

“Amazing Tokyo” — Beyond 2020

Metropolis Hoping to Be a Model of Peace & Friendliness

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An Interview with **Toshifumi Kawasumi**, Director General, Office of the Government for Policy Planning, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Long-term Vision Highlights Challenges of Revitalization 4

By Japan SPOTLIGHT Editorial Section

Will Tokyo become an English-speaking city? In its long-term vision “Creating the Future”, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government highlights how it will try to turn the city into an international business friendly venue.

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Special Economic Zones of Metropolitan Tokyo 8

By National Strategic Special Zone Team, Office of the Governor for Policy Planning, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Tokyo Metropolitan Government officials provide examples of the strategic zones in Tokyo and how they may prove successful in attracting business from overseas.

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Strategic Special Zones for Growth Strategy Drilling into the Bedrock 12

By Japan SPOTLIGHT Editorial Section

Economic growth will occur only if resources move freely from less efficient sectors to more efficient ones. This widely adopted economic theory will apply to the reality in Strategic Special Economic Zones, a key concept of reform for Tokyo, in the form of a variety of deregulations. Prof. Hatta, a key figure behind the plan for strategic zones, discusses the theory and practice.

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An Interview with **Tatsuo Nishimoto**, Deputy General Manager, Urban Coordination Office, Urban Development Promotion Dept., Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd.

Japanese Urban Developer Engaged in Reform of Tokyo in Collaboration with the Public Sector 16

By Japan SPOTLIGHT Editorial Section

A giant real estate company in Japan, Mitsubishi Estate Co., describes the blueprint for the central financial district of Tokyo in the future. It assumes more people will come from abroad to start businesses here and be able to enjoy the amenities and culture of life in urban Japan.

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Tonni Agustiono Kurniawan, a young Indonesian scientist, recommends Japan as a place for young Asian scientists to study in pursuing their academic careers in research. Tokyo is a good venue for doing so as the largest city in Japan.

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By **Chaobang Ai**

Jonathan Kushner, an American businessman, expects 2020 to be a turning-point for Tokyo and Japan, though he is not expecting too much improvement in Japan's English-language capacity regardless of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's efforts.

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By **Régis Arnaud**

For Régis Arnaud, a French journalist, enthusiasm for the Olympics in Japan and a passion for renovating the whole city could be harmful for its cultural inheritance. He would like Tokyoites to follow Parisians' prudence in maintaining our cultural patrimony as it is.

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By **Mignonne Man-Jung Chan**

Mignonne Man-Jung Chan, a Taiwanese economic scientist and expert on FTAs in Asia, hopes the 2020 Olympics will be a good opportunity for the rebirth of the Japanese economy and the deepening of its integration with global society.

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By **Richard P. Greenfield**

It is interesting to learn about the history of international 5-star hotels in Tokyo, and how they have recently become a sort of oasis in a growing city for international businessmen. Will this phenomenon continue towards and beyond 2020?

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The Superconducting Maglev Train & Impacts of New Transportation Infrastructure 41

By **Shigeru Morichi**

Urban life is greatly influenced by the innovation of transportation infrastructure, as well as the economy itself. The Superconducting Maglev Train, a radical innovation in technology, will completely change the outlook for economic growth.



Cover lead

The third arrow of “Abenomics” has been expanding these past couple of years to the provincial areas of Japan where local people can benefit from business expansion. Tokyo, the capital of Japan, has already been undergoing reforms, and in this issue we highlight some of these aimed at turning Tokyo into a major global city that can attract people and business from all over the world. The year 2020, when Tokyo will host the Olympics and Paralympics, is certainly a target year for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to make significant progress in its reforms, but it would aim to continue its work to revitalize the whole city beyond 2020.

Starting with an introduction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s long-term vision in our interview with Toshifumi Kawasumi, a key official in the formulation of this long-term policy plan, we introduce a variety of views on Tokyo’s path toward this goal. “I love New York” has been considered a successful phrase in promoting that city as one of the most popular in the world, and Tokyo is now just beginning to follow suit.

“Strategic Special Economic Zones” is a key concept in efforts to attract business to Tokyo. We have an article based upon an interview with Prof. Tatsuo Hatta, a distinguished economist in Japan and key policy advisor to the Japanese government on the issue of deregulation. Deregulation could certainly create a more business friendly environment and play a primary role in attracting FDI from all

over the world. Tokyo Metropolitan Government officials also provide a bird’s-eye view on these strategic zones and give a basic idea of which parts of Tokyo will be the new international business centers.

“New Transportation Infrastructure” is another important innovation in promoting the attractiveness of the city. We have an article by Prof. Shigeru Morichi focusing in particular on the superconducting Maglev Train, an amazing innovation that will enhance the convenience of life in a big city.

The creation of such strategic zones is only one of many new projects that will bring about a change in the city landscape. A construction planning chief at Mitsubishi Estate Co., one of the largest urban developers in Japan, talks about how the business district of Tokyo will be changed towards 2020 and beyond.

We have a variety of views from overseas contributors as well on what they expect from Tokyo’s reforms. They all love the city and want to see it develop as they expect.

Finally, we should not forget about the construction and reform of hotels underway in Tokyo, mainly initiated by hotels coming from overseas. Richard Greenfield talks with the general managers of some of these new hotels in Tokyo and notes how they are changing the city into a place more friendly to visitors from abroad.

Naoyuki Haraoka, executive managing director, editor-in-chief of *Japan SPOTLIGHT*

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