

Report of the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations [Summary]

December 20, 1999

Preface

After the Resolution of the Diet in 1990, the Council was established based on the Act for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations enacted in 1992 and partially revised in 1996.

In order to respond to a request for advice from the Prime Minister on December 19, 1996, the Council has conducted investigations and deliberations about candidate sites for the relocation of the capital functions over approximately three years, holding a total of 31 meetings.

Chapter 1: Historical Significance of Relocating the Capital Functions

Japan is now at a historical turning point. The relocation of the capital functions is a historical project that must be considered from long-term perspectives over the centuries.

Chapter 2: Selection of Candidate Sites

The Council adopted a unique “weighting method” as a major tool of comprehensive evaluations for objective and impartial selection of candidate sites. The Council then advanced the selection of the candidate sites through diversified and multifaceted deliberations.

The results of the selection of candidate sites are as follows.

- Tochigi-Fukushima region and Gifu-Aichi region are selected as candidate sites.
- Ibaraki region has superior features, such as safety against natural disasters, and is expected to play a role in supporting Tochigi-Fukushima region.
- Mie-Kio region has very unique features. Provided that a new high-speed transportation network is developed in the future, it may be considered as a candidate site.

- Capital functions would not work very well from the beginning without cooperation not only with major cities such as Tokyo, Sendai, Nagoya, Osaka and Kyoto, but also with other regions in the areas under investigation.

Chapter 3: Image of New City as a Site for the Relocation of the Capital Functions

- Construction of new information network system
- Environmental considerations
- Provision of appropriate location and functions as a full-fledged international political center
- Friendly and relaxed scenery with dignity

Chapter 4: Significance and Effects of the Relocation of the Capital Functions, Etc.

- Comprehensive reform of administrations of the government
- Correcting excessive concentration of activities in Tokyo
- Strengthening capabilities against disaster

Chapter 5: Issues Requiring Consideration at Candidate Sites

- Speculative land transactions must be prevented. The Council requests that all conceivable countermeasures be devised and implemented speedily.
- The local administrations concerned are expected to fulfill their responsibilities.

Conclusion

The Council sincerely expects:

- This report will prompt a deep understanding of the relocation of the capital functions among nations, promote further public debate, and lead to formation of a national consensus.
- The Diet will conduct deliberations regarding the future of Japan from a wide-ranging perspective and soon reach an appropriate conclusion.

Regions Subject to the Comprehensive Evaluation

