



~ 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 fourth meeting of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held from noon on November 26, 2003.

In the meeting, the Committee agreed that it should decide on new members and continue further discussion.

Recent movement concerning the relocation of the administrative capital in Korea

In Korea, President Roh Moo-hyun was elected president on his pledge to construct a new administrative capital in Ch'ungch'ong-do Province, the central western area of Korea, and preparation for construction is progressing.

On November 6, 2003, the Project Team for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital, which was set up at Cheong Wa Dae, the Office of the President, announced a blueprint plan for the new administrative capital, the Basic Concept of the New Administrative Capital (a tentative plan), and the Basis for Selecting the Site (a tentative plan). These tentative plans are scheduled to be finalized as governmental plans by the end of this year, following formalities including public hearings in each region and discussion among experts.

In addition, the Special Act for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital, which provides a legal basis for the smooth construction of the new administrative capital, was passed by the plenary session of the Parliament on December 29. (According to newspapers, 167 votes were in favor, 13 were opposed, and there were 14 abstentions.)

This will accelerate the preparation for the relocation of the administrative capital, and the site will be selected within the latter half of this year, given the Basis for Selecting the Site, which will become definite by the end of this year.

After the site is selected, the development plan will be drawn up and the purchase of the site will start by the end of the first half of 2007. The construction of the new administrative capital will start in the latter half of 2007, the construction of the city and government office buildings will be completed by 2011, and central governmental agencies will gradually be relocated to the new city, starting from 2012.

The preparation for the construction of the new administrative capital is making steady progress in Korea, and the progress is becoming more and more interesting.

Outline of the Special Act for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital

- (1) Establishing the organization for the construction of the new administrative capital
 - In order to handle major matters concerning the construction of the new administrative capital, such as selecting the prospective area, the committee for the construction of the new administrative capital will be established. The committee will be under the control of the President and will consist of less than thirty members, including concerned Ministers and civilians.
- (2) Setting up a special account
 - A special account for the construction of the new administrative capital will be set up, and will be managed and operated by the Minister of Construction and Transportation.
 - Revenue will include the profit from selling the government office buildings that are no longer needed, money transferred from general and special accounts, and loans. Expenditures will include purchasing new government building sites, construction of government office buildings and infrastructure, and expenses of support projects for the surrounding areas of the new city.
- (3) Drawing up the relocation plan
 - The committee will draw up the relocation plan, which will determine which governmental agencies will be relocated as well as the method and timing of the relocation, required budget, and other details concerning the relocation. The plan will become definite after the President's approval.
- (4) Selecting the prospective area for the new administrative capital
 - The prospective area will be selected, according to research conducted on Ch'ungch'ong-do Province and the basic construction plan. The area will become definite after assessing the impact on the balanced development of Korea and the environment, the economic efficiency, and other factors.
- (5) Preventing haphazard development and real estate speculation
 - When research indicates the possibilities of haphazard development and real estate speculation, development and building permissions should be restricted in the area in question. If preventing speculation is required, the area can also be designated as an overheated speculation area or other such area.
- (6) Appointing the project implementing entity
 - The committee appoints the project implementing entity from government investment organizations.
- (7) Other measures for facilitating the project
 - In order to facilitate the smooth construction of the new administrative capital, the heads of the concerned government agencies should provide supportive projects for the surrounding areas and building materials as well as measures to stabilize supply and demand, to support people working on relocation related works, and other necessary measures.

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 December. Please visit the Web page at http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/daishu/online/online_f.html.

Ms. Tamiko Akaboshi (Comic artist)

Theme: Thinking about capital function relocation from the perspectives of Japanese identity and environment

- Topics:
- Love for our own home areas leads to creating livable communities
 - Community development, which makes the most of the region's characteristics
 - New city, with the keywords of tourism and environment
 - Community development with Japanese identity, and recycling wood and water
 - Let's watch over a city, which is growing from infancy to adulthood
 - Let's make a Diet building using the most of information technology and expressing Japanese aesthetics
 - A new city of approximately two-hundred-thousand people should be created with infrastructure for recycling, and the capital functions should be relocated there



Professor Yoshio Nakamura

(Honorary Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology)

Theme: Landscapes and messages required in capital function relocation

- Topics:
- Capital function relocation as a political action
 - Capital function relocation is associated with the message of decentralization
 - Political message of capital function relocation
 - Relationship between ecology and culture from the landscape perspective
 - Landscape of the new city, making the most of scenic beauty
 - Urban planning should include places for cultural and social activities
 - Historical Edo is a good example of a city where nature and social activities were in harmony
 - Culture and urban spaces as savings for the future
 - What Tokyo and other large cities should be doing in the future



Mr. Sukeshiro Terata (Governor of Akita Prefecture)

Theme: Promoting decentralization and capital function relocation as seen from Akita

- Topics:
- The future roles of the central government, and decentralization
 - Tailor-made independence of fundamental local governments
 - Decentralization will cut down redundant administrative costs and staff
 - Solving the problems of over-concentration by breaking away from Tokyo being the standard for everything
 - What changes will the capital function relocation make?
 - New era will start, and people will start enjoying their lives
 - Moving out of the present stalemate, into a broader society
 - Changing Japan, starting from regional areas
 - Capital function relocation, which starts from having a view of the nation



Mr. Toyoo Tamamura (Essayist, artist, and farmer)

Theme: Capital function relocation will change people's attitudes in Tokyo and regional areas

- Topics:
- Quest for the ideal site, and the "second" hometown
 - Sense of distance from Tokyo to Karuizawa
 - Changes in people's lives in regional areas, and the localism in Tokyo
 - Unfortunate gap between Tokyo and regional areas
 - Relationship between agriculture and community life
 - Reconstructing the foundation for agriculture, from the new city
 - Growing out of the centralization in Tokyo
 - Tokyo's vitality supports Japan
 - The significance of capital function relocation should be understood more by people in Tokyo than by anybody else
 - Changing peoples' attitude in both Tokyo and regional areas, through capital function relocation



★ T o p i c s

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

- Eight Prefectural Governors of three candidate sites lodged a request with all the members of both houses. The request says, "We strongly request the Diet to acknowledge the intent of the Resolution on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (1990) and the Act for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (1992), provide further insights into the matter on the Diet's own responsibility, and achieve capital function relocation by all means, so that people's hopes and trust will be answered." (November 25 and 26, 2003)
- The Fukushima Prefectural Government held exhibitions of the award-winning works of the art contest, "A New Image of a 21st Century City - A City Submerged in a Forest". 1,520 paintings of elementary school pupils in the Prefecture were entered in the contest. The exhibitions took place in Fukushima City and two other cities from November 1 to 27, 2003, and the two best works and eighteen excellent works were exhibited.
- In Gifu and Aichi Prefectures, the Gifu Tono Region Capital Function Attraction Promotion Association, the Higashi-Mino and Northern Nishi-Mikawa Capital Concept Promotion Council, and the Nishi-Mikawa Capital Functions Relocation Promotion Council sponsored a lecture meeting, "Capital Relocation and the Concept of Capital Function Relocation", inviting Mr. Hiroshi Aramata, an author, as the lecturer. The lecture meeting took place in the Ceramic Park Mino (Tajimi City, Gifu Prefecture) on January 27, 2004.
- Tochigi Prefecture held an information corner in the Tochigi Industrial Fair, which was held from November 13 to 15, 2003, and provided information on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations to residents in the Prefecture.
- On November 24, 2003, Mie Prefecture exhibited panels and distributed pamphlets, which explained the merits of the Mie Kio Region, at the Mie Prefecture Corner of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Friendship Plaza. The Plaza was sponsored by the Follow-up Meeting of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) Chubu Regional Cooperation Conference. A similar exhibition was held at the Mie Prefecture Corner of the Friendship Plaza at the Friendship Mall Yokkaichi on November 29.

On the Opinion Exchange Space of our Web page

In the Opinion Exchange Space in the Website for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, you can read opinions concerning the matter sent by many people. Also, you are welcome to express your own opinions. We are looking forward to your accessing and using the Space.

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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