



*~ 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 fifth meeting of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held on February 19, 2004, Thursday.

In the meeting, the Committee welcomed new members, and the proceedings in both Houses' Special Committees on Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organization up to the Interim Reports and the proceedings in the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses up to the present were explained to the new members.

Mr. Norihiko Akagi, the Committee Chairperson of the House of Representatives, explained that the Committee would discuss the method for seeking the Diet's decision on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations in accordance with the Interim Reports.

Some Committee members also expressed their opinions such as that the Diet members should decide responsibly.

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

#### House of Representatives (11 members)

Chairperson	Mr. Norihiko Akagi (LDP)
	Mr. Susumu Hasumi (LDP)
	Mr. Mineichi Iwanaga (LDP)
	Mr. Koki Kobayashi (LDP)
	Mr. Takahide Kimura (LDP)
Vice-chairperson	Mr. Yasuo Ichikawa (DPJ)
	Mr. Koichiro Genba (DPJ)
	Mr. Jun Azumi (DPJ)
	Mr. Yutaka Banno (DPJ)
	Mr. Hiroyoshi Nishi (NK)
	Mr. Keiji Kokuta (JCP)

#### House of Councilors (11 members)

Chairperson	Mr. Tetsuo Kutsukake (LDP)
	Mr. Kensei Mizote (LDP)
	Mr. Toshifumi Kosehira (LDP)
	Mr. Yoshihiko Yamashita (LDP)
	Ms. Chikage Ogi (LDP)
Vice-chairperson	Mr. Yasuo Yamashita (DPJ)
	Mr. Yuichiro Hata (DPJ)
	Mr. Tadashi Hirono (DPJ)
	Mr. Takao Watanabe (NK)
	Mr. Satoshi Inoue (JCP)
	Mr. Sadao Fuchigami (SDP)

LDP: Liberal Democratic Party   DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan   NK: New Komeito  
JCP: Japanese Communist Party   SDP: Social Democratic Party

## 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 January. 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).

### Professor Masatoshi Koshiba (Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo)

Born in Aichi Prefecture in 1926. In 1970, became a professor at the University of Tokyo. In 1974, became the director of the Laboratory of High Energy Physics at the University of Tokyo, which is now the International Center for Elementary Particle Physics (ICEPP). In 1987, retired from the University of Tokyo and became a professor emeritus. Held a post as professor at Tokai University. At present, is the senior counselor of the ICEPP, and is a member of the Japan Academy.

Awarded numerous honors and prizes including the Nobel Prize in Physics (2003), Person of Cultural merits (1988), Academy Award from the Academy of Japan (1989), Order of Culture conferred by the Emperor of Japan (1997), and Wolf Prize from the President of Israel (2000).

Theme: Requirements for a government-financed project

- Topics
- Government's tasks and basic science
  - Importance of accumulating experience
  - Things I always taught my students
  - Thinking the future of Japan
  - Streamlining Tokyo
  - Capital function relocation based upon scientific recognition
  - Capital function relocation cannot be achieved with a trial-and-error approach
  - Capital function relocation through streamlined dispersal



### Professor Megumi Mizoue (Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo)

Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1940. In 1985, became a professor at the Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, after holding posts as the director of the Earthquake Information Center and the director of the Wakayama Micro-earthquake Observatory. In 1997, retired from the University of Tokyo and became a professor emeritus. Since 1996, has held various posts successively, including the chairman of the Earthquake Assessment Committee, member of the Council for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, and member of the Central Disaster Management Council.

Theme: Importance of disaster prevention in Japan, and the relocation of the national

- Topics
- Earthquakes and tsunamis in Japan
  - Importance of disaster prevention, which protects people's lives
  - Earthquakes in the Tokyo metropolitan area, and disaster prevention
  - People's awareness is the foundation for effective disaster prevention
  - The position of disaster prevention in the relocation of the national Diet and related organizations
  - The relocation of the national Diet and related organizations should be discussed with foresight into the next century
  - The relocation of the national Diet and related organizations should be discussed more by the younger generation than anyone else



## Mr. Susumu Takahashi (Director, Japan Research Institute, Ltd.)

Born in 1953. In 1976, entered Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. In 1990, became the chief researcher at the Japan Research Institute (JRI). In 1996, became the head of the research division at the JRI. In 2004, was appointed to his present post. Has been researching the Asian economy, and Japanese economy and finance. In 2000, became a visiting professor at the graduate school of Waseda University. In 2003, became a visiting professor at Kinki University. At present, is an advisory group member of the Ministry of Finance and a member of the National Congress for the 21st Century Japan as well as holding other posts.

Theme: Capital function relocation through the program of Special Zones for Structural Reform, and revitalization of local regions

- Topics
- Tokyo, an over-concentrated city, is becoming a city-state
  - Two patterns for revitalizing local regions
  - Special Zones for Structural Reform and capital function relocation
  - Possibilities of local regions' independence, through the program of Special Zones for Structural Reform
  - Capital function relocation, as a trigger for structural reform
  - Negative impact of over-concentration
  - Seeing inefficiency from a different perspective
  - Image of 21st Century society



## ★ Topics

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

- On February 12, the Fukushima Prefectural Government held the Fukushima Regional Conference for Capital Function Relocation at the Ishikawa Town Sports Center. Approximately 50 people, including the Mayor of Ishikawa Town, participated from three towns and two villages.

In the Conference, officers from the Prefectural Government explained the circumstances concerning capital function relocation and other concerns, and exchanged opinions with the participants.

- In Tochigi Prefecture, from February 20th to 22nd, Tochigi Flower Festa 2004 was held in Mooka in the Mooka City Sports Center by the Festa executive committee, which consists of the Tochigi Prefectural Government, Mooka City, and other organizations. There was a Corner for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations in the venue. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed, which explained about the Relocation.
- On February 25, the Gifu Prefectural Government, Gifu Shimbun/Gifu Broadcasting System, Gifu Association of City Mayors, and Gifu Association of Towns and Villages jointly held a Meeting to Think about Capital Function Relocation in Gifu Prefecture. Approximately 250 people, including many women living in the Prefecture, attended the Meeting. This was the fifth such meeting, and the participants visited the Gifu Tono Region. They attended a lecture meeting titled "The Ideal City from the Feng Shui Perspective", where Ms. Yuchiku Rinoie, a Feng Shui master, lectured.

# ★ Topics

- On February 5 and 6, there was a promotion booth in D's Square in Diamor Osaka, which is an underground shopping arcade in front of Osaka Station, and a public-relations campaign for capital function relocation was conducted. This event was sponsored by the Iga Region Capital Function Relocation Council and the Koga Higashi-Omi Committee for Capital Function Relocation to the Mie-Kio Region, and was cosponsored by the Mie and Shiga Prefectural Governments.
- On February 27, eight Prefectural Governors of the three candidate sites lodged a request with the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. The request states, "We strongly request the Inter-Party Conference Committee to return to the initial 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), recognize the responsibility of the Government, and respect the Interim Reports of the Special Committees of both Houses, in which implementing relocation was strongly urged. We also request each party to provide further insights into the matter and to make concrete proposals for implementing the relocation. [This request will be sent to all Diet members.]

## Opinions and Impressions about New Era Requested!

We would like to thank you very much for reading New Era regularly.

In each issue of New Era, we have tried to communicate information on topics including the status of the investigation of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organization in the Diet, public relations and research activities by national and local public organizations as well as private organizations, information on the relocation of Korea's new administrative capital, and other information from abroad.

The MLIT Capital Function Relocation Planning Division intends to try to make New Era even more useful.

Therefore, if you have any ideas, topics, opinions, or impressions that you would like included in New Era, please send them to us. Our contact information is at the bottom of this page.

## 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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