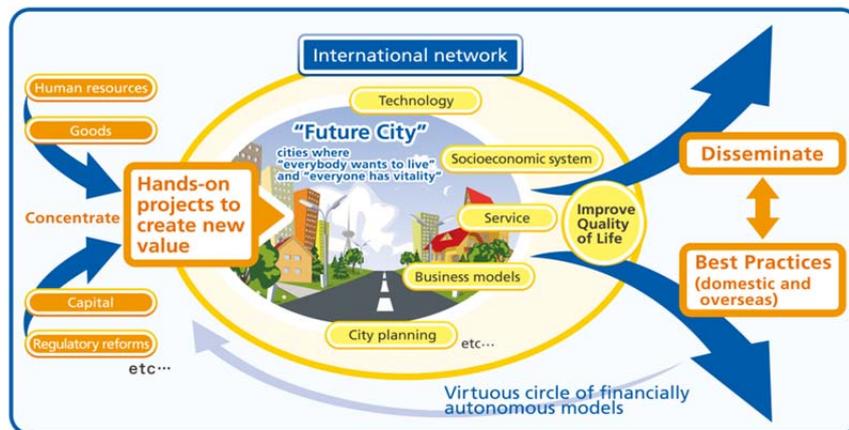


Results of the 2nd International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative

Regional Revitalization Office, Cabinet Secretariat

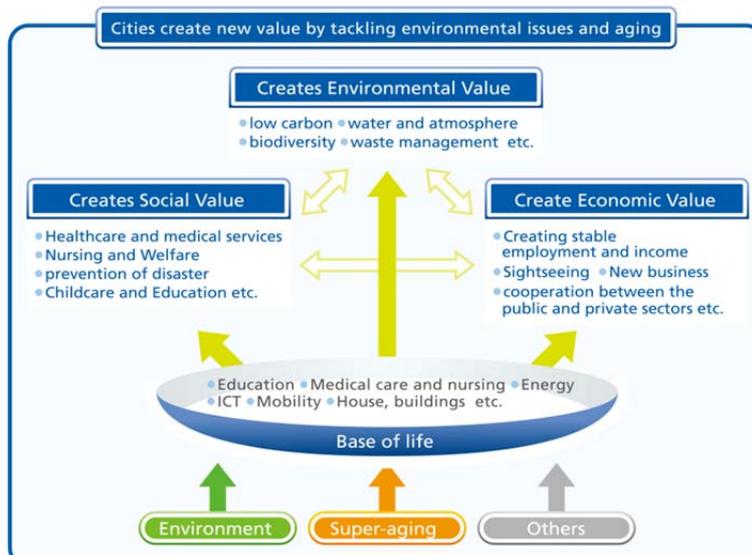
1. Purpose of the “FutureCity” Initiative

The purpose of the Initiative is to select a limited number of model cities as future cities to realize world-leading practices in terms of technology, socioeconomic systems, services, business models, and city building in order to resolve issues common to the 21st century such as those related to the environment and aging society, and to disseminate them not only within Japan but also to the world to increase demand and create jobs, etc. The ultimate goal is to realize sustainable societies and economies nationwide.



2. Basic Concept of the “FutureCity” Initiative

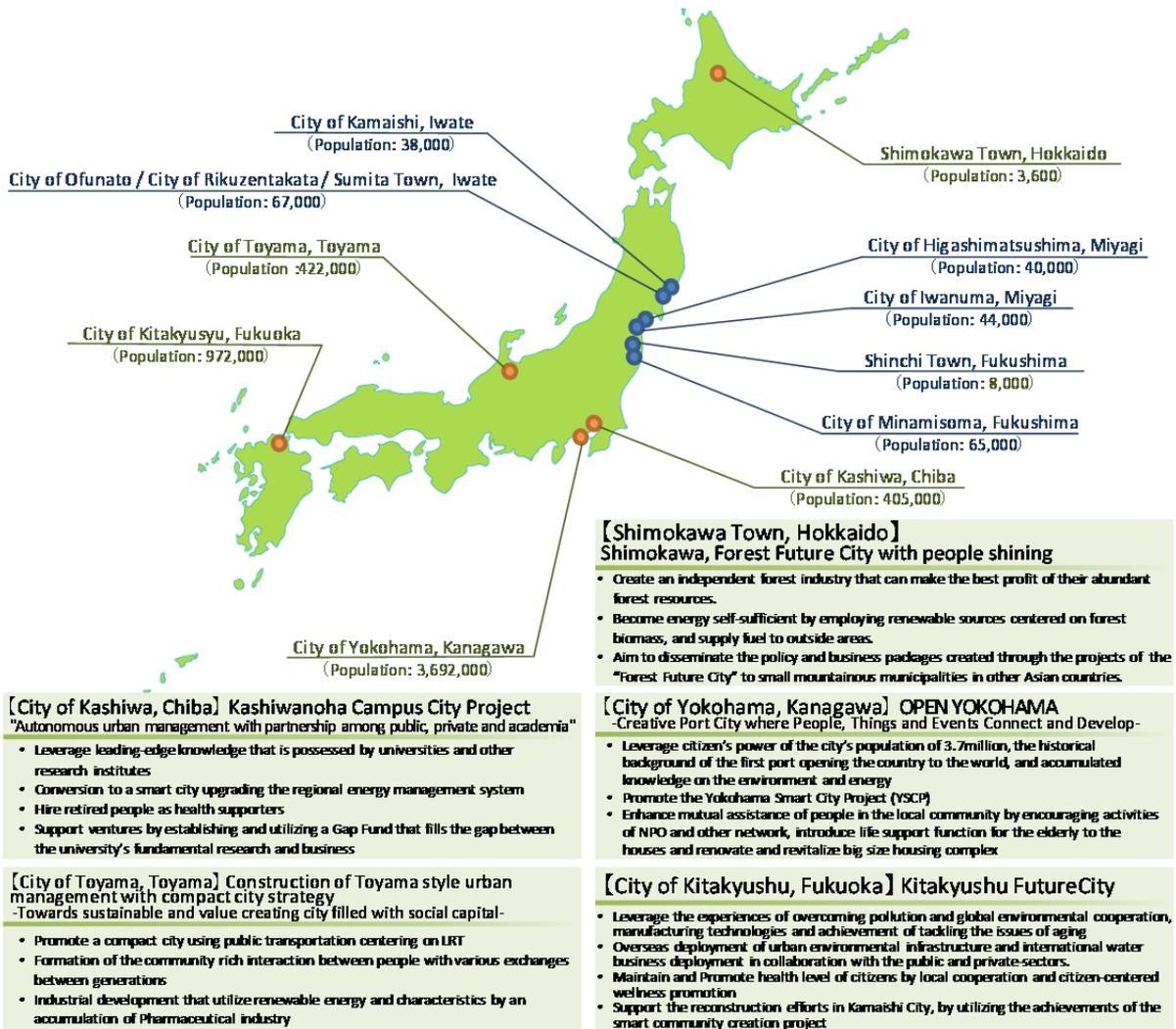
The Initiative aims to realize “human-centered cities while creating new values to resolve challenges related to the environment and aging society.” For this purpose, the Initiative will work towards solving global challenges such as global warming, resource and energy restrictions, and super-aging society by establishing sustainable societies and economies and by recovering social solidarity. The Initiative will strive to realize cities where environmental, social, and economic values are continuously created, and where “everybody wants to live” and “everyone has vitality.”



3. Selection of FutureCities

In December 2011, 11 FutureCities (including 6 cities/regions from disaster affected areas) were selected from around Japan.

"FutureCity": Cities selected in 2011



- Areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake -

[City of Ofunato, City of Rikuzentakata, Sumita Town, Iwate] Kesen Regional FutureCity

- Such as the establishment of a distributed storage facilities incidental mega solar power plants, building a society that produces its own energy in the region, a stable power supply
- Promotion of elderly-friendly town planning integrated urban functions necessary for life.
- Promotion of new industries by attracting energy-related companies and promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries of the use of advanced technologies.

[City of Kamaishi, Iwate] Kamaishi FutureCity Initiative

- Realize a "Kamaishi Recycling Society with a low-carbon (LC), energy saving, and resource saving" by encouraging local energy production for local energy consumption as well as by creating industries utilizing various types of energy
- Realize a "Kamaishi Industrial Welfare City" by creating community where elderly people are motivated to live activity

[City of Iwanuma, Miyagi] Reconstruction with Love and Hope

- Create harmony with nature by creating a "Hill of Thousand-Year Hope" using rubble from the disaster
- Promote a smart grid plan based on mega-solar businesses
- Utilize cloud technology to promote health management and cooperation among medical organizations, and establish base for advanced medical technology

[City of Higashimatsushima, Miyagi] Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake
-Renewal of Higashimatsushima, Towards the future together without forgetting that day -

- Aim to achieve sustainable growth while realizing a safe and secure city
- Implement independently distributed power generation system with renewable energy, promote low-carbon building and EV
- Promote healthy housing by utilizing the CASBEE health checklist

[City of Minamisoma, Fukushima] Recycle City connecting to the next generation, Minamisoma

- Realize an "energy cycle" by introducing renewable energy massively and by shifting to smart-grid based energy consumption
- Realize a "generation cycle" where several generations reside together in apartment complexes and co-housing
- Realize an "industry cycle" with independent processing/distribution routes with focus on the primary industry

[Shinchi Town, Fukushima] "Of course, Shinchi is the best town"
-Town where you can see the future and hope of environment and life-

- Build a "smart hybrid network" consisting of various energy sources by making full use of geographical characteristics
- Create new industries related to different forms of renewable energy
- Build a local mobility system that responds to the super-aging society
- Provide various regional information systems to contribute to higher QOL of the elderly

4. Summary of the Forum

The 2nd International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative was held Saturday, February 16, 2013 at the Shimokawa Town Hall (Shimokawa Town, Kamikawa-gun, Hokkaido) under the theme “The ‘FutureCity’ Initiative and International Contributions - Creation of New Value through Reconstruction and Renovation.” The purposes of this forum were to seek understanding and cooperation on the “FutureCity” Initiative, to share leading practices of each of the FutureCities, and to facilitate dialogue to expand and deepen the international network.

300 people from 27 countries participated in the event, which started with an opening speech by Mr. Sakamoto, Senior-Vice Minister for the Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Japanese Government. Other guests included 9 panelists from overseas, and 39 opinion leaders taking part in the JICA training program.



Senior-Vice Minister for the Cabinet Office and Speakers

- Keynote Speech / Invited Lecture / Plenary Session

First, Dr. Shuzo Murakami (Chairman of the “FutureCity” Initiative Expert Study-Group), President, Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation, gave a keynote speech titled “Second year of the ‘FutureCity’ Initiative - Creation of New Value through Reconstruction and Renovation -”. Dr. Murakami underlined the need and importance for creation of new values and international dissemination, and also introduced efforts by each of the FutureCities along with specific examples.



Deputy Minister for the Indonesia State Ministry of Environment

Next, Mr. Arief Yuwono, Deputy Minister for the Indonesia State Ministry of Environment (Environmental Degradation Control and Climate Change), offered examples of steps being taken for environment conservation and disaster prevention in Indonesia. Mr. Yuwono emphasized the importance of “the role of local communities, as well as the cooperation between local and state governments” and explained how these factors needed to be kept in mind in promoting the “FutureCity” Initiative.



Plenary Session

A panel discussion titled “The ‘FutureCity’ Initiative and International Contributions - Creation of New Value through Reconstruction and Renovation -” moderated by Dr. Murakami followed. Opinions were exchanged on “expectations for Japan to play an especially crucial role,” “creating successful practices and disseminating them to serve as examples of city development especially in developing Asian nations and building a platform for international knowledge,” and “the need for common standards for evaluation to achieve deeper mutual understanding” to promote the “FutureCity” Initiative as the 21st century faces the era of cities.

- Breakout Sessions (Sessions on Environmental Value, Social Value (Aging Society), and Economic Value)

Three parallel sessions were held to discuss ways to create and enhance three values essential to realize FutureCities, namely environmental value, social value (aging society), and economic value.

In the session on environmental value, Dr. Tsuyoshi Fujita (Alliance Professor, Nagoya University/ Director of Environmental City Research Program, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)) gave a keynote presentation titled “Urban Reconstruction/ Renovation Utilizing Forestry, Environment and Energy.” Discussion followed on how to link sustainable cities and forest resources with reconstruction and urban renovation. Opinions were exchanged on three elements identified to be essential in pursuing green innovation to realize sustainable economies and societies. Namely, the “need for accurate evaluation standards established from a business standpoint,” “importance of a green chain management including processes ranging from the cultivation to utilization of forests,” and “expectations for building a platform of knowledge as well as the need for regular information exchange.”

The session on social value (aging society) was moderated by Dr. Hiroko Akiyama (Professor, Institute of Gerontology, The University of Tokyo) under the theme “Development of Future Community for the Era with Life Expectancy of 90s Years Old.”

The three points for discussion were issues that became apparent in the first year of the Initiative and where breakthrough is expected in the second year. The first topic was wide-area cooperation among multiple municipalities. Opinions were exchanged regarding the need for wide-area cooperation to maintain communities facing aging and population decrease, and also the importance for such cooperation to commence flexibly. The Kesen Regional FutureCity was introduced as an example. The second topic was cooperation between the public and private sectors. The “Tama Plaza” urban development project undertaken by Tokyu Cooperation and the City of Yokohama was introduced as an example. The third topic was process evaluation in order to put plans into concrete actions. The WHO’s Age-friendly Cities Program was introduced as an example.

The session on economic value was moderated by Ms. Akiko Nakajo (Concurrent adjunct lecturer, Graduate School of Finance, Accounting and Law, Waseda University) under the theme

“Development of Industries and Businesses Generated by ‘FutureCities.’”

Opinions were exchanged on the strategies and resources needed to create businesses through the “FutureCity” Initiative that would contribute to the world. Discussions focused on keys for cities around the globe to share such benefits, namely the importance of “sharing successful and unsuccessful practices,” “the need for dialogue on various levels and creation of a platform of knowledge,” “an environment where capital and capacity can be freely developed without excessive governmental intervention,” “investment for human resources development for the future,” “involvement of various human resources,” and “city management from a comprehensive perspective.”

● Special Session

This session was moderated by Dr. Hideaki Shiroyama (Director, Todai Policy Alternatives Research Institute/ Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy and Graduate Schools of Law and Politics, The University of Tokyo) under the theme “Transition Management of the Reconstruction Process in Disaster Affected Areas.”

The latest updates and challenges in putting plans into actions for reconstruction and city development in Iwanuma City, Kamaishi City, and Higashimatsushima City, FutureCities devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake, were presented. Based on such examples, the “ideal combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches from a transition management perspective,” “methods for sharing of experiences regarding ideas and process support among stakeholders,” “measures for raising the awareness of citizens” were discussed as points for early reconstruction.

● Conclusion

In conclusion, the coordinators from each of the sessions presented the findings from the respective discussions. Dr. Murakami then gave a summary of the results of the forum. When the floor was opened for questions and comments, a JICA training program delegate from Malaysia stated that the “FutureCity” Initiative is a very intriguing approach, and I strongly hope to apply these concepts to city development plans in my country.” This forum has proved to be a very good opportunity to deepen future international collaboration.



Closing Session

Discussions during the forum shed light on the importance of creating new values through reconstruction and renovation. We came to the common recognition that the following five points are the key factors to promote the “FutureCity” Initiative which is now in its 2nd year.

- (1) Emphasis on human resource development (investment for human resources produce continuous effects);
- (2) City management from a comprehensive perspective (coordination among municipalities in accordance with administrative challenges, cross sectoral actions)
- (3) Establishing sustainable and autonomous economies;
- (4) Building mechanisms to promote dialogue (cooperation between the public and private sectors, cooperation among cities, international cooperation); and
- (5) Promoting international dissemination through the visualization and indexation of successful practices (sharing and utilizing knowledge, evaluating processes).

Bearing these points in mind, we will further develop the “FutureCity” Initiative by continuing to promote international cooperation and sharing successful achievements.