



*~ 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

Meetings of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations were held in December, 2004, as follows. The Chairpersons' Report, in which the Chairpersons summarized the Inter-party Conference Committee's discussions up to now, was submitted to the chairpersons of the steering committees of the House of Representatives and House of Councilors. The Inter-party Conference Committee will continue their discussion, using this Chairpersons' Report as a basis for further discussion.

- **The eleventh meeting (December 16, Thursday)**

Mr. Akito Arima, former Deputy Chairperson of the Council for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, explained the Council's previous discussions and the course of events up to the meeting. After, there was a question-and-answer session.

- **The twelfth meeting (December 22, Wednesday)**

Members expressed their opinions freely, and the Chairpersons presented a draft of the Chairpersons' Report. After a question-and-answer session, the members approved the Chairpersons' Report, which was submitted on the same day to the chairpersons of the Steering Committees of the House of Representatives and House of Councilors.

### Chairpersons' Report

December 22, 2004

Tsuneo Suzuki, Chairperson (House of Representatives)

Tetsuo Kutsukake, Chairperson (House of Councilors)

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

Mr. Jiro Kawasaki

Chairperson of the House of Representatives Steering Committee

Mr. Kensei Mizote

Chairperson of the House of Councilors Steering Committee

To Chairpersons Kawasaki and Mizote:

Concerning the relocation of the Diet and related organizations, the Resolution on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was passed in 1990. We have been discussing the matter according to the Act for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations, which was established in 1992.

If the Tokyo metropolitan area, the center of politics, economics, and more, an area with a concentrated population, is struck by a large earthquake or another disaster, it will have an immeasurable impact on the Japanese and global economy. Obviously, such a disaster would cause major havoc, destroying essential lifelines and traffic networks, including Shinkansen (bullet trains) and airports, and disturbing public security. In order to prepare for such disasters, relocating the Diet, Japan's political core, away from the Tokyo metropolitan area is increasing in importance as part of Japan's crisis management. In addition, the relocation of the Diet is becoming more and more necessary for many reasons including taking measures against the global warming caused by environmental destruction, solving traffic jams, and vitalizing regional economies.

In Japan, society and the economy have made great changes in recent years. It is predicted that the total population will start decreasing soon, due to the sharp drop in the birthrate and the rapid aging of the population. Therefore, several new issues that relate closely to the relocation of the Diet and related organizations are arising. Such new issues include promoting decentralization, *dohusei* (regional system) and other such issues concerning building new relationships between the central and regional governments, and disaster prevention and crisis management in response to the recent Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake. Discussions are underway concerning these new issues.

The Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations have been discussing the "Method for seeking the Diet's decision" in close cooperation with both Houses, since the Committee was organized in June, 2003. The majority of the Committee believes that the relocation of the Diet and related organizations, which is one of the most important matters for the future of the entire nation, should take the above-mentioned issues into consideration, and the decision should be in line with the measures for these issues. The majority of the Committee also believes that the decision should be made, taking a broad view of the matter, after solutions are found for the above-mentioned issues.

In order to contribute to the discussion for the above-mentioned decision-making, the Committee will study, examine, and deepen the understanding on issues, including the dispersal relocation, which was presented in the Interim Reports of both Houses' Special Committees for the Relocation of the Diet and Related Organizations in 2003, and disaster prevention, particularly the concept of giving priority in the relocation to core crisis management, i.e. backup management.

## Opinion Exchange Meeting on Capital Function Relocation with Senior Secretariats of South Korean Political Parties

On Tuesday, December 14, 2004, a group of thirteen people, including senior secretariats of political parties in South Korea, visited the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) to study the Japanese capital function relocation policies, as well as the Japanese parliamentary and political party systems. The group and the MLIT staff exchanged opinions on capital function relocation.

In the meeting, participants had a lively discussion, exchanging their opinions on the present situations of the capital function relocation in Japan and Korea, how relocation should proceed in the future, how to solve the over-concentration in the capital areas, and other issues.



## Recent moves concerning the relocation of the administrative capital in Korea

In South Korea, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Special Act for the Administrative Capital Relocation was unconstitutional. Responding to the Court's decision, the Follow-up Measures Committee for the Administrative Capital Relocation submitted three draft proposals to the Parliament in December, 2004. The drafts propose a Special Administrative City, Central Administrative City, and Education and Science Research City, which are to be constructed in the Yeongi-Gongju region in Chungcheongnam-do, instead of constructing the new administrative capital. The Parliament will discuss the drafts, and decide the final plan by the end of February.

- Special Administrative City: Most government agencies, excluding the Office of the President, are relocated.
- Central Administrative City: Most government agencies, excluding the Office of the President and foreign affairs and security-related agencies, are relocated.
- Education and Science Research City: Only education and science-related agencies are relocated.

## 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 December 16, 2004. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

### Professor Kengo Kuma (Architect, Professor at Keio University)

Born in 1954 in Yokohama. After studying as a visiting scholar at Columbia University, established Kengo Kuma & Associates. Is promoting architecture that creates new relationships between nature, technology, and people.

Theme: How architecture and capital functions should be in the era of maturity

- Topics
- Architecture and urban design in the era of maturity
  - Network cities and communication
  - Messages conveyed by buildings
  - Capital function relocation as an opportunity to create buildings to pass on to the future
  - Roles of architects and designing communication
  - Dispersing capital functions by competition in attractiveness among cities



### Professor Tsuyoshi Mori (Mathematician, Professor emeritus at Kyoto University)

Born in Tokyo in 1928. After studying as an assistant at Hokkaido University, taught at Kyoto University, first as an assistant professor and then as a professor. Retired in 1991 and became a professor emeritus at Kyoto University. Is also active as a critic with unique opinions on society and culture.

Theme: Diversification of society and the relocation of the Diet and related organizations

- Topics
- Changes of capitals in history
  - What should be done from the viewpoint of a national policy on a long-range basis
  - Necessity of discussing diversity
  - How to diversify society
  - Balance between diversity and unity



# ★ T o p i c s

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

- Members of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations and the eight Prefectural Governors of the candidate sites had an informal gathering for discussion on January 20, Thursday, in Tokyo. They had an animated discussion, exchanging opinions on the Chairpersons' Summary and other issues.
- On January 24, Monday, the Liaison Council of the Northeast Region Prefectural Assemblies for Capital Function Relocation, consisting of Fukushima, Miyagi, Yamagata, Ibaraki, and Tochigi Prefectural Assemblies, adopted a resolution, requiring the Diet and the Government to execute capital function relocation. The resolution was adopted from the viewpoint of improving the crisis management system, in response to the recent Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake.
- On January 25, Tuesday, Fukushima Prefecture held a meeting of municipal government chiefs in charge of capital function relocation, and explained the situation concerning capital function relocation.
- On January 26, Wednesday, the Chubu Area Study Group for Capital Function Relocation held a seminar, inviting Professor Hiroshi Ouchi of Shibaura Institute of Technology. The group consists of department chiefs, who are in charge of capital function relocation, of the prefectural governments in the Chubu area and the Nagoya municipal government. Professor Ouchi delivered the keynote speech, titled "Capital Function Relocation and New Urban Design."
- On January 30, Sunday, a lecture meeting was held in Tajimi City, inviting Mr. Toru Hashimoto, a well-known lawyer who often appears on TV and in other media. The lecture meeting was sponsored by the Gifu Tono Convention for Inviting Capital Functions and other organizations. Mr. Hashimoto explained the necessity of the relocation in his speech, titled "Capital Function Relocation from a lawyer's viewpoint."

## 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](mailto:itenka@mlit.go.jp)

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