



## ~ Think Together about the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations ~

### Trends in the Diet

#### The Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations

The meeting of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on July 9. The Directors of the Houses' Research Offices presented the interim reports produced by the Houses' Special Committees on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. Also, there was a question and answer session among the Committee members, concerning the details of priority relocation which was described in the report of the House of Councilors, and concerning dispersal relocation which was described in the report of the House of Representatives.

#### House of Representatives

From July 31 to August 7 in 2003, the delegation of the members of the House of Representatives for the investigation of the relocation of the legislative bodies and related organizations in Korea and Europe has been sent to Korea, the Netherlands, and Sweden to investigate the relocations of their legislative bodies and related organizations. The delegation members and investigation summaries were as follows:

##### 1. Delegation members

Delegation head, Hiroshi Nakai

(Chairman of the Special Committees on Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, Liberal Party)

Susumu Hasumi

(Executive member of the Special Committees on Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, Liberal Democratic Party)

Koichiro Genba

(Executive member of the Special Committees on Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, Democratic Party of Japan)

Tsuyoshi Takagi

(Member of the Special Committees on Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, Liberal Democratic Party)

##### 2. Investigation summaries

###### (1) Korea

In Korea, President Roh Moo-hyun won the presidential election on his pledge to construct a new administrative capital in Ch'ungch'ong-do Province, the central western area of the country, and preparation is progressing. The delegation interviewed the government's Support Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital on the current situation and future schedule. The delegation also interviewed concerned members of Parliament on the attitude of Parliament as a whole. Also, the delegation investigated the relocation of eleven government bodies, including central government Ministries, to the Kwach'on Government Buildings on the outskirts of Seoul, which started in 1982.



Interviewing the Support Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital



Interviewing concerned members of the Korean Parliament

## (2) The Netherlands

The Constitution of the Netherlands defines Amsterdam as the capital. Parliament, government offices, and the Supreme Court, however, are located in The Hague. The delegation interviewed government officials of the Ministry of the Interior and members of Parliament, investigated the reasons and the current conditions for having capital function apart from the constitutional capital, and investigated the decentralization of the country's administrative bodies.



Interview at the Ministry of the Interior in the Netherlands

## (2) Sweden

From the 1970s to 1985, the central administrative organizations of Sweden were dispersed from Stockholm to provincial cities. The delegation interviewed government officials of the Ministry of Industry, Employment, Communications and transport and members of the Center Party, which put great effort into this matter, and investigated the reasons, purposes, impact, and other elements of the dispersal relocation.



Interview at the Center Party of Sweden



Interview at the Center Party of Sweden

## Korean delegation visited the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

A delegation from Korea, where the government is working on constructing their new administrative capital, with most of its members from the Support Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital, the government division in charge, visited the Capital Function Relocation Planning Division of the MLIT, and exchanged information on the current situations concerning relocation in the two countries.

The Support Team presented how they are addressing the matter in Korea and their future schedule. The summary of their presentation is as follows:

- In order to promote constructing the new administrative capital, the Project Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital was set up in April this year at Cheong Wa Dae, the Office of the President. Also, the Support Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital was set up in the Ministry of Construction and Transportation (the counterpart of the Japanese MLIT) in order to support the Project Team.
- As for the future schedule, the Special Act for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital will be presented to this year's regular session of Parliament (from September to December), the criteria for the candidate sites will be drawn up, and the sites will be investigated by experts. Then, the site for the new administrative capital will be selected in the latter half of 2004, and construction will start in the latter half of 2007.

As described above, the preparation for constructing the new administrative capital is making steady headway. We should keep our eyes on their future progress.



## On-Line Lecture Meetings Being Held

On-line lecture meetings are being held on MLIT's Web page for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. Lecture meetings have been held with intellectuals in various disciplines such as academic and economic sectors and the following lectures were newly added after July. Please visit the Web page at [http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online/online\\_f.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online/online_f.html).

<July>

Mr. Izumi Aizu

(Principal of Asia Network Research, Executive Research Fellow of GLOCOM  
(Center for Global Communications) at the International University of Japan)

Theme:

The capital function relocation of Malaysia, which is closely connected with their information-oriented society

Main topics

- Capital function relocation which is connected with the structural reform of a nation
- Capital functions became more information-oriented through the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Plan
- Capital function relocation is achieved by strong leadership
- Designing capital function relocation which accommodates the information-oriented society



Professor Ken Sakamura

(Professor, Graduate School of the University of Tokyo)

Theme:

The possibility of capital function relocation using information technology (IT)

Main topics

- Physical dispersal and logical integration of capital functions
- The necessity of support research for dispersal e-government
- What becomes apparent by carrying out the model project of the capital function relocation
- Bringing manufacturing industry ideas into the capital function relocation



Ms. Mayumi Mori

(Editor of Yanesen, a regional magazine)

Theme:

The capital function relocation seen from the perspective of community building

Main topics

- Communities are built through long years of efforts
- Community attractiveness that results from diversity
- Create communities where people can live good lives through relocation of capital functions
- Capital function relocation seen from the perspective of renewal



<August>

Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara

(Chairman of the Board of St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo)

Theme:

Capital function relocation, which fulfill peoples' dreams irrespective of their ages

Main topics

- The necessity of seeing things over a long span
- Determination to redevelop the hospital and the capital function relocation
- Make the best use of the power of "new elderly people"
- The shape of the new city
- Moving from "don't" to "let's"





# ★ Topics

## Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days were Held

On August 20 and 21, Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days were held. About ten children participated in the MLIT corner, where the Capital function relocation experience CD-ROM was demonstrated, and they enjoyed the virtual experience of the new capital function city. Children walked around the virtual city, and enjoyed taking a quiz. In front of the PC, children and their parents had lively conversations and enjoyed themselves.



## Learning on the Relocation is Taking Place around Japan

On August 12, three Senshu University students visited the Capital Function Relocation Planning Division in order to prepare for a debate in their seminar. A Division staff member explained about recent movements and the significance and impact of the relocation. The students asked sharp questions including how cost effectiveness is considered, examples abroad, and future prospects, and the discussion became heated.



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

On July 17, Prefectural Governors of candidate sites had a round-table conference in Gifu Prefecture. The Governors agreed that the significance and necessity of capital function relocation should be seen in a fresh light and that the three candidate sites will work together, doing their best to move forward. They adopted a joint appeal, titled "Decide for the capital function relocation now!" Eight concerned Prefectural Governors signed the appeal. (Website of the Liaison Conference of the Three Candidate Regions for the Capital Function Relocation: <http://www.gifuaichi.gr.jp/sanchiiki/index.html> for more information).

## 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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