



## ~ 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, October 24, the 15th 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 heard a presentation regarding the FY 2006 budget request of the House of Representatives and House of Councilors for the expenses of this Conference Committee, responding to the Chairpersons' Report that was adopted in December, 2004. The expenses are for further research regarding the capital function relocation, for example, disaster prevention, particularly the concept of prioritizing the core crisis management function (so called backup function). Such expenses include, (1) Travel expenses necessary for Diet members' research trips, and (2) Expenses necessary for hearing opinions from intellectuals and others. The Committee members approved making the above-mentioned budget request, and the report will be submitted to the House Steering Committee. Mr. Suzuki, the Chairperson, stated his intention of conducting a field investigation of the three candidate sites and their adjoining large cities after the budget bill is passed. The replacement of two members is also reported.

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

\* new member

##### 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. Masaharu Nakagawa (DPJ)\*  
Mr. Koichiro Genba (DPJ)  
Mr. Wakio Mitsui (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

### 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. Lecture meetings have been delivered by intellectuals in disciplines including academics and business. The following lectures have been newly added from July 2005. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

## Professor Yoshiaki Kawata (Director of the Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University)

Born in 1946. Became a professor at Kyoto University in 1993. Appointed to his present post in 2005. Now serving as a member of the Science Council, as well as a member of several expert investigation committees of the Central Disaster Prevention Council.



Theme: Evaluation of functions required for handling disasters, and disaster prevention as a part of culture

- Topics
- Limit of simulating epicentral earthquakes
  - Capital function relocation that considers invisible damages
  - Relocation of human resources that are essential for capital function relocation
  - Priority of functions to be relocated
  - Necessity to evaluate functions required for handling disasters
  - In order to make disaster prevention a part of culture

### Summary

- An epicentral earthquake will certainly occur in the Tokyo metropolitan area. It is, however, impossible to simulate accurately what will happen in the Tokyo metropolitan area when an epicentral earthquake occurs. Therefore, we need to prepare alternative fundamental capital functions.
- When thinking about capital functions, it is necessary to see their invisible soft aspects, as well as their hard physical functions. In this sense, the question is whether we can have backups for human resources and culture as well.
- We need to evaluate what functions are necessary in order to handle disasters, including which functions are necessary at which points in time. Through examining what we need to do in a time of disaster, we will be able to decide which capital functions should be relocated.
- In order to improve our disaster readiness, disaster prevention must establish itself as part of our culture. In an emergency, we cannot do more than we usually do. What we do every day is our culture. We must not view disaster prevention as something special. This is also true with capital function relocation.

## Mr. Kenichiro Ohara (President of Ohara Museum of Art)

Born in 1940. Runs Ohara Museum of Art as the president. Also serves as the president of Kurashiki Central Hospital, the president of the Kurashiki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and is a member of the Okayama Board of Education.



Theme: Creations that occur in various regions will support the future of Japan

- Topics
- Three needs for relocating capital functions
  - Creations occurring in various regions support today's Japan
  - Background of creations occurring in various regions of Japan
  - Awareness gap between Tokyo and other regions, and media
  - Tokyo residents' misunderstanding on tax
  - New capital should be build in a region where cultural diversity is visible

### Summary

- From Tokyo's viewpoint, there may not be much need for relocating capital functions. From the perspective of other regions, however, there are still many needs.
- Japan is supported by cultural and business creations, which occur throughout Japan. If Tokyo is composed of such creations from each region's historical and cultural background that are transplanted into Tokyo, the creation

power of local regions must be preserved.

- Under the present situation, information from other regions does not reach Tokyo, and everything concentrates in Tokyo. If this situation continues, the creativity of these regions may be lost.
- For the future, the background to produce creativity found in regions throughout Japan must be valued. In order to achieve this, our future requires a capital where cultural diversity is visible.

### **Professor Toshiyuki Shikata (Military Analyst, Professor at Teikyo University, Senior Counselor for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government concerning Disaster Preparedness)**

Born in 1936. After filling many positions, including Vice-President at the National Defense Academy and Commanding General of the Northern Corps, retired from the Japan Self-Defense Force in 1994. Became a Professor of Law at Teikyo University in 1995. Also serving as a Senior Counselor for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, taking charge of disaster preparedness since 1999.

Theme: Awareness and measures of crisis management required for the capital

- Topics
- Functions to be defended, particularly in the capital
  - Difference between disasters caused by humans and nature
  - Necessity of having backups for capital functions
  - Present situation of crisis management awareness
  - Possibility of terrorism and what we must think before it actually occurs
  - We must think about acceptable and unacceptable risks of capital functions



#### Summary

- There are two types of disasters, natural disasters and human-generated disasters which include terrorism. If disasters occur in the capital, capital functions must be defended. Measures against natural disasters and measures against human-generated disasters are different.
- In Japan, many functions are concentrated in Tokyo; some of them do not need to be in Tokyo. Functions that do not have to be in the capital should be relocated, or backups should be prepared somewhere outside Tokyo. For most capital functions, we should have distant backups, where they are safe even if Tokyo has an epicentral earthquake or human-generated disaster.
- Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere in the world, including Japan. It is, however, difficult to prevent them. It is also difficult to predict everything that will happen when such attacks actually occur. Although we cannot establish all countermeasures in advance, we need to decide what we should do to some extent.
- Concerning capital functions, acceptable risks and unacceptable risks must be clearly distinguished. We must urgently secure safety, providing a minimum business continuity plan (BCP).

## ★ Topics

### **Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days were Held**

On Wednesday, August 24, and Thursday, August 25, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) held Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Days for elementary and junior high school students. The tour programs included "Let's Enjoy the Virtual Experience of the New Capital Function City!" This program introduced the image of the new capital function city through video and virtual experience in a PC game. There was also a quiz game on the relocation of capital functions.

# ★ Topics

Even though the weather was not good on both days due to a typhoon, many children participated in the tour. Children participated in the PC game and quiz very seriously, enjoying themselves.



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

- On August 4, 5, and 11, the Gifu Prefectural Government held a "Kids' Bus Tour to Experience the Tono Region and Learn about Relocating the Capital Functions" for elementary school students in the fifth and sixth grades and their parents. Participants visited the candidate site for the relocation.
- On August 27, the Aichi Prefectural Government held a "Guided Tour of the Capital Function Relocation Site for Kids and their Parents". The tour was intended for elementary school students in the fifth and sixth grades and their parents. Participants looked around the candidate site and listened to an explanation on relocating capital functions. The purposes of the guided tour were to explain the significance and necessity of relocating the capital functions and to provide the participants with a concrete image of the relocation.
- From October 14 to 16, "the Tochigi Housing Fair 2005" was held. The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Meeting for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations exhibited panels and distributed pamphlets to promote the relocation of capital functions.
- The Gifu Prefectural Government had a promotion booth for the relocation of capital functions at "the Gifu 2005 Environment Fair" on October 8 and 9 and at "the Gifu Prefectural Agriculture Festival" on October 22 and 23. Panels were exhibited, pamphlets were distributed, and a promotion video was shown.
- The Fukushima Prefectural Government held an art contest, inviting elementary school students to submit a painting of "A city Submerged in a Forest". The best work and other selected works will be exhibited around 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 are pleased to send related documents to you. We are awaiting your contact.

## We are Waiting for Your Opinion

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