

2016 Edition



“FutureCity” Initiative

Urban Development for the Future, Get it Rolling
Regional Wisdom, Power, and Resources will Strengthen Cities



Promotion Council for the “FutureCity” Initiative

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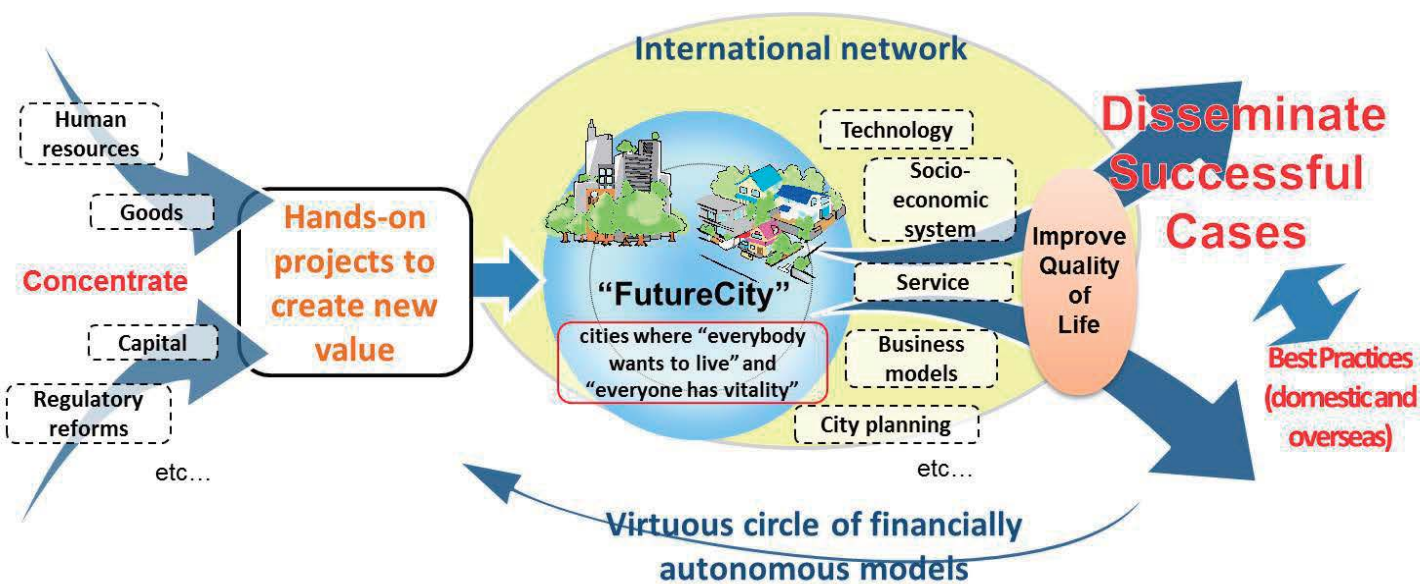


“FutureCity” Initiative

01

Objectives of the “FutureCity” Initiative

“FutureCity” Initiative



The “FutureCity” Initiative aims to **create world-leading successful cases** in order to resolve common 21st century challenges, such as environmental issues and aging populations, and to **spread them not only within Japan but also around the world** so that we can expand demand, create jobs, and strengthen our ability to resolve international challenges.

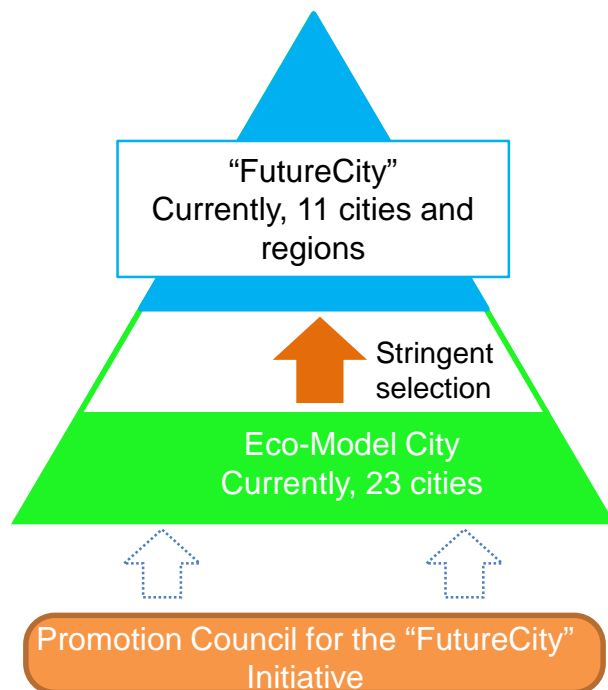
For this purpose, the Initiative is working on the creation of diverse city and community models that will develop independently while emphasizing the diversity and originality of individual cities and communities by creating places for putting measures into practice and intensively investing various types of resources. This process will be addressed while building an international intelligence network to mutually provide a wide range of knowledge and insights from Japan and overseas countries and sharing best practices, processes leading to success and lessons from failures both domestically and internationally.

By spreading such diverse successful cases in urban/community revitalization, we will promote regional revitalization and open the way to the future of Japan.

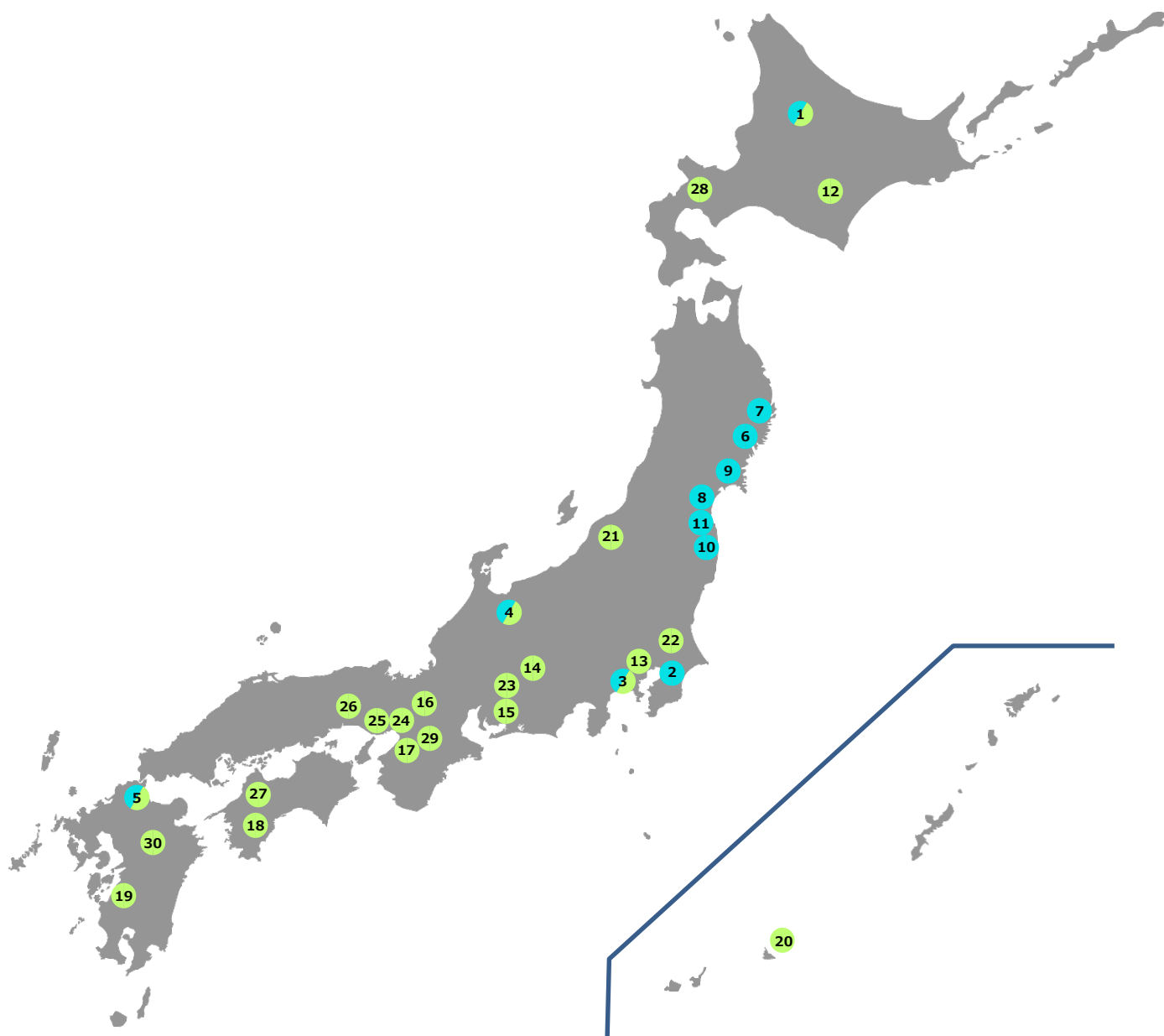
To Promote the Initiative

Local governments from across Japan are chosen as Eco-Model Cities, which support fundamentals of the “FutureCity” initiative and address environmental issues. Among them, some cities are selected as a “FutureCities,” sustainable cities functioning at a higher level in terms of the three areas of environment, society, and economy, which work on issues related to the extremely rapidly aging population in addition to environmental issues.

Furthermore, Eco-Model Cities, “FutureCities” and other cities with a high motivation for city/region development to address environmental issues and the extremely rapidly aging population make up the Promotion Council for the “FutureCity” Initiative and make voluntary efforts on such issues.



Selected Cities and Regions



["FutureCity"]

1	Shimokawa Town (Hokkaido)
2	Kashiwa City (Chiba Prefecture)
3	City of Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture)
4	Toyama City (Toyama Prefecture)
5	City of Kitakyushu (Fukuoka Prefecture)
6	Kesen Regional FutureCity (Iwate Prefecture)
7	Kamaishi City (Iwate Prefecture)
8	Iwanuma City (Miyagi Prefecture)
9	Higashimatsushima City (Miyagi Prefecture)
10	Minamisoma City (Fukushima Prefecture)
11	Shinchi Town (Fukushima Prefecture)

[Eco-Model City]

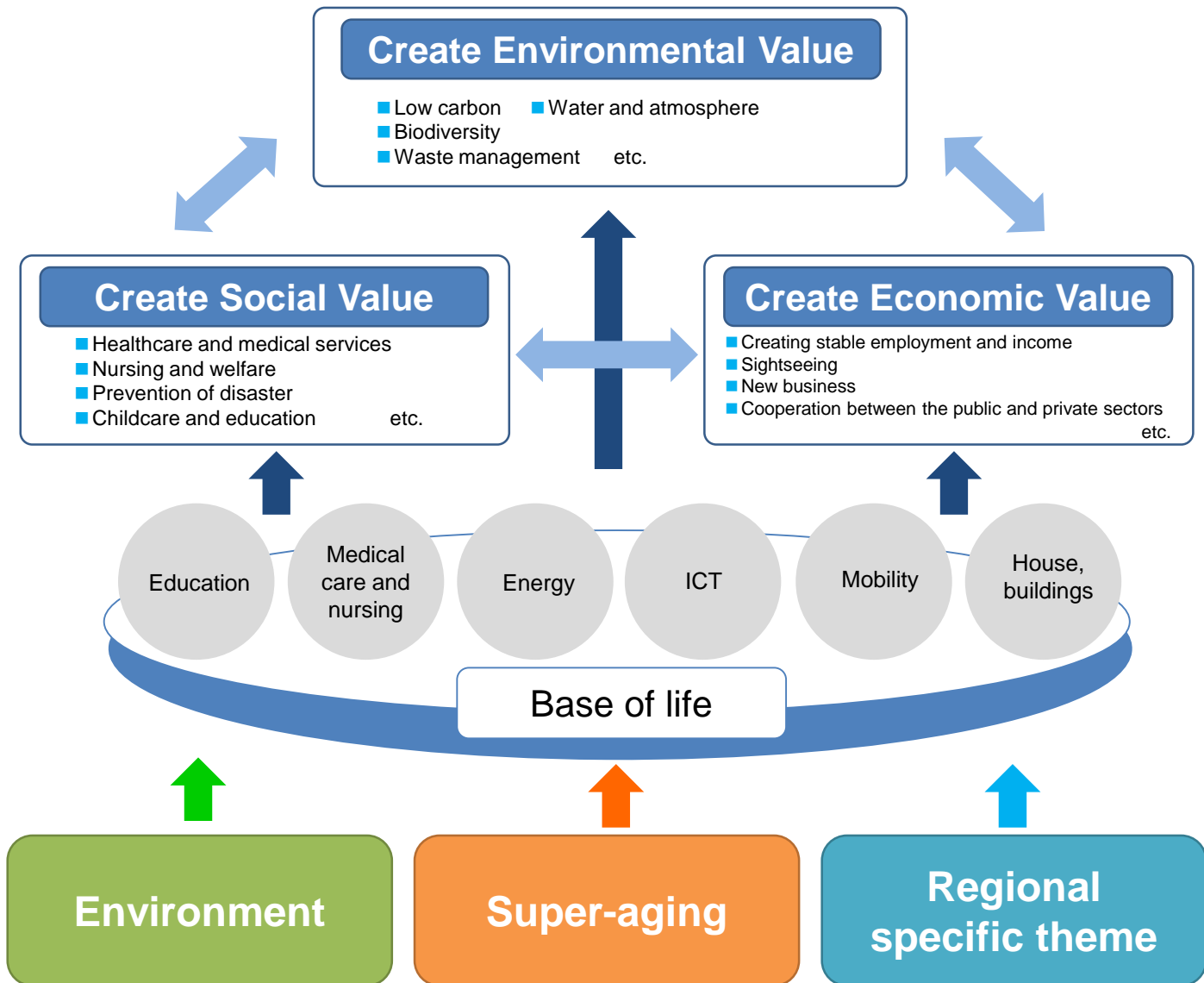
[Selected Cities in fiscal 2008]

1	Shimokawa Town (Hokkaido)	19	Minamata City (Kumamoto Prefecture)	21	Niigata City (Niigata Prefecture)	28	Niseko Town (Hokkaido)
12	Obihiro City (Hokkaido)	20	Miyakojima City (Okinawa Prefecture)	22	Tsukuba City (Ibaraki Prefecture)	29	Ikoma City (Nara Prefecture)
13	Chiyoda City (Tokyo)			23	Mitake Town (Gifu Prefecture)	30	Oguni Town (Kumamoto Prefecture)
3	City of Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture)			24	Amagasaki City (Hyogo Prefecture)		
14	Iida City (Nagano Prefecture)			25	Kobe City (Hyogo Prefecture)		
4	Toyama City (Toyama Prefecture)			26	Nishiwakura Village (Okayama Prefecture)		
15	Toyota City (Aichi Prefecture)			27	Matsuyama City (Ehime Prefecture)		
16	Kyoto City (Kyoto Prefecture)						
17	Sakai City (Osaka Prefecture)						
18	Yusuhara Town (Kochi Prefecture)						
5	City of Kitakyushu (Fukuoka Prefecture)						

[Selected Cities in fiscal 2012]

[Selected Cities in fiscal 2013]

Cities create **new value** by **tackling environmental issues and aging**



The basic concept of the “FutureCity” initiative is to realize “human-centered cities while creating new values to resolve the challenges of the environment and super aging.” It aims to realize cities and regions where “everybody wants to live” and “everyone has vitality” and where the values of the environment, society and economy are innovatively created.

Eleven cities and regions were selected in fiscal 2011. In addition to the challenges common to all humanity, including environmental issues and aging populations, for which selected cities and regions are required to take actions to achieve the future objectives, they also address issues that are unique to individual regions.

These efforts made by the cities are cutting edge projects to realize a sustainable economic society and maintain “Japan’s vital society” into the future.

Diverse community models to combine carbon reduction and sustainable development making maximum use of local resources



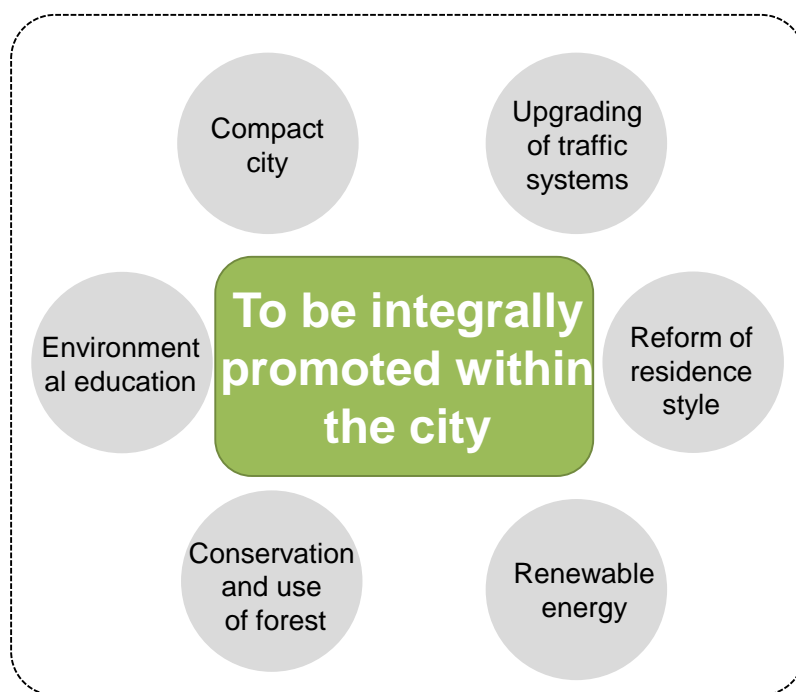
LRT



Environmental education



Sustainable forest management



Compact electric vehicle



Energy-saving house



Renewable energy



Transformation of lifestyle / Generation of the region's vitality

Eco-Model Cities are making pioneering efforts with aggressive goals to realize a low-carbon society. This is to clearly and concretely show what kind of low-carbon society Japan should aim for.

The first thirteen cities were selected in fiscal 2008. As energy issues received close attention after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, seven cities were selected in fiscal 2012 and three cities in fiscal 2013 in order to further spread the effort to realize a low-carbon society across the country.

Each of these communities is making maximum use of local resources and taking a crosscutting approach that goes beyond stakeholder boundaries (integrated approach) to establish local models of local governments across Japan that combine carbon reduction and sustainable development in cooperation with citizens and private organizations.

International Expansion of the “FutureCity” Initiative

The First International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative



In order to expand the “FutureCity” Initiative proposed in fiscal 2011 domestically and internationally, the first International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative was held in Tokyo in February 2012.

More than 600 people attended this forum to discuss the three values, namely environmental, social and economic values, regarding the “FutureCity” Initiative.

In addition, the Initiative and 11 cities selected under the Initiative were introduced to the participants from Japan and overseas.

Date: February 21 (Tuesday), 2012

Venue: Nikkei Hall (Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

The 2nd International Forum on the “FutureCity” initiative

“FutureCity” initiative and international contribution

– Creating new value through reconstruction and renovation –

In February 2013, the second International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative was held in Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido Prefecture.

At this forum, the progress of the “FutureCity” Initiative, which entered its second year, was presented and participants exchanged opinions on how the new values created through restoration and renovation should be connected to contributions to the international society.

Date: February 16 (Saturday), 2013

Venue: Shimokawa Town Public Hall (Shimokawa Town, Kamikawa-gun, Hokkaido)



The 3rd International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative

Creation of new value through the integration of the environment, society and economy

In October 2013, the third International Forum was held in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, a city which had overcome the experience of environmental pollution and has been making active international cooperation efforts utilizing its environmental technologies.

Based on the theme of “the creation of new values through the fusion of environment, society and economy,” participants at this forum exchanged opinions on the utilization of ICT and city development with participation from the private sectors and citizens.

As many as 400 overseas participants from 42 countries attended this forum, making it a great opportunity to deepen collaboration with overseas countries into the future.

Date: October 19 (Saturday), 2013

Venue: Kitakyushu International Conference Center (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture)



The 4th International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative

Enhancing Resilience and the “FutureCity”

The fourth International Forum was held in December 2014 in Higashi-matsushima City, which had been working on the restoration of the city for the three years since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Six cities that were affected by disasters and working on restoration reported the current status of the “FutureCity” Initiative and mainly discussed efforts for the strengthening of the national infrastructure based on the forum’s theme of “resilience.”

At the same time, other related events were held over the three days including the day of the forum under the title of “Higashi-matsushima Isshin 3 DAYS” (meaning “3 days to refurbish Higashi-matsushima”) to call attention to the city’s restoration efforts domestically and internationally.

Date: December 6 (Saturday), 2014

Venue: Higashimatsushima City Community Center
(Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture)



The 5th International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative

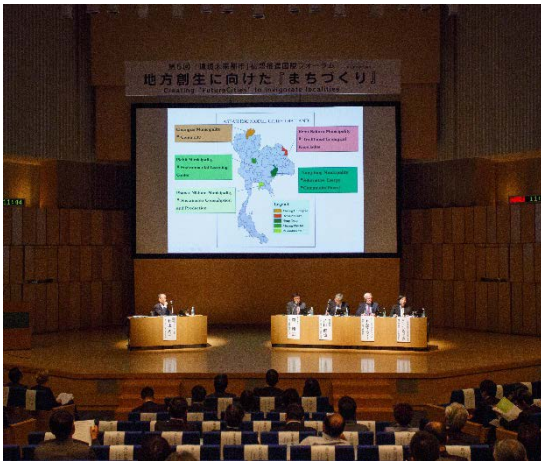
City Development for Regional Revitalization

Among the growing momentum for regional revitalization after the formulation of the Comprehensive Strategies for Cities, People and Employment, a forum based on the theme of “City Development for Regional Revitalization” was held in Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture, which addressed the development of a compact city centered on public transportation, looking ahead to the low birth rate, aging population and population decrease. The Vice Minister of the Cabinet Office (for regional revitalization) gave a keynote speech at the introduction of this forum.

Based on the understanding that collaborations between cities and various sectors, including the administrative and private sectors, are necessary for regional revitalization, the participants had a discussion based on outstanding case studies from Japan and overseas countries.

Date: October 27 (Tuesday), 2015

Venue: Toyama International Conference Center (Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture)



International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative in Malaysia



In order to strengthen the capability to disseminate information overseas and share best practices regarding the establishment of collaborative relationships between cities and the creation of business, the Initiative held its first overseas forum in Malaysia in February 2015 in cooperation with the High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities held by the Ministry of the Environment.

Under the theme of “‘FutureCity’ and Sustainable Urban Development,” the “FutureCity” initiative and best practices from “FutureCities” and Eco-Model Cities were introduced.

After representatives from Malaysia gave a presentation on their perspective on the Iskandar Development Plan, an active discussion took place regarding the issues concerning the efforts in Japan and Malaysia and the future direction and framework for mutual cooperation for the solution.

We also invited private companies that work together with the “FutureCities” and Eco-Model Cities and conducted a business matching program between these companies and Malaysian local governments and companies, deepening interactions in order to promote the export of various technologies from Japan.

Date: February 8 (Sunday) , 2015

Venue: Johor Bahru, Malaysia

* The Iskandar Development Plan started in 2006 is one East Asia’s largest national projects and is concerned with the sustainable social and economic development of the Iskandar Development Region in Joho. As this plan aims to achieve economic development and low-carbon city development simultaneously, research institutions from Japan and Malaysia are working together to realize a low-carbon society.

International Forum on the “FutureCity” Initiative in Portland

Ranked as the second green city in the world after its efforts of 40 years to develop a sustainable city, Portland has become the center of attentions from across the globe. We held an overseas forum in this city.

The City of Portland and the “FutureCities” and Eco-Model Cities presented case studies of their efforts. Moreover, we interviewed people who were engaged in city development in both Japan and the U.S. concerning examples of citizen participation taken from their experience and had discussions on various topics ranging from disaster prevention efforts and how to build consensus to the fairness of policies, collaboration with neighboring areas and issues regarding communication between different generations.

Through this forum, mutual understanding was formed on such points as [1] that the environmentally friendly city development will bring regional growth, [2] that it is important to utilize regional resources formed based on the terrain, climate and history of the region, and [3] it is important to create motivation and consensus among citizens with an eye to sustainable and long-term efforts and to conduct leadership, human resources development and information sharing to this end.

Both countries deepened their exchange, recognizing that they will be able to work together for the good of the “globally shared future” by deepening their discussions on city vitalization.

Date: February 9 (Tuesday) , 2016

Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA



Milestones

- January 2008** In the Prime Minister's policy speech "Eco Model Cities" were positioned as cities and regions to undertake pioneering initiatives with aggressive targets such as significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions toward transition to a low-carbon society.
- July 2008** The Action Plan for the Development of Low-carbon Society was approved by the Cabinet. Six cities were selected as "FutureCities."
- December 2008** The Promotion Council for the Low-Carbon Cities was set up by aspiring local governments and others with the aim of spreading Eco Model City efforts throughout the nation.
- January 2009** Seven cities were selected as Eco Model City (13 cities in total)
- June 2010** The New Growth Strategy was approved by the Cabinet. The "FutureCity" Initiative was positioned as one of the 21 national strategic projects.
- February 2011** Compilation of the concept of the "FutureCity" initiative (October 2010 to February 2011)
- December 2011** Eleven cities/regions were each selected as a "FutureCity" (including six cities/regions in the affected area)
- February 2012** The First International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative was held (Tokyo)
- May 2012** The Promotion Council for Low-Carbon Cities was expansively reorganized into the Promotion Council for the "FutureCity" Initiative
- July 2012** The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in Brazil
Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed the intention to spread "FutureCities" around the world.
The government of Japan held an official side event under the theme of the "FutureCity" Initiative (with the attendance of 47 leaders and a large number of ministers from the UN member countries)
- February 2013** The 2nd International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative was held (Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido)
- March 2013** Seven cities were selected as Eco Model Cities (bringing the total to 20 cities)
- October 2013** The 3rd International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative was held (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture)
- March 2014** Three cities were each selected as an Eco Model City (making the total 23)
- December 2014** The 4th International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative was held (Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture)
- February 2015** International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative in Malaysia was held
- October 2015** The 5th International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative was held (Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture)
- February 2016** International Forum on the "FutureCity" Initiative in Portland was held



July 2008 Six "FutureCities" received a selection certificate from the Prime Minister.



January 2009 Seven "FutureCities" received a selection certificate from the Prime Minister.



The Government's official side event at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)



March 15, 2013 Additional Eco-Model Cities were selected.