and Pamphlets Concerning the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations Renewed

Posters and pamphlets to widely and understandably introduce the outline of the relocation of the Diet and other organizations, the new city image, and other information have been revised.

Two kinds of posters, a single B1-size sheet and a set of three sheets, will be posted in public, public utilities, and other facilities. New pamphlets will also be distributed as part of public relations activities. If you would like to obtain the pamphlets, please contact the addressee listed below.



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

On April 17 to 18, 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.

### 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](mailto:itenka@mlit.go.jp)

Telephone : +81-3-5253-8366 FAX : +81-3-5253-1573