



*~ 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 Monday, July 25, the 14th Meeting of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations was held.

At the start of the meeting, the Chairperson explained "The Major Issues Concerning the Priority Relocation of the Core Crisis Management Functions," which was the summary of opinions expressed in the previous meetings. Then, he also explained that the Committee will request budget for FY 2006 so that the Committee can examine and further develop the concept of prioritizing the core crisis management functions in the relocation, as well as other matters. Concerning the details of the budget request, the Committee agreed to leave it entirely up to the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons.

## Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) will hold "Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days" for elementary and junior high school students. The tour programs include "Let's Enjoy the Virtual Experience of the New Capital Function City!" This program will introduce the image of the new capital function city through video and virtual experience in a PC game. There will also be a quiz game on the relocation of capital functions.

Please come during 10:00-16:00 on Wednesday, August 24, or Thursday, August 25, to the reception desk in the lobby on the 1st floor of the MLIT Building (No. 3 Chuo-Godochosa). Advance registration is not required. Please come directly to the reception desk. For further information, please visit the following web page. We are looking forward to seeing many children at the event.

[http://www.mlit.go.jp/event/child/child2\\_.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/event/child/child2_.html)

## On-Line Lecture Meetings

On-line lecture meetings are being held on MLIT's Web page for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. The lecturers were intellectuals from academics and business. Since July, Professor Saito's lecture has been newly added. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

## Professor Seiichiro Saito (Economist, Professor at the Graduate School of Chiba University of Commerce, Senior Vice President of NTT Data Institute of Management Consulting, Inc.)

Born in 1940. Became a professor at Rikkyo University in 1975, and a professor at the Graduate School of Chiba University of Commerce in 2005. Also serving as the Senior Vice President of NTT Data Institute of Management Consulting, Inc. from 1991. Is an economist specialized in socioeconomics, economic policies, and finance, expressing opinions on his specialties and other issues.



Theme: New possibilities of Japan, which will be created by the decentralization of power

- Topics
- What capital functions are appropriate for the future of Japan
  - Japan's new direction and the reform of the political system
  - Concept of capital functions, which is developed around Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya
  - Global trends change local regions
  - Regional revitalization that is ideal for the future

### Summary

- Reforming the centralized top-down administrative framework of Japan into a region based administrative framework will bring out Japan's diversity, revitalizing local communities.
- From now on, it is not that the capital changes the regions. Instead, regions will change in strong association with global trends. Japan must reform in order to bring out the potential vitality of the regions.
- In order to bring out their diverse potential, capital functions should not be centralized in Tokyo alone. Instead, Osaka and Nagoya should have capital functions as well, serving as hub cities. Then, the political functions and other capital functions should be rotated about every five years among Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.
- Japan must vitalize the regions by bringing out their hidden originality. It is desirable that Japan will be the aggregate of their diverse regional strengths.

## ★ Topics

### Prefectural governments concerned with relocating the capital functions and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) met to exchange information

An information exchange meeting between the MLIT and prefectural governments concerned with relocating the capital functions was held from 10:30 AM to noon on Tuesday, July 26 in an MLIT conference room.

MLIT presented the summaries of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, MLIT's FY 2005 budget and PR for relocating capital functions, recent moves concerning the relocation of South Korea's administrative capital, and other topics.

Prefectural governments presented on their recent activities and other topics. After the presentations, there was a Q&A session and opinions were exchanged.



# ★ Topics

## Learning on the Relocation is Taking Place around Japan

- On Sunday, June 5, a debate topic study meeting for the 13th Tokai Region Debate Tournament for Junior High and High School Students was held at Kinjo Gakuin University, Nagoya City. The Deputy Director of the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division went to the study meeting, and delivered a lecture titled "About capital function relocation." Approximately 40 high school students, who would attend the debate tournament, came to the study meeting. In the Q&A session after the lecture, many students raised questions, and the study meeting became very heated.

In the 13th Tokai Region Debate Tournament for Junior High and High School Students, "Whether Japan Should or Should Not Relocate its Capital Functions" was one of the debate topics for high school students.

For your information :

We will lecture on capital function relocation (in Japanese language)

If you are interested in hearing a lecture concerning the capital function relocation, or if your study group would like to study more about the capital function relocation, please ask MLIT. MLIT staff will visit you and deliver the lecture. For further information, including how to request a lecture, please visit the MLIT website or inquire at the following address. We will be happy to visit and lecture anywhere throughout Japan. Please do not hesitate to ask us.

**[http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/service/kouen\\_index.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/service/kouen_index.html)**

- On Tuesday, June 14, a senior student from Nishio Junior High School of Nishio City visited the Capital Functions Relocation Planning Division on a school trip to learn about capital functions relocation.

MLIT staff briefly explained about the relocation of the National Diet and related organizations, using pamphlets and other materials. Then, there was a lively Q&A session.



# ★ Topics

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

- On June 11 and 12, the Tochigi Prefectural Government had an information corner for the relocation of the National Diet and related organizations, as a part of the Prefectural Residents' Day event. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed to provide information on the relocation of the National Diet and related organizations.
- On June 16, four Prefectural Governments (Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, and Nara) of the Mie-Kio Region presented a request to the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of National Diet and Related Organizations. In the request, they urged the Committee to "examine the idea of prioritizing the relocation of the core crisis management functions, preparing for a strong earthquake in Tokyo," which the Committee mentioned in its summary in December 2004. They also urged the Committee to clarify what "the core crisis management functions" is and to realize capital function relocation in its original sense.
- On July 28, the Chubu Region Prefectural Governors' Association, which consists of governors of 10 prefectural governments, including Gifu, Aichi, Mie, and Shiga Prefectures, presented a "Proposal and Request Concerning the relocation of capital functions" to the members of the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses on the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations. In the request, they urged the Committee members to immediately start and examining "the priority relocation of the core crisis management function," and take a step further to decide to realize capital function relocation in its original sense.

## The URL of the Website for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations has been changed

As we stated in the previous issue (May) of New Era, our website URL has been changed as follows, due to the major update and improvements.

New URL: <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/index.html>

## Change of Address for New Era Subscribers

If your postal address and/or name has been: changed due to your moving, a municipal merger, or for any other reason, please inform us by email or other means, with the change and the number written on the envelop that New Era was sent in.

## 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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