The Tokyo Plan 2000

Japan

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Tokyo has a 400-year history as the capital of Japan that started at the beginning of the Edo period. During this time, it suffered from earthquakes and war, but in the postwar period it was the driving force behind Japan’s miraculous economic growth.

Today, however, Tokyo is facing a turning point. A decline in corporate vitality, increasingly acute environmental problems, and other various phenomena that symbolize the chaos of Japan are present here in Tokyo in the most radical form.

Since becoming the governor of Tokyo, I have personally seen Tokyo’s numerous problems on a daily basis. Tokyo’s crises are Japan’s crises and I am of the firm belief that we need to do whatever necessary to overcome the present crises and rebuild a strong Tokyo and Japan.

To this end, we need to set up a long-term strategy that accounts for trends over time, take immediate action, and resolve the crises we face.

In November 1999, I announced “The Strategic Plan to Overcome Crises” in which I set forth “policy seedlings” of strategic measures and activities that had to be undertaken immediately and strategically.

The “Tokyo Plan 2000” takes a step ahead and describes an ideal future for Tokyo 50 years from now and clarifies the whole of our tasks to achieve this.

Tokyo Metropolis must be a resident-friendly city. It also must be open to people from other parts of Japan and from overseas who play an active part in Tokyo and it must be an exciting city that appeals to the world.

The Plan calls for a Tokyo in the 21st century that is vibrant and appealing, and people, goods, and information will interact in “a global city with a great number of residents and visitors;” I am the person who will take charge of the future municipal affairs of Tokyo to fulfill this vision.

The 20th century that has left brilliant achievements and numerous tasks is now coming to an end. I believe that we can create a bright future by looking calmly at the situation Tokyo and Japan are in while thinking and acting on our own with pride and confidence.

I will create a new Tokyo by combining the wisdom of Tokyo residents and various people associated with Tokyo.