



~ 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 161st session of the Diet (extraordinary session) was convened on October 12, and three meetings of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations were held during the session.

The current members of the Committee and the summaries of the meetings are as follows.

- The eighth meeting (November 18, Thursday)

New members were decided as follows. The Chairperson explained the proceedings of the previous meetings and course of events up to the meeting.

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. Tsuneo Suzuki (LDP)
 Mr. Goji Sakamoto (LDP)
 Mr. Osamu Uno (LDP)
 Mr. Kenichi Mizuno (LDP)
 Mr. Takahide Kimura (LDP)

Vice-chairperson Mr. Masamitsu Jojima (DPJ)
 Mr. Koichiro Genba (DPJ)
 Mr. Yukio Ubukata (DPJ)
 Mr. Yutaka Banno (DPJ)
 Mr. Otohiko Endo (NK)
 Mr. Keiji Kokuta (JCP)

House of Councilors (11 members)

Chairperson Mr. Tetsuo Kutsukake (LDP)
 Mr. Katsutoshi Kaneda (LDP)
 Mr. Toshifumi Kosehira (LDP)
 Mr. Masashi Waki (LDP)
 Mr. Masaji Matsuyama (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 of Japan DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan
 NK: New Komeito JCP: Japanese Communist Party SDP: Social Democratic Party

- The ninth meeting (November 25, Thursday)

The Chairperson explained the preceding discussions concerning the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, from the Resolution on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations in 1990 to the Interim Reports of the Special Committees of both Houses in 2003. Then, members had a lively discussion, exchanging their opinions.

- The tenth meeting (December 1, Wednesday)

The Chairperson explained the major opinions expressed in the preceding meetings of the Committee, concerning the "Method for seeking the Diet's decision" and other agendas. Then, members had a lively discussion, exchanging their opinions, concerning how the committee should sort out and study issues as well as what schedule should be followed.

The Committee agreed that the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons would discuss and decide how the Committee proceeds with the discussion, considering the opinions expressed in this meeting.

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 was unconstitutional. In order to handle the situation, the Committee for Follow-up Measures concerning the Invalidation of the Special Act for the Administrative Capital Relocation (the Committee) and its working team, the Project Team for Follow-up Measures concerning the Invalidation of the Special Act for the Administrative Capital Relocation (the Project Team), were established under Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan.

The Committee is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and Choi Byung-sun, former chairman of the Committee for the Construction of the New Administrative Capital, and consists of thirty or less members including government and private members. The Committee will discuss the following agendas.

1. Government measures concerning the Constitutional Court decision against the Special Act.
2. Follow-up measures, and discussion and coordination with related central government organizations
3. Collecting information on public opinion for follow-up measures

The Committee held its first meeting on November 18, and decided to study and map out alternative plans under the following four principles.

1. The alternative plans should reflect the intent of the Constitutional Court decision
2. The capital region and local regions should work together and prepare alternative plans that are reasonable and have potential for development
3. The Committee should collect information on public opinion and respect it
4. Follow-up measures should be determined promptly

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 November. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

Mr. Kazuhisa Ogawa (Military Analyst, Director of the Crisis Management Institute)

Born in 1945 in Kumamoto. After working as a correspondent for Nihonkai Shimbun, and Shukan Gendai, a weekly magazine published by Kodansha, became the first freelance military analyst in Japan in 1984. Is an analyst for world politics and military issues, and the director of the Crisis Management Institute.



Theme: Things to be done to improve crisis management capabilities

- Topics
- Without security, there will be no prosperity
 - Road improvement, seen from the viewpoint of crisis management
 - Cities with backup functions to duplicate capital functions are needed
 - Making Tokyo into a model city for crisis management
 - Capital function relocation should be carried out in order to diversify risks

Ms. Agnes Chan (Singer, essayist, Ph. D. in Education)

Born in Hong Kong. Debuted in Japan with a song called *Hinageshi no Hana* (a red poppy flower) in 1972. Received the International Youth Year award for her essay on peace in 1984. Appointed Japan UNICEF ambassador in 1998. Resumed her singing career in 2000. In addition to her activities in entertainment, teaches at Mejiro University and Kyohei University as a visiting professor, and is also well known as an essayist and TV commentator.



Theme: Original image of Japan, considered from the viewpoint of children and local regions

- Topics
- A country with a king
 - An opportunity to remember the original image of Japan
 - To have too few children
 - What is the meaning of trying capital function relocation?
 - Let's not give up, but have more discussion

Mr. Motohiko Izawa (Novelist)

Born in Aichi in 1954. Received the 26th Edogawa Rampo Award for his novel *Sarumaru Genshi Ko* (Illusionary Travel around Sarumaru) in 1980, when he was a political correspondent at TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System). Left TBS in 1985 to become a full-time writer. Is a member of the board of directors at Mystery Writers of Japan, Inc. Is active in many fields, including TV appearances and lecturing.



Theme: Dynamics of capital function relocation, seen from the viewpoint of history

- Topics
- Reasons for relocating capitals before the modern era
 - Over-concentration in Tokyo is highly risky
 - *Rokuharatandai* (chiefs of the Kamakura shogunate in Kyoto), and the roles of the Kamakura shogunate
 - How Edo and Osaka were formed, and how they differentiated their roles
 - Persuasive objective of relocating capital functions

★ T o p i c s

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

- The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Meeting for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations had a promotion corner at the Furusato Tochigi Fair 2004 from October 22 to 24, and the Tochigi Industrial Fair 2004 from November 18 to 20. Both fairs were held at the Marronnier Plaza in Utsunomiya City and visited by many people, including many families. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed to promote the relocation of capital functions.
- Fukushima Prefecture held an art contest, inviting elementary school students in the Prefecture to submit a painting of "A city hestling in the forest." The Prefecture proposes such a city as the image of a new city in the 21st century, and the contest aims to raise people's awareness, especially that of families, on such a city. The best work, excellent works, and other works selected from among many works will be exhibited in various places in the Prefecture starting from November.



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/iten/index.html>

E-Mail : itenka@mlit.go.jp

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