

EAROPH 2019 CHAPTER REPORT JAPAN

1. Performance of Abe Cabinet

- The ruling party won on the election of the House of Councilors held in July, 2019.
- The fourth Abe Cabinet made the second reshuffle of the cabinet on September 12. Prime Minister Abe said that this cabinet is expected to reconstruct the damaged areas by the natural disasters, to lead the global peace, to develop local areas suffering by the decrease of the population, the amendment of the constitution and so on.
- Consumption Tax has been raised from 8 to 10% on the first of October.

2. The Field of Planning and Human Settlements

(1) Reconstruction of cities into compact

- Big metropolitan areas are facing the problem of rapid increase of aged people and local areas are facing the rapid decrease of the population. Then it is necessary to reconstruct the urban areas into compact and convenient served by the better public transportations and various facilities.
- 477 Local governments among 1741 as of 2018 are trying to perform the above planning and 272 have performed the new plans already. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism(MLIT) has designated 26 cities as model cities and expecting to give the good influence to the other cities all over the country.

(2) Construction of Smart Cities

- Smart City is defined as the city or area with the sustainable and optimized management by means of the introduction of ICT techniques to solve the urban problems. MLIT will contribute to realize the project.

(3) The problem of vacant land and houses

- The rapid decrease of the population brought about the scattered vacant land and houses all over the country including metropolitan areas. This causes the inefficiency of public services and the inconvenience of daily life. This also becomes the strong barrier for the construction work of compact cities.
- The government introduced new legal systems to confiscate the ownership temporarily and to promote the efficient usage of these land and houses. For example, to use as a public park, community facilities, and so on.

3. Other matters

(1) Reconstruction after 2011.3.11 East Japan Giant Earthquake

- 8 years have passed and private and public housing have been almost finished on the improved high land. And the additional construction works such as transport services, medical services and so on are undergoing.

- The industries of agriculture and fishing have been recovered almost to the same level of before the disaster. It is expected to introduce tourism and new industries from now on.
- The World Cup of Football opened on September 20 in Japan and disaster areas are contributing to supply new stadiums such as Kamaishi Reconstruction Memorial Stadium and other training fields.

(2) Counter measures against increasing natural hazards

- It is the urgent problem how to overcome the disasters over supposition by water floods and huge typhoons brought by the global climate change. Typhoon No.15 hit Boso Peninsular in September 2019, and it's strong wind broke down the electricity system for over two weeks and brought unexpected inconvenience for the people in the region.
- It is necessary to introduce more rapid reconstruction work and counter measures such as quick evacuation systems.
- Other giant earthquakes are forecasted along the north west rim of pacific ocean facing the Japan islands and strong countermeasures for the earthquake and tsunami are the urgent need.

(3) Preparation for 2020 Tokyo Olympiad and Paralympic

- Related governmental and private organizations are preparing quickly to welcome the world people. The construction works of stadiums, villages, transport facilities and many other facilities are undergoing.
- Urban redevelopment and new ring road construction are undergoing in downtown Tokyo.

(4) Global Development of Urban Infrastructures

- Japanese experience and know-hows to develop urban infrastructures to overcome the rapid economic growth in mid-20th century would be sure to contribute the development of Asian countries. Then Japan hopes to support those countries by oversea collaboration.
- Japan expect two big points to support the Asian countries. One is the comprehensive development of the region along the railway lines to supply housing areas and business and commercial areas around the railway stations. The second is the strategy for Smart City and Eco City. Japanese experience and technology would be highly recommended to apply to the developing countries facing the various urban problems.

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