

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

## Separately Located Capital Functions in Malaysia

In Malaysia, the Parliament (Federal Parliament) and Royal Palace are located in the capital of Kuala Lumpur, while most government offices, including the Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court (Federal Court), are located in Putrajaya.

The newly developed Putrajaya is a federal territory located 25 kilometers south of Kuala Lumpur and 20 kilometers north of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The area was formerly known as Prang Besar, the state of Selangor. The developed area is 49 square kilometers, and the population is 55,000 people (as of February, 2006). From Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes by car. We would like to introduce Malaysia as an overseas example of capital functions being allocated separately.

### 1. History of Dispersed allocation

Kuala Lumpur has been the capital of Malaysia since the days of British colonial rule, being the central city of the region. Remaining the capital through Malaysian independence in 1957, Kuala Lumpur is still the capital today. The Prime Minister's Official Residence and Office moved to Putrajaya in 1999. Since then, the Federal Court and twenty out of twenty five government offices to be relocated have also moved to the new city. The relocation of the government offices will be completed by 2010, but the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Public Works will stay in Kuala Lumpur.

The three major explanations concerning the relocation of the government offices are as follows:

1. To ease the heavy congestion and traffic jams in Kuala Lumpur resulting from over-concentration in the city.
2. To improve government efficiency with e-government and other measures. Before relocation, government offices were inefficiently scattered about in Kuala Lumpur.
3. To solve the problems of government office space shortage and high rent.

Malaysia's Regions and Surrounding Countries



The two circles show 25 and 50 kilometer areas with Kuala Lumpur as the center.

## 2. Political System

### (1) Legislative Branch

Malaysia has a bicameral parliament, composed of an upper house, the Senate, with 70 senators and a lower house, the House of Representatives, with 219 representatives.

The King appoints 44 senators on the prime minister's advice and the state assemblies elect 26. All representatives are elected by general elections.

### (2) Administrative Branch

The King is the head of the Administrative Branch. His power, however, is more or less symbolic.

Malaysia has a parliamentary system with the prime minister formally appointed by the King. The prime minister has to be selected from among the members of the House of Representatives with the confidence of the House's majority. The King also appoints other ministers from among members of the Parliament, taking the prime minister's advice.

### (3) Judicial Branch

The highest court is the Federal Court. The King appoints judges on the prime minister's advice after consulting with the Conference of Rulers.

## 3. Liaison and Coordination and Transfer of People between Parliament and Government Offices

### (1) Liaison and Coordination between Parliament and Government Offices

Parliament members submit their interpellations to the Parliament secretariat at the beginning of Parliament sessions. The interpellations are sorted out by the Parliament secretariat and sent to the appropriate ministries. At each Parliament session, approximately 1,000 interpellations at most are made at the House of Representatives, and approximately 500 interpellations at most are made at the Senate.

The Parliament secretariat does not have a branch office for liaison and coordination in Putrajaya, and government ministries do not have offices in Kuala Lumpur either.

### (2) Transfer of People between Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya during Parliament Sessions

Parliament is convoked in March, June, and September every year. During Parliament sessions, plenary sessions are held in Kuala Lumpur from Monday to Thursday every week. Cabinet meetings are held in Putrajaya every Wednesday.

When necessary, ministers and other officials of ministries located in Putrajaya travel to Kuala Lumpur to attend Parliament sessions. Ministers and other officials of ministries located in Kuala Lumpur also travel to Putrajaya to attend cabinet meetings and other such meetings. The distance between Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur is only 25 kilometers and traveling time is not a problem.

Many members of Parliament elected from regions outside Kuala Lumpur stay at hotels in Kuala Lumpur during Parliament sessions. Major political parties have their headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

Parliament Building  
(Kuala Lumpur)



Prime Minister's Official Residence  
(Putrajaya)



Government Ministries' Buildings  
along Main Street  
(Putrajaya)



Federal Court  
(Putrajaya)





## On-Line Lecture Meetings Being Held

The following lectures have been newly added from January, 2007. Please visit the Web page at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/onlinelecture/index.html> for more information.

### Prof. Akira Koshisawa (Professor at the Graduate School of Hokkaido University)

Theme: Capital function relocation that changes with the times  
Summary

- One cause for widening regional differences in Japan is regional inability to create independent visions, values, and self-confidence for their own development.
- In urban and industrial policies of regions, local government does not really need the relocation of part, or all, of the capital functions.
- The vitalization or renaissance of regional towns and cities is not possible without rediscovering regional assets rooted in regional history and tradition. The primary role of national policies is to assist rediscovery of these assets.
- In order to revitalize local communities, the descendants of danna-shu (wealthy patrons) becoming aware of their noblesse oblige once again, ready to take the initiative in regional activities, is important.
- Concerning national crisis management, backups of critical national and central information data being stored in several places is more important than relocating the capital functions.



### Prof. Jeong Hwan-Yeong (Professor at the Department of Geography, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Kongju National University, Korea)

Theme: The background of the construction of the Multi-functional Administrative City (MAC) in South Korea, and proposals for Japan

Summary

- Like in Korea, if relocating capital functions becomes a political issue in Japan, discussions and activities for relocation may emerge.
- In Korea, correcting the imbalance between the capital area and outlying regions is a major issue today, which is a driving power for the relocation of capital functions.
- MAC is planned to be a low density and environment-friendly city. MAC will be a global model for 21st century cities.
- Japan must promote national discussion for relocating capital functions, informing the public with a positive approach.
- Dispersing capital functions to several places is more reasonable in Japan than relocating them to one place.



### Mr. Kazuyuki Hamada (President of the Futurists Forum)

Theme: Capital function relocation that reverses the worst-case scenario  
Summary

- Japan should take the initiative in changing attitudes toward our global environment. Such thinking is also important in building a new city for relocating capital functions.
- Human resources, know-how, business models, and other such assets that have been concentrated in Tokyo until now should be made open, sharing them throughout Japan. Relocating capital functions may be a good opportunity for implementing this.
- Now is the time for us to examine whether Japan has adequate defense measures for capital functions, and whether Japan is able to attractively present these defense measures to the world.
- Capital function relocation will dispel people's concerns about the future of Japan, triggering a recovery from Japan's current problems, including the issue of the widening social divide.
- If a new city is built considering regional history and nature, international exchange, and the baby-boom generation's lives after retirement, the city will be a capital function city open both domestically and internationally that we can be proud of.



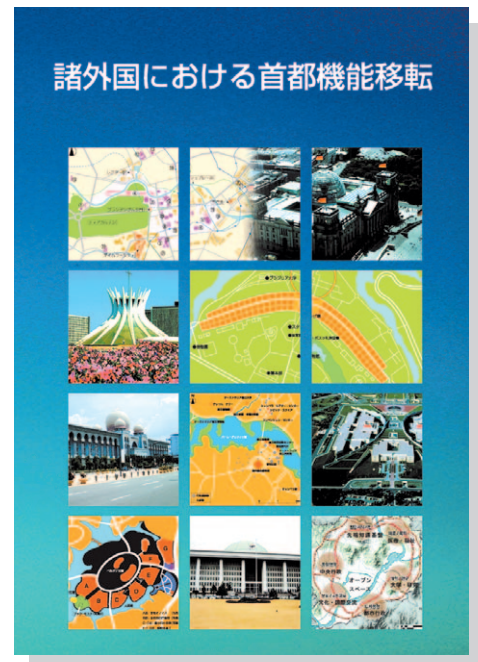
## A New Pamphlet, "Overseas Examples of Capital Function Relocation," is Now Available.

A new pamphlet, "Overseas Examples of Capital Function Relocation," providing a clear introduction to major overseas examples of capital function relocation, is now available. The previous pamphlet was revised with up-to-date information and photographs. An introduction to the Korean Multi-functional Administrative City was also added. If you would like a copy, please contact the address below.

Size: A-4 (210mm x 297mm),  
14 pages (color)

Contents:

Capital function relocation in Germany  
Capital function relocation in Brazil  
Capital function relocation in Australia  
Capital function relocation in Malaysia  
Construction of Multi-functional Administrative City in Korea  
Major Overseas Examples of Capital Function Relocation  
Capitals of Other Countries



## ★ T o p i c s

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

- From February 16 to 18, Tochigi Flower Festa 2007 in Takanezawa was held in Takanezawa Town. The Tochigi Prefectural Residents' Council for the Relocation of the National Diet and Related Organizations had an information corner. Panels were exhibited and pamphlets were distributed, providing information on the relocation.

### 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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