



~ Think Together about the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations ~

Dispersed Capital Functions in the Republic of South Africa

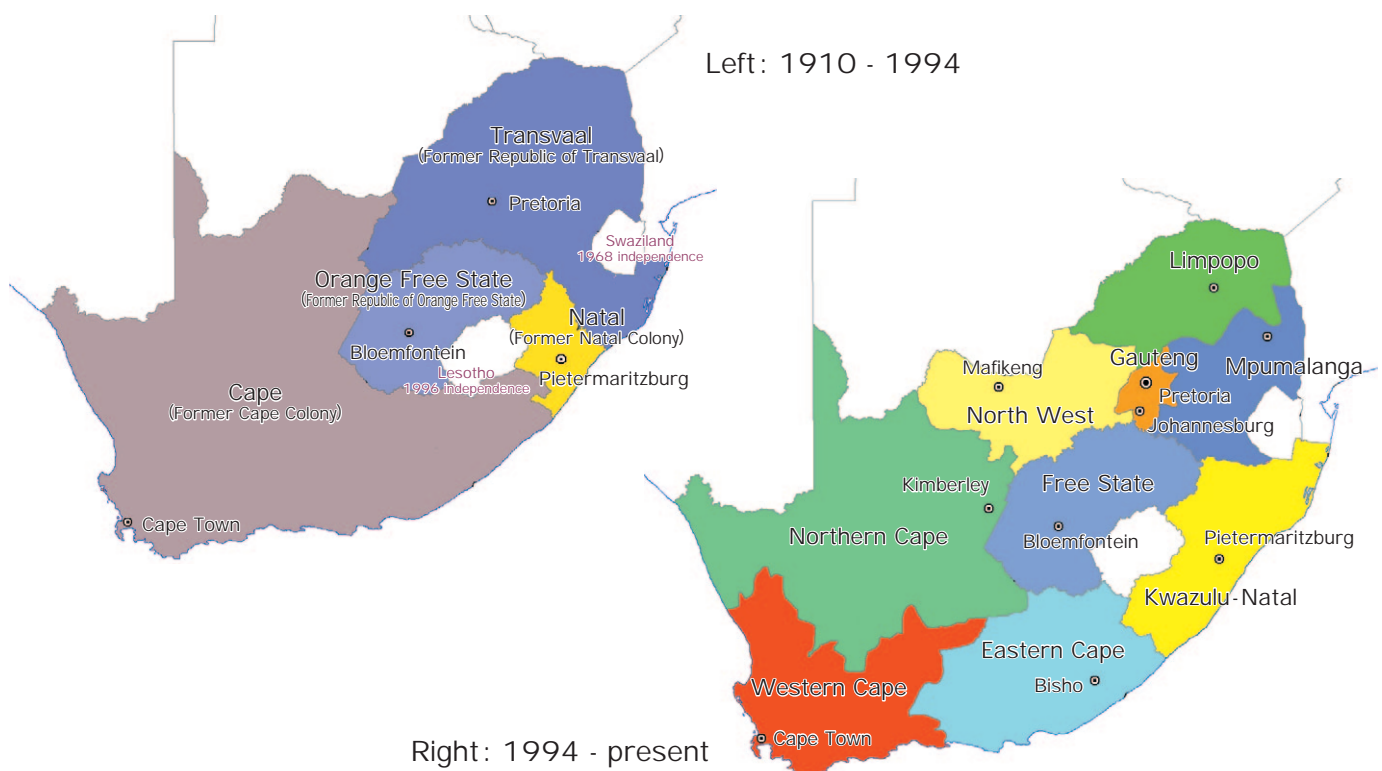
In South Africa, the Parliament is located in Cape Town, whereas the executive branch is in Pretoria and the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein. These legislative, administrative, and judicial capitals are a few hundred to a few thousand kilometers away from each other. Cape Town and Pretoria are approximately 1,600 kilometers, two hours by airplane, away from each other. South Africa's capitals are a good example of dispersed capital functions.

1. Historical background of the dispersal

In the early 20th century, the present South Africa consisted of four territories, which were the two British colonies of Cape Colony and Natal Colony, and the two republics of Dutch settlers, which were the Orange Free State and Transvaal. In 1910, as a result of the Second Boer War, these territories were unified to create the Union of South Africa, a self-governing dominion of the British Empire.

As part of the appeasement policy between the British and Dutch settlers, the executive branch and the Supreme Court were located in the two capitals of the old republics. This is the background of the present dispersal of capital functions.

The four provinces just after the independence of the Union of South Africa in 1910 and the nine provinces after the Constitution was amended in 1994



2. Government of South Africa

(1) Legislative branch

South Africa has a bicameral Parliament consisting of the National Assembly, which is the lower house, and the National Council of Provinces, which is the upper house. Members of both houses serve five-year terms. Members of the National Assembly represent the people of the whole nation and are responsible for general affairs concerning the whole nation, whereas members of the National Council of Provinces are provincial governors and other members elected from the nine provincial legislatures, representing individual provinces.

(2) Executive branch

The President is the head of state and head of the government. The President is also the supreme commander of the National Defense Force. The President is elected from among the members of the lower house and serves a five-year term. When appointed as the President, the President is no longer a member of the Parliament. The President appoints the Deputy President and Ministers from among the lower house members. (Up to two Ministers, however, may be appointed from outside the lower house.)

(3) Judicial branch

The highest organs of the judicial branches are the Constitutional Court, in Johannesburg, for constitutional issues and the Supreme Court of Appeal, in Bloemfontein, for non-constitutional issues.

3. Governmental operation in the dispersed capitals

(1) Liaison and coordination between the Parliament and government agencies

In order to work with the Parliament, each Ministry has a liaison office, containing the offices of the Minister and other visiting personnel, in a building next to the Parliament building. Only essential personnel are stationed in these liaison offices. Interpellations from members of Parliament are sorted out by the Parliament secretariat and sent to the appropriate liaison offices. Communication between the liaison offices and home offices, in Pretoria, is by email and fax.

(2) Traveling between Cape Town and Pretoria during Parliament sessions

- Ministers, Vice Ministers, and some executive officials travel between Cape Town (from Tuesday to Thursday) and Pretoria (Monday and Friday) in order to work with the Parliament.
- Hundreds of officials used to travel between the two capitals. After 1994, however, the number of traveling personnel was reduced to a minimum in order to cut expenses.
- After the administrative policy speech and party representatives' questions, the President does not participate in the work of the legislative branch. The President's main office remains in Pretoria, even during Parliament sessions. In Cape Town, the President stays in the second Presidential Palace on Parliament premises.
- During Parliament sessions, the Deputy President stays in Cape Town and attends several Parliament sessions. Therefore, long distance travel is not required.



The Upper House
(National Council of Provinces)



The Lower House
(National Assembly)



Union Building,
the President's Office



Liaison office building next to
the Parliament building

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 academics and business. The following lectures have been newly added from February. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

Ms. Mineko Orisaku (Photographer)

Born in Ishikawa Prefecture. In 1985 and 1986, her work was selected for the Nikakai Exhibition. In 1987, became a freelance photographer. Has been taking photographs of beautiful landscapes and people around the world from a feminine and caring viewpoint. Has held many exhibitions throughout Japan, as well as appearing on many TV programs and delivering many lectures.



Theme: Capital of the future looking through the viewfinder

Summary

- From a visual point of view, Tokyo today is not that bad. However, the over-concentration of people in Tokyo results in there not being enough space for everyone to be comfortable.
- Good cities are places where people can relax. True luxury is enjoying a relaxing time. Thinking of a future city, I hope people have more opportunities for contact with nature. It is important that the future city is endowed with nature, but convenient transportation is also important.
- When creating a new city, it is required to look 100 years ahead and even further. I hope the new city will become a symbol of Japan and a place of pride for the Japanese.

Mr. Osamu Suzuki (Chairman of the Board, Suzuki Motor Corporation)

After serving as a director, executive director, and senior executive director, became the president of Suzuki Motor Corporation in 1978. Appointed to his present post in 2000. Is also the president of the Suzuki Foundation and president of the Suzuki Education and Culture Foundation.



Theme: The importance of decision making in corporate management, and the issue of the relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations

Summary

- When I became the president of Suzuki Motor Corporation, I was concerned with trying to make Suzuki the top corporation in one country we do business in. The answer was surprisingly easily to find while actually doing it was not that easy. It depends on whether you can make decisions. Straining our wits and making decisions led us to today's Suzuki.
- Although it is better to avoid conflict, if you believe that there is only one truth and justice is justice, you will always win. That belief is necessary in business. I think it is true of people's lives, and nations as well.
- Unfortunately, concerning the issue of the relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations, decisions have not been made yet. After all, it makes sense that those functions are located in the center of Japan.
- Rather than thinking of the relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations alone, *doshusei* (regional system) and other decentralized systems should be considered.

★ T o p i c s

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

- From February 17 to 19, Tochigi Flower Festa 2006 in Kanuma was held in Kanuma City. The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Council for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations had a promotion booth. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed, promoting relocation.
- On February 25, a Presentation Meeting of the Shin-Shirakawa Life Park 'W' Home project was held in Tokyo. This project is based on the double residency concept, in which urban people have their second residences in rural areas. The Fukushima Prefectural Government distributed promotion gifts at the meeting, promoting the relocation of capital functions.
- On February 25, the Gifu-Tono Region Capital Function Attraction Promotion Association and two other groups held a lecture meeting in Tajimi City, inviting Bunchin Katsura, a Japanese comic storyteller (*rakugoka*), as the lecturer. In the lecture, he explained the necessity of the relocation of capital functions.
- The 6th Ogaki City Environmental Festival was held on March 11 and 12. The Gifu Prefectural Government had a promotion booth at the festival to promote the necessity of the relocation of capital functions. Panels were exhibited and a promotion video was shown, promoting the relocation.
- From March 13 to 19, the Gifu-Aichi Council for Promoting Capital Function Relocation placed a banner ad on portal websites, promoting the relocation of capital functions. The council's website was accessed approximately 6,000 times per day.
- From March 20 to 30, the Study Group for Capital Function Relocation of the Chubu Area Prefectural Governors' Association put up posters in stations on the JR Yamato Line in Tokyo, promoting the relocation of capital functions.
- The three regions and eight prefectural governments that are candidate sites for the relocation of capital functions are planning to jointly advertise in magazines, promoting the relocation of capital functions. In the advertisement, they suggest that the relocation of capital functions should trigger true structural reforms, making people's lives better. (March 27)

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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