Outline of “Tokyo Megalopolis Concept”

By Bureau of City Planning Tokyo Metropolitan Government

1. Significance of Tokyo Megalopolis Concept

● Aims
The goal is for the governments of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures, and Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba cities to establish a future development concept for the renovation of the Tokyo Megalopolis. We also wish to create an opportunity to implement a collaborative strategic plan by developing the "Tokyo Megalopolis Concept" and proposing it to metropolitan residents and the nation as a whole.

● Scope
The scope is the integrated metropolitan area called the "Tokyo Megalopolis" which incorporates areas encircled by the central metropolitan roads of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures, and Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba cities.

● Target Year
The target year is 2025, which is the midpoint of the coming 50-year period, viewed from a long-term perspective.

● Population Forecast
Since the beginning of this century, Japan's population has begun to decline, and a 4% decline is forecast for 2025 as compared to 1995. However, the population of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures, and Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba cities is predicted to continue increasing until about 2010, and then gradually decline, so the population level in 2025 is forecast to be the same as in 1995.

2. Image of a 21st Century Capital

● Establishment of new image for the capital
The "image of a 21st century capital," moving toward the reconstruction of the Tokyo Megalopolis based on the "Metropolitan Development Strategy," is described below.

● Image of a 21st century capital
1) The world's largest metropolis, supporting approximately 33 million people
2) The world's leading city with an economic vitality on a national level
3) A living city at the head of a new civilization in Asia
4) An attractive cultural city with 400 years of history
5) An environmental city coexisting with abundant nature, such as mountains, the ocean and rivers
6) A disaster-conscious city that can overcome natural disasters such as earthquakes

● **Area development strategy**

The strategy for the development of the area consists of the creation of "the Circular Magalopolis Structure" that takes advantage of the merits of the Tokyo Megalopolis, and the cooperation all entities in the area to integrate functions.

### 3. Creation of the Circular Magalopolis Structure

- **Reorganization resulting in the creation of a new city structure**

  Reorganize the city into a "New Circular Magalopolis Structure," which would allocate various functions to different zones, and allow for dynamic exchanges among zones and the development of a dynamic and attractive city life.

- **The Circular Magalopolis Structure**

  ![Circular Magalopolis Structure](image)

  - Achieve active exchanges by strengthening transportation and information networks, particularly within the loop.
  - Divide various functions among zones and bases and realize integrated functions through cooperation within the area.
  - Coexist with the environment and form a framework based on water and greenery.
  - Demonstrate the benefits of consolidation using a framework of cores and urban axes.
  - 5 cores shall lead in demonstrating energy and attractiveness.
  - Create a loop composed of the urban axis linking core cities and the Tokyo Bay waterfront urban axis.
  - The loop axis of cities, in addition to strengthening cooperation within the loop, will also achieve efficient functioning for all related entities by creating center-core connections.

### 4. Deployment of a Cooperation Strategy Covering a Wide Area

To achieve the image of the 21st century capital, it is necessary to create new areas by developing a basis on which a wide area can cooperate by constructing the Circular Magalopolis Structure.

1) Transportation links for swift access

Achieve smooth transportation flow through the creation of the 3 Tokyo metropolitan radial roads and the Dai-ni Tokyo Bay Shore Road, as well as the Intelligent Transport System (ITS).

2) Strengthening airport functions via metropolis/prefecture cooperation

Review the areas of responsibility for the different airports (reorganization of international routes and domestic routes), and improve airport access.
3) Integral improvement of Tokyo Bay
Strengthen urban infrastructure with an eye toward enhancing the potential of the Tokyo waterfront, and develop an urban resort

4) Construction of an efficient area-wide distribution system
Development of the international distribution infrastructure and construction of an area-wide distribution network

5) Promotion of area-wide disaster prevention cooperation
Development of disaster prevention bases using roads, rivers, ports, etc., and development of an area-wide organization to handle disasters

6) Backup of metropolitan functions (core functions of the state)
Strengthening of crisis management systems and development of backup system supporting the state's core functions

7) Integrated approach to improvement of Tokyo Bay water quality
Creation of a centralized system to clean up Tokyo Bay and establishment of a framework in which new systems can be developed

8) Coordination of atmospheric pollution countermeasures
Integrated approach to establishing regulations regarding to exhaust and an area-wide atmospheric pollution monitoring system

9) Coordination of recycling and waste treatment
Establishment of joint recycling and joint waste treatment facilities, area-wide approach to adequate treatment of industrial waste

10) Tokyo Megalopolis information network
Promotion of the development of an information infrastructure, construction of an area-wide administrative information network

11) Nurturing human resources for the 21st century
Common approach to child rearing and development of education that coordinates human resources across a broad array of fields

12) Construction of an area-wide network for industrial policy
Construction of an industrial promotion network, creation of a recycling society

13) Toward the new development of an area-wide administration
Study ideal forms of new area-wide municipalities, etc.

5. Projected Effects of the Tokyo Megalopolis Concept
A projection has been made of the effects of the Tokyo Megalopolis Concept when the basic infrastructure, including the 3 Tokyo metropolitan radial roads, is completed, scheduled for 2015.

<Main Results>
1) Average 10% increase in transportation speed for entire area → Time saved is equivalent to some ¥1.7 trillion
2) Reduction in atmospheric pollution in the Tokyo megalopolis through faster travel time → Approx. 10% reduction in NOx emissions and 10% reduction in CO2 emissions
3) Reduction of some 200,000 rail commuters to Tokyo's 23 wards → Alleviation of commuting congestion
4) Increase in transport volume on radial urban axes → Strengthen radial urban axes which increases area's integration → Decrease of environmental load in city center
5) Approximate 30% reduction in through traffic in Tokyo's 23 wards → Alleviation of traffic congestion, smoother traffic flow → Reduction of environmental load

Source: [http://www.toshikei.metro.tokyo.jp/](http://www.toshikei.metro.tokyo.jp/)
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