



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

Recent moves concerning the relocation of the administrative capital in Korea

In South Korea, the Constitutional Court ruled on October 21 that the Special Act for the Administrative Capital Relocation, which provides the legal basis for relocating the administrative capital, was unconstitutional.

This was the result of a petition submitted by a group of 169 people, including Seoul city councilors and university professors. The group says the Special Act pushed forward the relocation of the administrative capital without the necessary amendment to the Constitution. Therefore, the entire Special Act was unconstitutional, violating people's basic rights, which include the right to vote in a national referendum.

The verdict ruled the Special Act was against the constitution, saying, "Seoul has status as the capital of Korea by custom, which is an unwritten part of the constitution. The Special Act revises this status by passing a bill without following the proper procedures required for revising the constitution. Thus, the entire Special Act violates the rights of the people, including the plaintiffs, to vote in a national referendum as required for revising the constitution."

After the verdict, the Presidential Committee on Administrative Capital Relocation, which was established according to the Special Act to relocate the administrative capital, completely suspended its activities.

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 disciplines including academic and economic sectors. The following lectures have been newly added from late August. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

Professor Monte Cassim (President, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)

Born in 1947 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. After working as an architect for the Sri Lanka Engineering Technology Corporation, came to Japan in 1972. Worked as the Chief Researcher for the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, and then became a professor at Ritsumeikan University in 1994. Assumed his current post in 2004.



Theme: New capital city that will be born from diversity and mutual trust

- Topics
- A modest capital that will bring out diversity
 - Things that are required in Japan's capital
 - The new capital concept seen in Brasilia
 - Network integration based upon mutual trust
 - Common philosophy that connects us
 - In order to construct a networked integrated capital
 - In order to proceed with the discussion

Mr. Seiji Osaka (Mayor of Niseko Town, Hokkaido)

Born in 1959 in Niseko Town. Started working at the Niseko Town Hall in 1983, and resigned in 1994. Elected as the town's mayor in October of the same year, reelected twice, and is now serving his third consecutive term as mayor.



Theme: Relocating capital functions - the platform for nation development

- Topics
- Growing out of omakase (leaving matters to the authorities) democracy
 - Activities of residents' associations as the source of democracy
 - From Yorashimubeshi, shirashimubekarazu (People should not know, they should only obey) to information sharing
 - What makes citizens start their actions
 - Importance of reality and closeness
 - Decentralizing functions should be considered together with decentralizing authority
 - Aiming for a diverse nation
 - For national development for the future

A DVD, Development of an Environment and Energy Conscious New City, is now available

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport published a DVD, **"Welcome to the New City! -Development of an Environment and Energy Conscious New City."** The DVD includes animated films showing life in the city, introducing overseas examples, and an interview with Midori Miyazaki of the Chiba University of Commerce.

As the Report of the Council on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations (December 1999) and other such reports indicate, it is hoped that the new city will be a model city for the world in terms of environmental consciousness. The new city must exist symbiotically with the environment by bringing in knowledge and technologies as well as preserving the present site environment. The city must also do its best to create a natural environment in the city wherever it is possible.

The DVD contents can also be downloaded from the Website for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. We hope the DVD encourages broad discussion among people, especially young people, on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations and the image of an environment and energy conscious city. If you would like a copy of the DVD, please contact us at the address below.

Contents (Approximately 23 minutes)

1. Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations
2. Interview with an expert
3. New city
4. Transportation in the new city
5. Offices and residences in the new city
6. What is an environment conscious city?
Overseas examples

The following advisors assisted us in making this DVD.

Tamiko Akaboshi (Comic artist, essayist)

Kazuo Iwamura (Professor of Musashi Institute of Technology,
Director of Iwamura Atelier Co., Ltd.)

Shinichi Kitamura (Professor, University of Yamanashi)

Masaaki Naito (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University)

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

Stories (3-5) Original idea: Konoe Fujimura Cartoon: Tamiko Akaboshi



★ Topics

Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Day was Held

On August 25, the MLIT held a tour, Let's Enjoy the Virtual Experience of the New Capital Function City! This tour was part of Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Day. The image of the new capital function city was introduced to children through videos and virtual experience in a PC game. There were also brochures and posters of the three candidate sites. Many children visited the event.



★ Topics

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

- The three candidate sites of the Tochigi-Fukushima, Gifu-Aichi, and Mie-Kio regions jointly made a brochure in October, 2004 in order to encourage public opinion to relocate capital functions.
- Promotion booths were placed at the station plaza of JR Kyoto Station on September 1 and 2, and at the event space of Iga Koga Local Product Market held in Ueno City on September 4 and 5. A public-relations campaign for capital function relocation was also conducted. The campaign was sponsored by the Koga Higashi-Omi Committee for Capital Function Relocation to the Mie-Kio Region and the Iga Region Capital Function Relocation Council, and was cosponsored by the Mie and Shiga Prefectural Governments.
- The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Meeting for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations had a promotion corner at the Tochigi Housing Fair 2004, which was held in Utsunomiya City from October 15 to 17, 2004. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed to promote the relocation of capital functions.
- A promotion booth was placed at the 18th Gifu Prefecture Agriculture Festival, which was held in and around Gifu Arena on October 23 and 24, 2004. The significance and necessity of the relocation were explained.
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- On October 29, 2004, a seminar for the relocation of capital functions to the Chubu Area was held in Nagoya City, which invited Professor Hideki Noboru, Faculty of Urban Science, Meijo University, to lecture.



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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