

## Online Lectures

A Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) website called "The Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations" offers online lectures by experts from various fields including academia and the business community. The following lectures have been added since December 2007. Contents of the lectures are provided in Japanese only.

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

No.120



● Lecturer:  
Edith Hanson, Television Personality

Title: My Thoughts on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations from the Perspective of Rural Life in Kumano

No.127



● Lecturer:  
Takeshi Maeda, Tourism Planner

Title: Local Cities Ought to Strengthen their Charm and Send Messages out to the World

No.121



● Lecturer:  
Asato Izumi, Columnist

Title: Let Tokyo Be What It Will Be

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● Lecturer:  
Kazunori Ukigawa,  
President of JustSystems Corporation

Title: The Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations May Create an Opportunity to Map Out Japan's Grand Plan

No.122



● Lecturer:  
Miyoko Urushihara,  
Essayist / Eco Designer

Title: A Safe and Clean Metropolitan Environment is Created by Public-minded People / A Capital Function Backup System for Crisis Management

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● Lecturer:  
Yoichi Iwasaki,  
President of the University of Tsukuba

Title: The Meaning of City Creation in View of the History of Tsukuba Academic City

No.123



● Lecturer:  
Junko Eda,  
Translator / Eco Journalist

Title: Consciousness Change and City Creation for Reducing the Environmental Burden

No.129



● Lecturer:  
Masao Horiba,  
Top Advisor of Horiba, Ltd.

Title: Correcting Tokyo's Over-concentration by Vitalizing Local Industry

No.124



● Lecturer:  
Hiroshi Saito,  
Chairman of Kanagawa Chuo Kotsu Co., Ltd.

Title: The Over-concentration Issue and Transfer of Capital Functions from the Standpoint of the Bus Industry

No.130



● Lecturer:  
Soichiro Fukutake,  
Chairman and CEO of Benesse Corporation

Title: Discussing the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations in terms of "National Interest" and "Decentralization of Authority"

No.125



● Lecturer:  
C.W. Nicol, Writer

Title: Japan's Revitalization Starts with Forest Regeneration

No.131



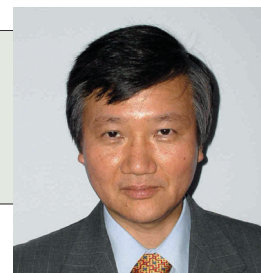
● Lecturer:  
Hiroshi Ohshima,  
President of Sembikiya-Sohonten, Ltd.

Title: When Creating a New City, Enrich Both Hardware and Software

## Special Contribution

# New Trends in the Relocation of Capital Functions Brought about by the IT Revolution and Globalization

Hirofumi Yamaguchi, Special Researcher, National Diet Library



## The Relocation of Capital Functions in the 20th Century

Capital cities are the keystones of nations and represent national unity. Historically, there have been numerous examples of capitals being relocated due to the rise and fall of nations or to changes in ruling classes. During the early 20th century, before and after World War I, capitals were relocated in countries such as China, Russia and Turkey because of political reforms. After World War II, capital relocations took place mainly in countries that were emerging from colonial rule. In the latter case, the new governments took over the old capitals, mostly harbor cities, and then moved the capital functions to inland areas. One purpose of the relocations was to solve the old capitals' overcrowding problems. Moreover, the new countries aspired to free themselves from the worn-out systems of the colonial days and wished to build heartlands to symbolize their nations' unity and future prosperity. Typical examples of such cases are Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, and Abuja, the capital of Nigeria.

Also, in the early 20th century, after the foundation of Australia, Canberra was built as the country's new capital. Like Washington, DC in the United States and Ottawa in Canada, Canberra was an example of an entity formed by the federal state as well as a small-scale capital construction. South Africa, on the other hand, divided its governmental power (legislative, administrative and judicial) among three different cities. As for capital function relocations in a broader sense, government capital functions have been relocated or decentralized in several European countries, including the United Kingdom.

## Recent Developments: Globalization and Decentralization

Since the end of the 20th century, capital function relocation has become more common worldwide. At the end of 1997, Kazakhstan, formerly a part of the Soviet Union, transferred its capital from Almaty, located at the southwest edge of the country, to Astana, located closer to the central region. In 2005, Myanmar relocated its capital from Yangon, a southern port city, to Naypyidaw, which is located in the central part of the country.

Palau, a country in the South Pacific, moved its capital in 2006 to Melekeok to solve the problem of overcrowding in Koror, the former capital.

Besides the above examples of capital function relocation for reasons such as the desire to have the capital in the central part of the country and the need to address overcrowding in the old capitals, it should be noted that there are many cases of relocation with the intention to adapt to economic globalization and to decentralize capital functions.

Between 1999 and 2006, Malaysia relocated more than half of its central government offices, including the prime minister's office, and the Supreme Court to Putrajaya, a new city located about 20 kilometers south of the capital, Kuala Lumpur. The parliament stayed in the capital, but what Malaysia did could be considered a capital relocation to a large degree. The construction of Putrajaya started in the 1990s between Kuala Lumpur and the new international airport. It was combined with Cyberjaya, a new industrial city with a full IT infrastructure. The objective of the project was partially to ease congestion in the capital; however, it is noteworthy that the country built a new international airport and a new city together with the intention of responding to globalization and the IT revolution.

Among more recent capital relocations, the shift of the capital of Germany to Berlin received worldwide attention.



Canberra, Capital of Australia (Parliament House)

### Major Relocation of Capital Functions after the 20th Century

1. & 2. old capital to new capital  
3. federal capital  
4. relocated/decentralized

Type of Capital Relocation	20th Century	End of 20th Century to Present
1. Change of Political Regime	Russia (Saint Petersburg to Moscow) Turkey (Istanbul to Ankara) China (Beijing to Nanjing to Beijing)	Germany (Bonn to Berlin)
2. Newborn Nation	Brazil (Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia) Pakistan (Karachi to Islamabad) Nigeria (Lagos to Abuja) Malawi (Zomba to Lilongwe) Ivory Coast (Abidjan to Yamoussoukro) Tanzania (Dar es Salaam to Dodoma)	Kazakhstan (Almaty to Astana) Myanmar (Yangon to Naypyidaw) Palau (Koror to Melekeok)
3. Federal State Formation	Australia (Canberra) South Africa (divided government power into three cities) Former West Germany (Bonn)	
4. Partial Relocation of Government Function	UK, Sweden, France (multiple cities)	Malaysia (Putrajaya) Korea (Sejong, special administrative district) Ireland (multiple cities)



Following the unification of West Germany and East Germany in 1990, the decision to relocate the capital from Bonn (the temporary capital) to Berlin was made after heated debate. In 1999, the relocation was completed. The decision seemed to have been made based on the symbolic connection between the unified Germany and the capital, Berlin. Berlin was located in the former East Germany; however, the city was strategically important for Germany as an interchange point with Russia and the Eastern European countries. The city also drew attention in terms of the competition among European cities over which one should be an international business hub in Europe.

On the other hand, as a compromise to form consensus, nearly half of the federal government offices stayed in Bonn. Consequently, the capital functions were substantially divided between the two cities. Originally, in the former West Germany, many federal government offices were distributed to a number of cities other than Bonn. Although the decentralization had some disadvantages such as the need for frequent travel between the cities by government staff members, it seems that the two-capital system is working.

In Korea, Japan's neighboring country, the former Roh Moo-Hyeon administration decided to relocate twelve ministries, including the ministry of finance and economy, to the city of Gongju in Chungcheongnam-do and the Yeongi-gun area with the purpose of lessening the centralization in the capital, Seoul, and promoting the entire country's balanced growth. The city to which the ministries were to be moved, an administrative center/multipurpose city, was newly named Sejong. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new city was held in July, 2007. The congress, president's office, foreign ministry and defense ministry remain in Seoul. The relocation plan originally included the congress and the president's office; however, due to the Supreme Court's judgment that this move would be unconstitutional, the current plan was adopted. Historically, South Korea has also relocated some of its central government offices due to concern over North Korea's military threats.



Patrajaya, Malaysia (the prime minister's office in the center)

Although the situations in Germany and Korea differ, both countries chose decentralization by dividing their central government offices between two cities as a kind of compromise. It seems that, since the dissemination of information technology reduces the disadvantages of decentralization, more countries can choose decentralization without much difficulty.

### Attracting Overseas Enterprises to Capitals and Decentralizing Government Offices

The United Kingdom is an example of a country that has been actively promoting the relocation and dispersal of its government offices to local cities in recent years. Since the 1990s, through active inducement from the country as well as the capital, a number of overseas enterprises, particularly their finance divisions, have moved into London, the capital. As a result, the city has boomed as an international business hub, and specifically as an international finance center. On the other hand, in 2004, the Blair administration decided to transfer 20,000 officers' posts out of the capital sphere. Ireland, the UK's neighbor, also succeeded in attracting overseas enterprises. Mainly in Dublin, the capital, financial and IT-related companies have gathered to support the country's high economic growth. Further, as a measure to reduce regional disparities, Ireland has actively carried out the partial relocation and dispersal of its government offices.

In 2003, it announced a relocation plan that involved over 10,000 people.

In the midst of ongoing economic globalization, for many countries, capitals are effective resources for attracting overseas enterprises. Since it is difficult to control the locations of business establishments with an eye to easing regional disparities, the relocation of government offices seems to be a workable policy that can achieve both administrative efficiency and regional development.

Globalization and the IT revolution have had a substantial impact on the site selection for various economic activities as well as the roles that capitals play, and have also become important factors for determining the location of capital functions.

\* All the viewpoints presented in the above article are my viewpoints. Please refer to my book titled "The World's Capital Relocations" (Shakaihyoronsha, 2008) for each case of the capital relocation.



Model of Sejong (special administrative district), Korea

# Changing the Nationwide Plan for National Spatial Planning

By National Planning Division, National and Regional Planning Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

## ◆ From “quantitative expansion development” to “mature society creation” and from a “national government-led plan” to a “multi-layered planning system (decentralization planning)”

On the 4th of July, 2008, the National Spatial Planning Act (Nationwide Plan) was endorsed by the Cabinet. The new act replaced the comprehensive national development plan that had been a guideline for Japan’s national spatial planning. The new plan is based on the National Spatial Planning Act that was established by fundamentally revising the Comprehensive National Land Development Act in 2005. The changes were as follows: (1) planning subject matter was reviewed for land quality improvement; and (2) in addition to national planning, an extensive regional plan for each block unit would be made by central and local governments, with appropriate role sharing and mutual cooperation.

There are a couple of reasons for drawing up a national plan at this time. First, we are facing various new trends such as the arrival of real depopulation, the ongoing globalization of the economy and the drastic advance of information and communication technology. Second, a single-pole structure still remains; in other words, there is an excessive concentration of population and civil and industrial functions in the Tokyo Metropolitan area and the Pacific belt zone. With population and industrial bases almost equivalent to those of a mid-sized European country, each regional block has its own identity and the potential to enhance its international competitiveness by competing or collaborating with neighboring East Asian countries.

Under the basic policy of allowing “diversified regional blocks to evolve autonomously while forming a beautiful nation where people can live comfortably,” the new national plan aims to shift the national land structure to one that enables each regional block to develop autonomously, by helping each block to formulate a unique development strategy that capitalizes on its local resources to the fullest while promoting exchange and collaboration with East Asian and other countries.

To bring the new national land vision to fruition, the following four strategic objectives have been set forth: (1) Smooth exchange and collaboration with East Asian countries, (2) Formation of sustainable regional blocks, (3) Formation of disaster-resistant, sturdy national land, and (4) Maintenance and inheritance of beautiful national land. Furthermore, the fifth objective, regional development on the axis of “the New Public,” has been added as an across-the-plan perspective for the implementation of the new plan. This is meant to improve the collaboration between government and various private sectors, including businesses and geographical communities.

From now on, the government will steadily promote the project to realize the future vision of national land for the safe and affluent life of its people, as shown in the national plan, through monitoring the progress of the plan.

## The Framework of National Spatial Planning

Legal Basis: The National Spatial Planning Act

(Established in 2005 by a fundamental revision of the Comprehensive National Land Development Act)

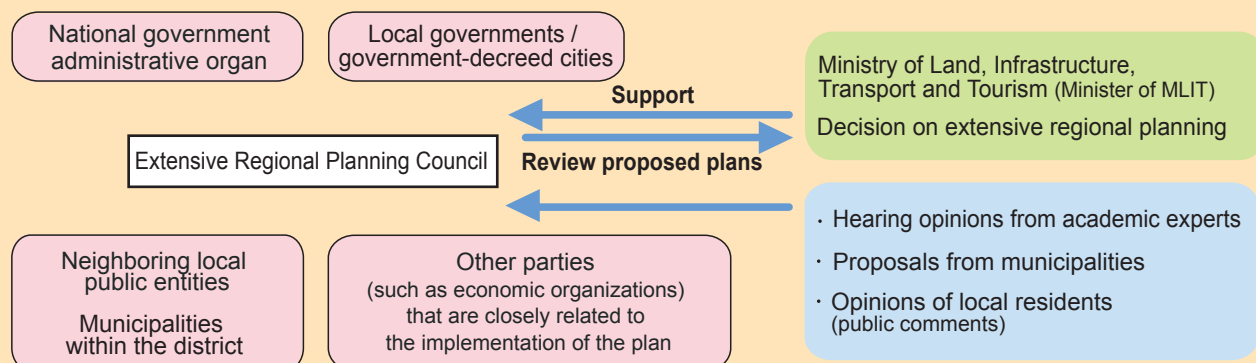
### <National Planning>

- Long-term Guideline for National Land Development (cabinet decision)
- Plan Presentation System by Local Public Entities to the National Government



### <Extensive Regional Planning>

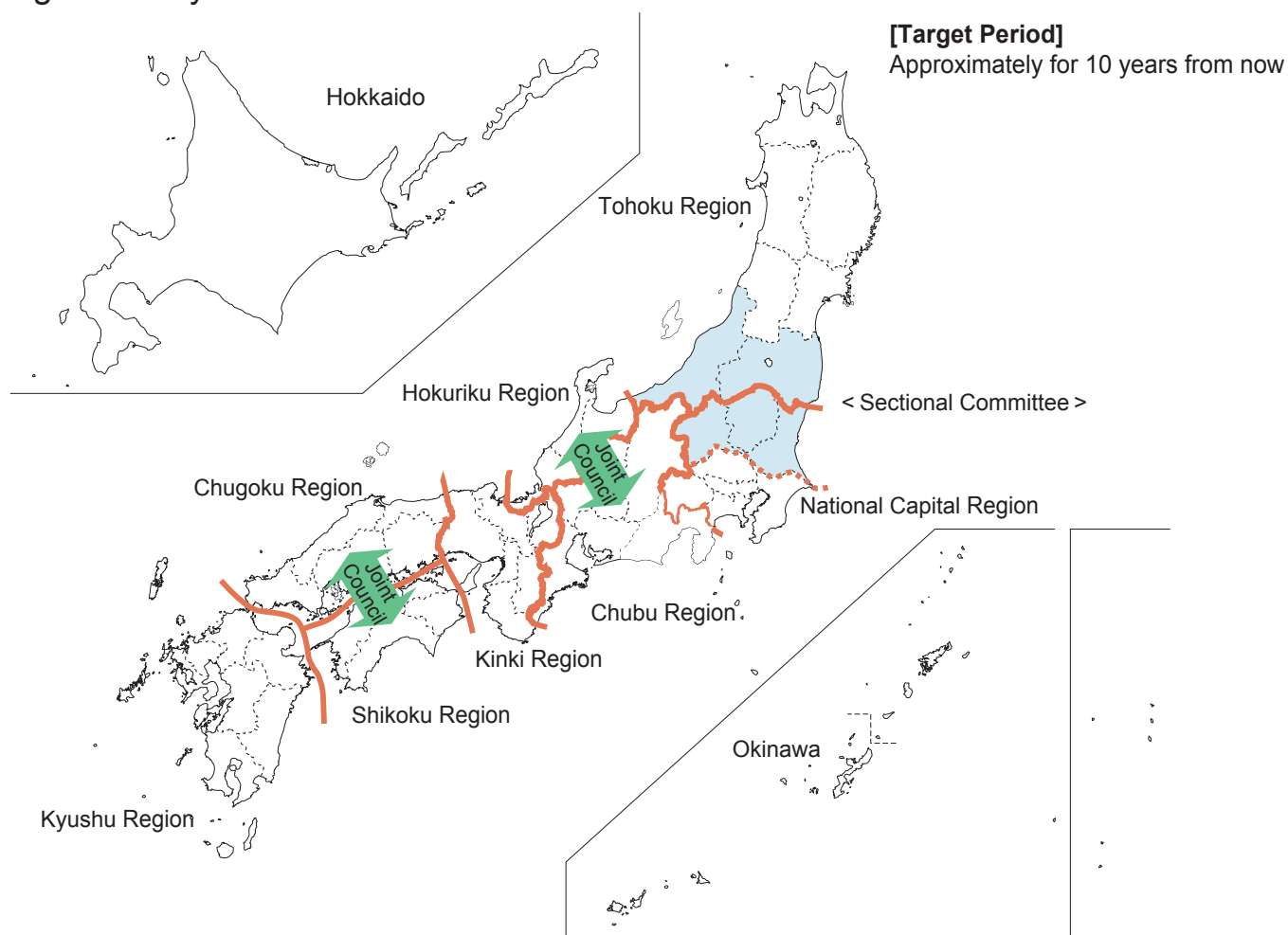
- Collaborative formation of regional blocks by central and local governments
  - Formation of the Extensive Regional Planning Council by the central government, local public entities and other parties such as economic organizations
  - All entities work together on even ground to formulate the plan





## New Image of National Land

Building a national land where a variety of regional blocks evolve autonomously and forming a country that is beautiful and comfortable to live in.



### Strategic Objectives for Actualizing the New Image of National Land

#### Smooth exchange and collaboration with East Asian countries

Regional blocks communicate directly with each region in East Asia and take in the energy of their economic growth momentum

#### Formation of sustainable regional blocks

Maintain a high-quality living environment by combining comprehensive regional power as well as by communication and collaboration among regions

#### Forming disaster-resistant, sturdy national land

Disaster control focused on disaster reduction and construction of disaster-resistant national land structures

#### Maintenance and inheritance of beautiful national land

Management and restoration of various resources to protect the beauty of the land and to hand it over to the next generation

#### Formation of regions based on the "new public" concept (cross-sectional standpoint)

Providing detailed service and solving regional issues by urging a variety of parties to participate in the "new public" concept



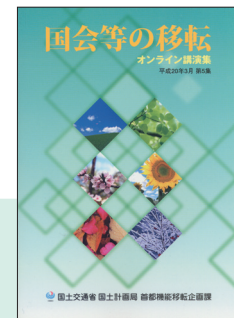
## “Children’s Kasumigaseki Visiting Day”

On Wednesday, August 20th and Thursday, August 21st of this year, MLIT held a “Kasumigaseki Visiting Day” for elementary and junior high school children. Under the themes “What is the relocation of capital functions?” and “Why should it be done?”, children experienced a virtual city through computer images and took quizzes to get to know more about the relocation of capital functions.

Promotion for the event included a DVD, posters and brochures. Despite the hot weather, approximately 280 people, including children and their parents, participated in the event for two days.

## Online Lectures Collection Vol. 5 Now Available in Print

The online lectures about the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations done in 2007 by 17 experts have been made into the publication “Online Lectures Collection Vol. 5.” To receive a copy, contact the office below. (You need to pay for postage.)



### TOPICS

## Activities in Local Areas Regarding the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations

On June 7th and 8th in 2008, the “Tochigi Residents’ Day” events were held in Mibu Town. Tochigi’s residents meeting for the promotion of the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations provided information about the relocation at the exhibition booth by using promotional panels, brochures and videos.

### ■ Visit MLIT’s Website for Various Information ■

The website of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism provides a wide variety of information about the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations. If you have any inquiries about the articles on New Era or other items, please contact us.

**MLIT’s Website:** <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/index.html>

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