



~ 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

On Wednesday, May 18, the 13th Meeting of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held.

In this meeting, members exchanged their opinions concerning the Chairpersons' Report that was presented at the meeting in December, 2004. In the Report, it was proposed that relocating the core functions of crisis management should be prioritized.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairpersons expressed their opinions as follows:

- (1) Since relocating the core functions of crisis management is an important issue that requires urgent consideration, the Committee would like to discuss it energetically.
- (2) In the next meeting, the Committee would like to sort out the issues, and discuss those such as what are the core functions of crisis management, whether only the three candidate sites should be considered, or if other areas should also be considered.
- (3) The Committee would like to proceed with discussion so that the National Diet can include the research expenses for relocating the core functions of crisis management in the next fiscal budget.

Recent moves concerning construction the new administrative capital in Korea

In South Korea, responding to the Constitutional Court's decision ruling the Special Act for the new Administrative Capital construction unconstitutional, follow-up measures had been examined.

On March 2, "the Special Act for the Construction of the Administrative Complex City in the Yeongi-Gongju Region as the Follow-up Measures concerning the New Administrative Capital" was passed. The Special Act will relocate sixteen government agencies including the Ministry of Construction & Transportation and the Ministry of Finance & Economy to the Yeongi-Gongju region in Chungcheongnam-do. The Office of the President, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court will stay in Seoul as well as some other government agencies.

According to the Special Act, a Promotion Committee for the Construction of the Administrative Complex City, which will be co-chaired by the Prime Minister and a person selected from private sector, will be established in order to discuss major issues concerning the construction of the Administrative Complex City. Also, the Administrative Complex City Construction Office will be established by January 1, 2006 under the Ministry of Construction & Transportation to encourage efficient construction of the City. The relocation is scheduled to be completed by 2012, after the establishment of a development plan, acquisition of the land, and construction.

Agencies to be relocated include the Ministry of Construction & Transportation, Ministry of Finance & Economy, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Culture & Tourism, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Information & Communication, Ministry of Health & Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Labor, and Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries.

Agencies to stay in Seoul include the Ministry of Unification, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, and Ministry of Gender Equality.

The Website for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations is Even Better than Ever!

Our website has been updated and improved so that visitors can easily find what they are looking for. Files have been modified or recreated in order to improve accessibility, so that every visitor, including the challenged and elderly people, can use the information on our website.

Please visit our website, where we are providing information on the relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations.

Note: Due to this major update, the URL has been changed to <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/index.html>

Screen of top page on the relocation of the Diet and related organizations



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. Lecturers are intellectuals in disciplines including academic and business sectors. The following lectures were newly added after February 14, 2005. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

Professor Osamu Koide (Professor at Tokyo University)

Born in 1949. After teaching and studying at Tokyo University as an assistant professor and at MIT as a visiting researcher, became a professor at Tokyo University in 1990.

- Theme: Backup and security of capital functions
- Topics
- The necessity of backup functions
 - In order to make backup functions work properly
 - Backups as a risk hedge
 - Security against earthquake and terrorism
 - Space design based upon security
 - Appropriate security that takes the demands of the present age into account



Professor Atsushi Miyawaki (Professor at the graduate school, Hokkaido University)

Born in 1956. After working at the research office for the Committee on the Budget of the House of Councilors, became a professor at the graduate school of Hokkaido University in 1996. Also served as the chairperson of the Hokkaido Prefectural Committee for Policy Evaluation, chairperson of the Chiba Prefectural Committee for PFI Project Reviewing, chairperson of the Iwate Prefectural Committee for Administrative and Financial Reform, senior counselor of the Cabinet's Reform Promotion Council on Special Corporations, and a member of the Liaison Council for Postal Service Privatization.

Theme: Appropriate relationships between the central and local governments, with respect to the doshusei regional administrative system

- Topics**
- The discussion on the relocation of the National Diet and related organizations, from the view point of the trend of the times
 - Risk management in social systems
 - Factors that will be necessary when discussing the doshusei system
 - The roles to be played by the central government
 - Appropriate decentralization of capital functions, with respect to the doshusei system
 - The roles to be played by the Diet, when Japan is introducing the doshusei system



Professor Masaru Kitano (Professor at Shukutoku University)

Born in 1942. Is an environmental chemistry expert. After working at the Chemical Evaluation and Research Institute as the director of the Planning and Coordination Department, became a professor at Shukutoku University. Is a member of the Chemical Substances Council (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), member of the Central Environment Council (Ministry of the Environment), and other councils.

Theme: In order to make the relocation of the National Diet and related organizations a symbol of a recycling society

- Topics**
- Excessive concentration as a cause of environmental problems
 - The age from over-concentration to decentralization
 - Tokyo from the viewpoint of residents
 - Urban development with the wisdom of the Edo period
 - Importance of developing communities
 - Put new wine into fresh wineskins



Ms. Yumiko Sato (General Manager, Suntory Research Institute on Continuity and Change in Life)

Born in 1951. After working at the Research and Planning Office and other divisions at Suntory, contributed to establishing the Suntory Research Institute on Continuity and Change in Life in 1989. Became the General Manager in 1998. Also served as a member of the Council of Transport Policy (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport), member of the Central Council for Education (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), and other councils.

Theme: Images of life and cities in a mature society

- Topics**
- Entrust matters to younger generations
 - Lifestyle differences between generations
 - Relationships between people and buildings, and its boundary areas
 - People's working styles are changing
 - The necessity of counterbalancing power
 - How cities should be in a mature society
 - In order to build a truly new city



Mr. Taizo Nishimuro (Chairperson of the Board, Toshiba Corporation)

Born in 1935. After filling several positions, including working at Toshiba America, Inc. as a vice chairperson, became the president & CEO of Toshiba Corporation in 1996, the chairperson of the board & CEO in 2000, and the chairperson of the board in 2003. Also served as the chairperson of the Council for Decentralization Reform (Cabinet Office), the acting chairperson of the Fiscal System Council (Ministry of Finance), the vice chairperson of the Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), and the chairperson of the Japan-U.S. Economic Council.

Theme: Bring the present discussion to an end, and start a new plan

- Topics**
- An issue that symbolizes Japan
 - It is necessary to end this issue somewhere
 - Japanese society and decentralization in the future
 - Importance of basic discussions
 - Capital functions should be backed up immediately
 - Disaster prevention measures for safe and prosperous lives
 - End the capital function relocation issue and start a new plan



Booklet of On-Line Lecture Meetings (Enlarged Edition) was published

In order to encourage discussion among a wide variety of people, the MLIT has been presenting On-Line Lecture Meetings. Leading persons in various sectors of society have delivered these lectures on the Internet since FY 1999. The lectures cover many fields including human civilization, history, national land structure, disasters, economy, and environment. We have published the Booklet of On-Line Lecture Meetings on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, which includes lectures delivered in FY 2004. The booklet will be distributed for a variety of people. If you would like a copy, please contact the address below.



★ T o p i c s

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

- From February 1 to March 31, the Mie-Kio Region Liaison Council for Capital Function Relocation and Gifu-Aichi Council for Promoting Capital Function Relocation carried out a capital function relocation advertising campaign in the Tokaido and Sanyo shinkansen trains. The campaign was designed to target Diet members and opinion leaders. (A backlit advertisement titled "Ninja art of relocating capital functions" with Ninja characters was posted in first-class cars, and advertisements were placed on the wet towels and Hitotoki magazine given out in first-class cars.)
- The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Meeting for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations had a promotion corner at Tochigi Flower Festa 2005 in Oyama, which was held in Tochigi Prefectural Kennan Gymnastic Hall from February 18 to 20. Panels were exhibited, and pamphlets were distributed.
- On March 4, a lecture meeting to think about the relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held in the Flower Festa Memorial Park in Seta, Kani City, Gifu Prefecture. Shogo Kariyazaki, flower arrangement artist, delivered a lecture titled "Flowers are a vitamin for your mind. Capital function relocation is a vitamin for Japan."

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 Opinion

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