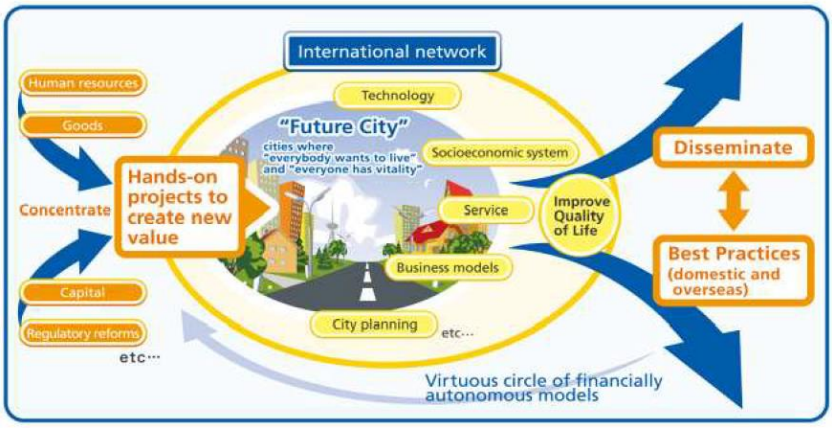
Results of the 4th International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative

Regional Revitalization Office, Cabinet Secretariat

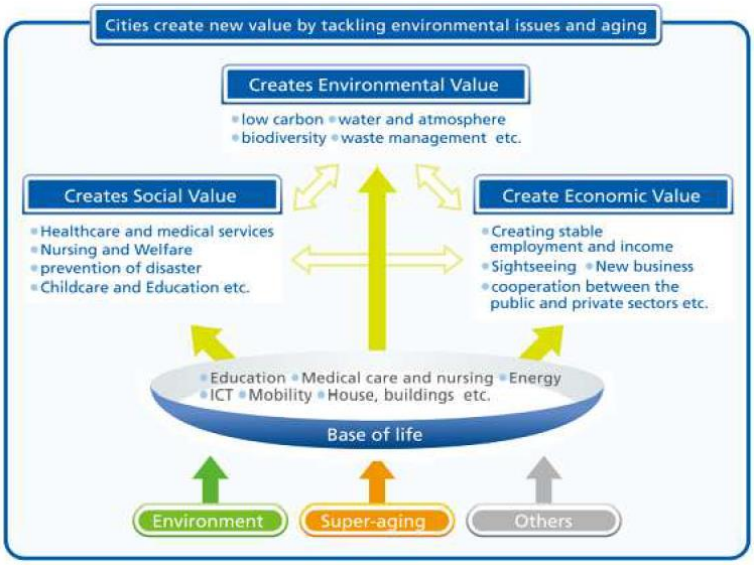
1. Purpose of the "FutureCity" Initiative

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 rest of 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

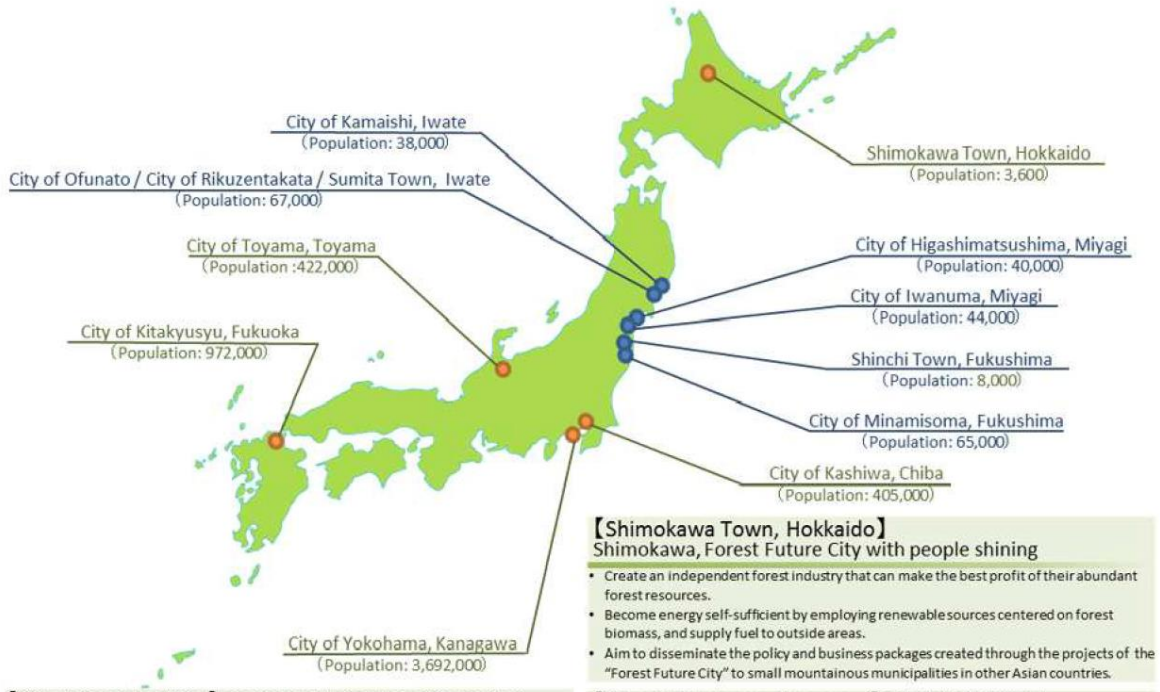
The Initiative aims to realize "human-centered cities while creating new values to resolve challenges related to the environment and aging society." For this purpose, the Initiative will work towards solving global challenges such as global warming, resource and energy restrictions, and super-aging society 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 Future Cities and Eco-Model Cities

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

"FutureCity": Cities selected in 2011



【Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido】
Shimokawa, Forest Future City with people shining

- Create an independent forest industry that can make the best profit of their abundant forest resources.
- Become energy self-sufficient by employing renewable sources centered on forest biomass, and supply fuel to outside areas.
- Aim to disseminate the policy and business packages created through the projects of the "Forest Future City" to small mountainous municipalities in other Asian countries.

【City of Kashiwa, Chiba】 Kashiwanoha Campus City Project
"Autonomous urban management with partnership among public, private and academia"

- Leverage leading-edge knowledge that is possessed by universities and other research institutes
- Conversion to a smart city upgrading the regional energy management system
- Hire retired people as health supporters
- Support ventures by establishing and utilizing a Gap Fund that fills the gap between the university's fundamental research and business

【City of Yokohama, Kanagawa】 OPEN YOKOHAMA
-Creative Port City where People, Things and Events Connect and Develop-

- Leverage citizen's power of the city's population of 3.7million, the historical background of the first port opening the country to the world, and accumulated knowledge on the environment and energy
- Promote the Yokohama Smart City Project (YSCP)
- Enhance mutual assistance of people in the local community by encouraging activities of NPO and other network, introduce life support function for the elderly to the houses and renovate and revitalize big size housing complex

【City of Toyama, Toyama】 Construction of Toyama style urban management with compact city strategy
-Towards sustainable and value creating city filled with social capital-

- Promote a compact city using public transportation centering on LRT
- Formation of the community rich interaction between people with various exchanges between generations
- Industrial development that utilize renewable energy and characteristics by an accumulation of Pharmaceutical industry

【City of Kitakyushu, Fukuoka】 Kitakyushu FutureCity

- Leverage the experiences of overcoming pollution and global environmental cooperation, manufacturing technologies and achievement of tackling the issues of aging
- Overseas deployment of urban environmental infrastructure and international water business deployment in collaboration with the public and private-sectors.
- Maintain and Promote health level of citizens by local cooperation and citizen-centered wellness promotion
- Support the reconstruction efforts in Kamaishi City, by utilizing the achievements of the smart community creation project

- 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

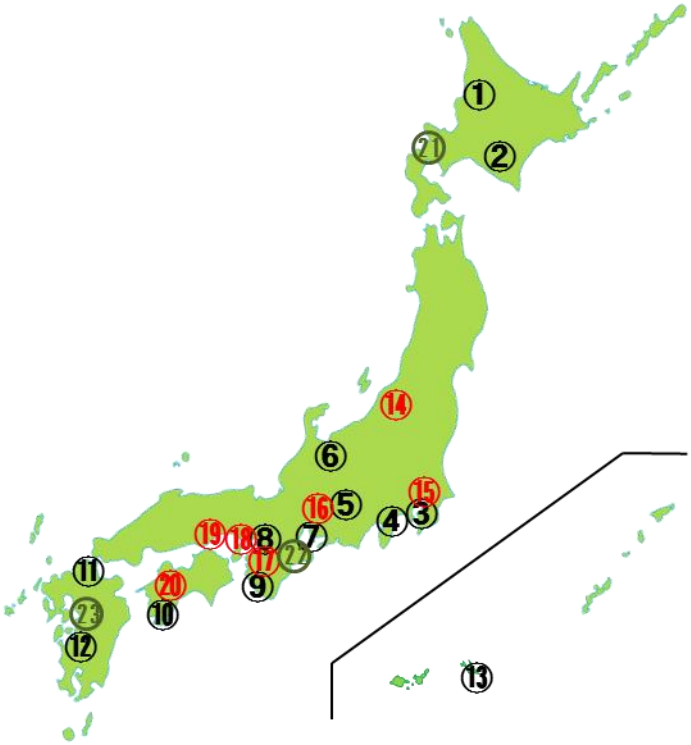
【City of Minamisoma, Fukushima】
Recycle City connecting to the next generation, Minamisoma

- 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 cource, 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

A total of 23 cities were selected (13 in 2008, 7 in 2012, and 3 in 2013) as Eco-Model Cities.



[Cities Selected in 2008]

No.	City/Ward/ Town Name	Overview of Initiatives
①	Shimokawa Town (Hokkaido)	Model society for low-carbon emission utilizing forest biomass in northern part of Japan - Shimokawa
②	Obihiro City (Hokkaido)	Garden eco-model city - Obihiro
③	Chiyoda Ward (Tokyo)	Low energy consumption urban development, energy efficiency improvement
④	Yokohama City (Kanagawa Prefecture)	Yokohama Smart City Project implementation
⑤	Iida City (Nagano Prefecture)	Community-led natural energy deployment, low carbon city development
⑥	Toyama City (Toyama Prefecture)	CO2 emissions reduction plan based on Toyama City compact city strategy
⑦	Toyota City (Aichi Prefecture)	Low carbon city development using next-generation energy and mobility
⑧	Kyoto City (Kyoto Prefecture)	People-centric, attractive city development, "community power"-led carbon reduction activities
⑨	Sakai City (Osaka Prefecture)	Low carbon city providing sustained "living comfort" and "vitality"
⑩	Yusuhara Town (Kochi Prefecture)	Wood biomass regional recycling model project
⑪	Kitakyushu City (Fukuoka Prefecture)	Asia's environmental frontier city - Kitakyushu City
⑫	Minamata City (Kumamoto Prefecture)	Advancement of a sustainable small-scale municipal model which harmonizes the environment and economy
⑬	Miyakojima City (Okinawa Prefecture)	"Eco Island Miyakojima" island-based low carbon society system

[Cities Selected in 2012]

No.	City/Ward/ Town Name	Overview of Initiatives
⑭	Niigata City (Niigata Prefecture)	"A raft to a garden eco-city" - A city which flows with rich value generated by the community
⑮	Tsukuba City (Ibaraki Prefecture)	Tsukuba environment "SMILe" - A city which creates smiles through technology and the wisdom of its people
⑯	Mitake Town (Gifu Prefecture)	Creation of the "Mitake" low carbon community, utilizing local resources (forests, public transportation, renewable energy, etc.)
⑰	Amagasaki City (Hyogo Prefecture)	Taking on the challenge of " Future City Amagasaki"
⑱	Kobe City (Hyogo Prefecture)	Kobe City eco-model city
⑲	Nishiawakura Village (Okayama Prefecture)	Creating a low carbon model society in order to produce a refined countryside
⑳	Matsuyama City (Ehime Prefecture)	"Proud eco-model city Matsuyama," harmonizing the environment and economy

[Cities Selected in 2013]

No.	City/Ward/ Town Name	Overview of Initiatives
㉑	Niseko Town (Hokkaido)	International environmental resort city Niseko Smart Challenge 86
㉒	Ikoma City (Nara Prefecture)	"Ikoma," Japan's most environmentally friendly and comfortable city - A low carbon, recycling residential city created through the collaboration of residents, businesses, and government
㉓	Oguni Town (Kumamoto Prefecture)	Geothermal and biomass energy-leveraging agricultural and forestry town initiative

4. Summary of the Forum

The 4th International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative was held on Saturday, December 6, 2014, at the Higashimatsushima City Community Center in Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture, in order to further advance the "FutureCity" Initiative.

The theme of this forum was "Improving Resilience and Future Cities.” The purposes of this forum were to expand understanding of and cooperation in the “FutureCity” Initiative, to share leading practices of each of the Future Cities, and to facilitate dialogue to construct and deepen the international network.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Denmark to Japan
Mr. Anders Carsten Damsgaard

Total of approximately 250 people participated in the event, including many participants from overseas such as guests Mr. Anders Carsten Damsgaard, Ambassador of Kingdom of Denmark to Japan, and the Mayor of Lolland, Kingdom of Denmark, which enjoys a close relationship with Higashimatsushima City, as well as 7 panelists.

○Keynote Lecture / Plenary Session

The forum began with a speech on "Improving Resilience and Future Cities" by Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister. The speech contained extremely valuable information regarding national resilience, such as an overview of Japan's present Basic Act for National Resilience, efforts for improving resilience, conditions in other countries, and the relationship between resilience and Future Cities.

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
Hiroto Izumi

The plenary session coordinator was Dr. Shuzo Murakami, President of the Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (Chairman of the "FutureCity" Promotion Council). The plenary session theme was about "Improving Resilience and Future Cities." Ms. Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamal, mayor of Banda Aceh, introduced cases of spectacular economic development and recovery from the effects of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. Mr. Hideo Abe, mayor of Higashimatsushima City, then introduced his city's disaster recovery efforts, and discussed the importance of community-building and the bonds between people forged during non-emergency periods. Mr. Brenden McEneaney, Director of Urban Resilience at the Urban Land Institute, pointed out that it is important to take a medium- and long-term perspective when approaching resilience, planning in advance and creating better response measures, adaptation measures, and communication in order to handle disaster events. Opinions and comments were exchanged regarding the three key points of systemic and physical measures for improving resilience, energy and non-emergency period resilience improvements, and improving resilience while creating new value. Participants reached a shared understanding that "FutureCity" Initiative efforts lead to resilience improvements, and confirmed the challenges remaining in the future.

Plenary Session

○Breakout Sessions

Two breakout sessions were held in the afternoon portion of the Forum.

Breakout session 1, "Urban Resilience in Japan's Aging Society," was coordinated by Ms. Hiroko Akiyama, Specially Appointed Professor at the University of Tokyo Institute of Gerontology.
The effects of resilience on cities with aging populations were discussed by panelists, focusing on the two key points of "senior citizens as disaster-vulnerable citizens," and "senior citizens as societal resources." Ms. Mayumi Matsumoto, Sales and Business Development Manager of the Yamato Transport Co., Ltd. Iwate Regional Branch, showed the need for companies to not only contribute to their communities, but also to engage in business activities which produce profits. Mr. Giovanni Fini, head of the Environmental Quality Unit of the Municipality of Bologna, presented the lessons learned from the heat wave that struck Europe in 2003, killing many elderly residents, the systematic initiatives for protecting disaster-vulnerable residents, developed by the government in response, and volunteer organizations established by residents in conjunction with these initiatives. Mr. Brenden McEneaney, Director of Urban Resilience

Breakout session 1

at the Urban Land Institute, pointed out the need to physically and systematically design communities. He showed the need to forecast the increased risks to urban resilience resulting from the graying of society, and to overhaul and rebuild urban infrastructure based on these forecasts. He pointed out that the number of healthy and active seniors is rising, and they should be used as societal resources (human resources) in resilient community development. Furthermore, he emphasized that this resilient urban development must be carried out not by governments and residents alone, but through cooperation between the industrial, academic, administrative, and general public sectors, including private companies and university research institutes.

Breakout session 2

Breakout session 2, "Community Ideals and Resilience Improvement," was coordinated by ULI Japan Executive Director Mr. J Michael Owen. The individual panelists discussed the need for community, based on the importance of community development. Ms. Lykke Leonardsen, head of the Climate Unit of the City of Copenhagen, presented examples of carbon neutral measures. As the result not only of physical but also systemic park improvements, planting new plants and cleaning park water, nearby families have begun picnicking in parks, children have come to play in their water, and a sense of community has developed. Mr. Masashi Mori, mayor of Toyama City, presented the comprehensive regional care efforts being implemented there, and discussed the strong ties residents feel to their city, the culture of mutual assistance, and the strength of their community. C.W. Nicol, director of the C.W. Nicol Afan Woodland Trust, discussed forest conservation efforts, the essentialness of nature to the growth of children, the play, learning, and interpersonal encounters, and growth achieved by children in the forest, and how forests create new ties between people, helping communities to develop. These discussions showed that while physical factors such as infrastructure are important to community development, the community is the vital backbone of this development. Community is at the heart of resilient community development, and it is impossible to achieve a resilient community unless that community is also strong.

○Conclusion

Mr. Tsuyoshi Fujita, director of the National Institute for Environmental Studies, gave an overview of the present and future of the six disaster area Future Cities presented at the preceding day's Tohoku Restoration Symposium. Then the coordinators from each of the sessions presented findings from the respective discussions.

Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation
President Shuzo Murakami

Dr. Murakami then gave a summary of the results of the forum.

These discussions led to an understanding that for the graying developed nation of Japan, various measures directed at senior citizens are being implemented, and that healthy senior citizens help support their communities, are important to creating greater community power, and are essential to improving resilience. Also, they led to an understanding that not only are physical measures and infrastructure important to creating resilience, but systemic factors are also important, and that everyday community conditions in particular affect disaster and recovery responsiveness. The discussions showed that autonomous and independent community development, a core concept of the "FutureCity" Initiative, also produces extremely resilient communities, and that implementing this initiative also contributes to greater resilience. The Forum also showed that improving resilience should not be considered a burden, but that it is important to tie it to community development which creates new value.

Coordinators

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