

For the Future —

Let's Consider Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations



Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)
Government of Japan

Processes Related to the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations(*)

(* the House of Representatives, the House of Councillors, the central offices of the government, the Supreme Court, and other central functions of the nation)

November 7, 1990

The House of Representatives and the House of Councillors passed a resolution for the relocation of the Diet and other organizations.

The Diet and other functions of the government should be relocated as a basic measure to rectify the bias in overall national land usage, to eliminate excessive concentration of functions and activities in Tokyo and to establish political and administrative functions that would be more appropriate for the 21st century.

August 5, 1991

The Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was set up in the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.

December 24, 1992

The Act for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was promulgated and enforced.

April 20, 1993

The Investigating Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was launched.

December 13, 1995

The Investigating Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations' report was compiled and presented to the Prime Minister.

June 26, 1996

The Act for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was partially amended, and then promulgated and enforced.

December 19, 1996

The Council for Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was established.

December 20, 1999

The Council for Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations' report concerning the selection of candidate areas, etc. was compiled and presented to the Prime Minister.

May 18, 2000

The Resolution on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was adopted by the House of Representatives Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations.

May 28, 2003

The House of Representatives Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations adopted the interim report concerning the deliberations (Report to the plenary session on the following day, May 29).

June 11, 2003

The House of Councillors Special Committee for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations adopted the interim report concerning the deliberations (Report to the plenary session on June 13).

June 16, 2003

The Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations was established.

December 22, 2004

The Chairperson's statement was compiled at the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations, and submitted to the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Administration and to the Chairperson of the House of Councillors Committee on Rules and Administration.



Diet Building, Japan
[Photo credit]Secretariat of the House of Councillors

Chairperson's statement at the Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (excerpt)

The Inter-party Conference Committee of Both Houses for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (hereinafter referred to as the "Conference Committee") has undertaken deliberations on the way to reflect the will of the Diet since its establishment. The majority of members expressed the opinion that the decision on the relocation of the Diet and other organizations should be made based on discussions from a comprehensive perspective, after finding a path to the solutions to issues closely related to the relocation, including a new relationship between the central and local governments, the framework of disaster prevention and risk management.

The Conference Committee shall conduct investigations and discussions to deepen thinking on dispersion/relocation and disaster prevention, particularly the preferential relocation of the central function of risk management (a so-called back-up function), in order to contribute toward the decision-making discussion described above.

Significance and Effects of Relocation

Promote overall government reform

- Combine the activities for the relocation of capital functions with efforts for overall government reform
- Build a new relationship between legislators, bureaucrats and ordinary citizens

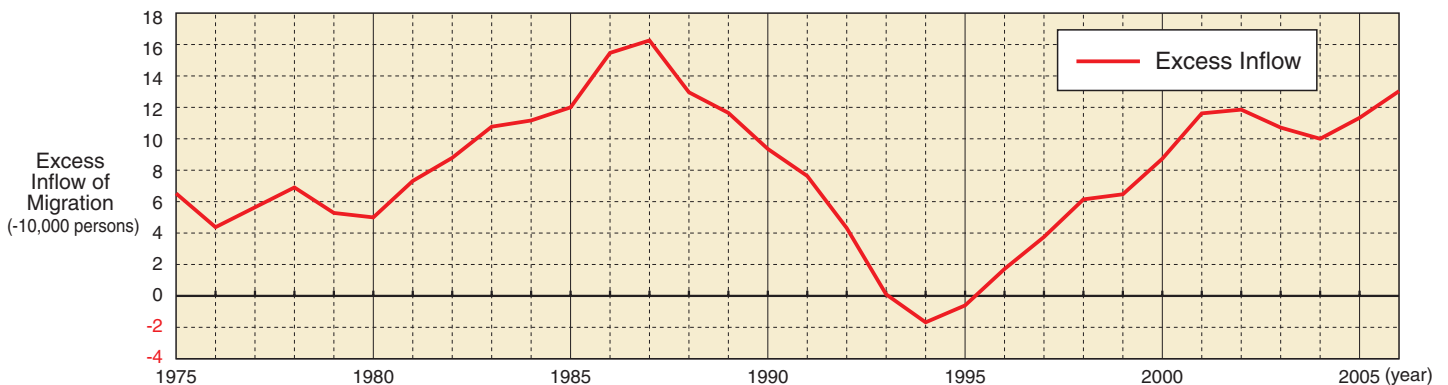
Alleviate the excessive concentration of functions and activities in Tokyo

- Concentration of activities is still high in Tokyo
- People will be able to free themselves from the obsessive belief that Tokyo is at the top of the hierarchy

Strengthen disaster preparedness capabilities

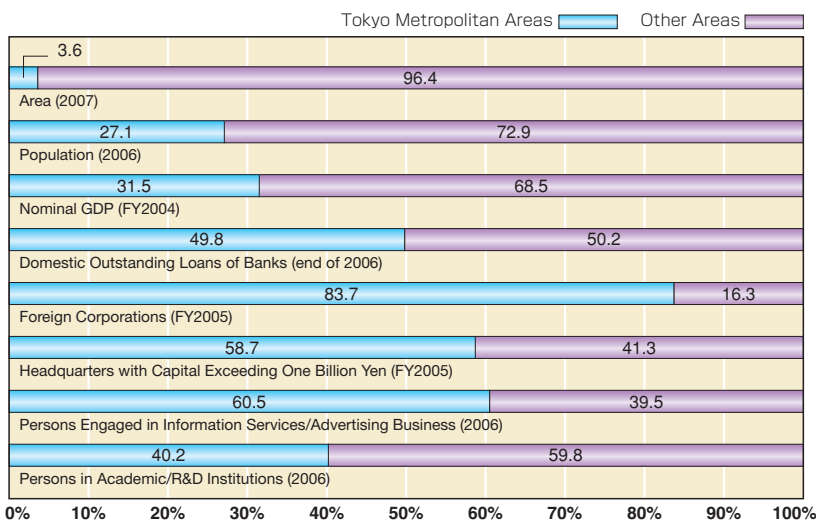
- Avoid simultaneous damage to the nation's centers of politics, administration and business
- Improve disaster prevention capability in Tokyo

Excess Inflow of Migration into Tokyo Metropolitan Areas



(Source) Compiled by MLIT, based on the figures of "Report on Internal Migration in Japan," Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

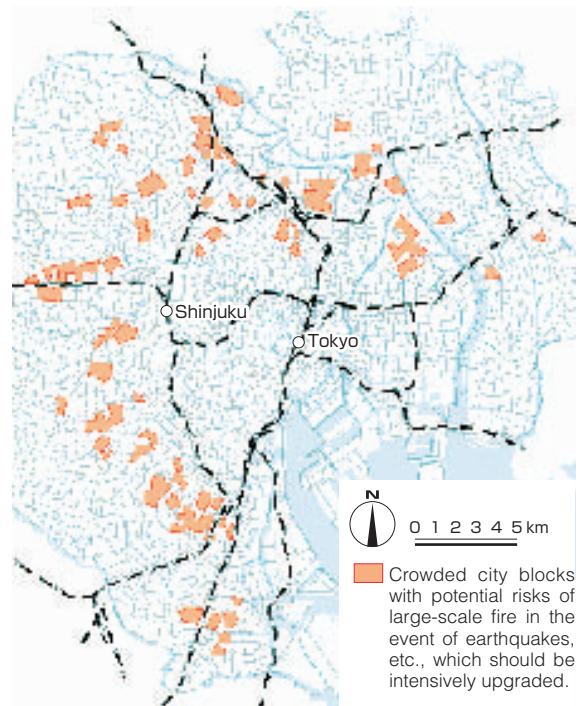
Current State of Excessive Concentration of Functions and Activities in Tokyo (Percentage of Population and Economic Activities in Tokyo Metropolitan Areas)



(Note) Tokyo Metropolitan Areas include Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture

(Source) Compiled by MLIT, based on the figures of "Annual Report on Current Population Estimates" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), "Survey of Area Sizes for Administrative Units (by prefecture/by municipality)" (preliminary figures as of April 1, 2007) (Geographical Survey Institute), "Prefectural Accounts" (Cabinet Office), "Financial Statistics Monthly" (Bank of Japan), "Monthly Statistics" (National Tax Agency), "Preliminary Results of the 2006 Establishment and Enterprise Census" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).

Crowded City Blocks with Poor Disaster Prevention Capabilities

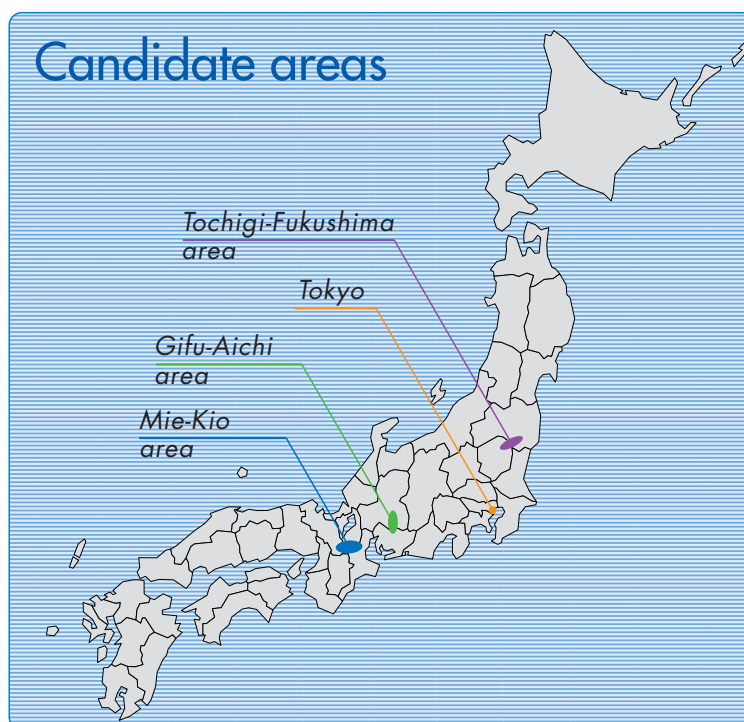


(Source) MLIT

Japan's Next Generation in Global Perspective

Relocation of the Diet and other organizations is an important issue for everyone.

The Council for Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations presented a report stating candidate areas for the relocation of capital functions, and the significance and effects of relocation (overall reform of the government, solutions to the problems of excessive concentration of functions and activities in Tokyo, and strengthening disaster preparedness capabilities) to the Prime Minister on December 20, 1999, after about three years of investigations and deliberations. Deliberations are currently underway from a comprehensive view on the relocation in the Diet.



Comparison of the Scale and Cost of Relocation

| | Estimate of the Council for Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (Maximum case) | Estimate of the Research Bureau of the House of Representatives |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population | Approx. 560,000 | Approx. 156,000 |
| Area | Approx. 8,500ha | Approx. 2,000ha |
| Cost (Public Funding) | Approx. 12.3 trillion yen (4.4 trillion yen) | Approx. 4.7 trillion yen (2.4 trillion yen) |
| Date of Estimation | October 1997 | October 2002 |
| Remarks | Estimation +Transfer of all officers of ministries and agencies of the central government +Quasi-functionaries: 18,000 people (officers of local government, staff of embassies and international organizations, staff of government-affiliated corporations, etc.) +Accompanying private staff: 26,000 people | Estimation +Transferring 2/3 of officers of ministries and agencies of the central government +Quasi-functionaries: 5,000 people (officers of local government, staff of embassies and international organizations, staff of government-affiliated corporations, etc.) +Accompanying private staff: 2,000 people |

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 Go to <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/iten/English/english.htm>