

Making Himeji Sustainable and Livable, Harmonizing with Historical and Cultural Heritages

Miri, 14 August 2006

Mayors' Caucus, 20th EAROPH World Congress

Toshikatsu IWAMI

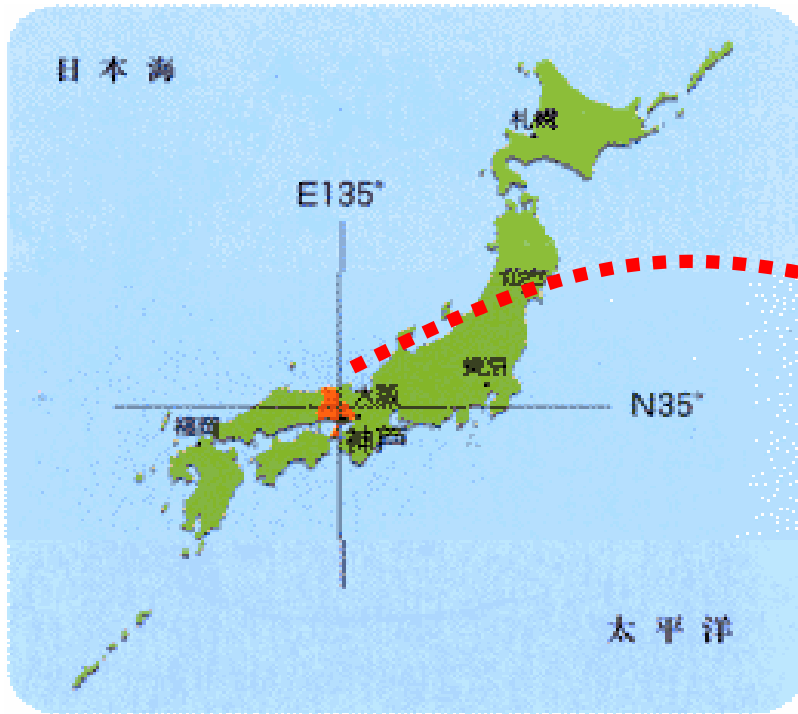
Mayor, Himeji City Government, Japan

1 PROFILE OF HIMEJI

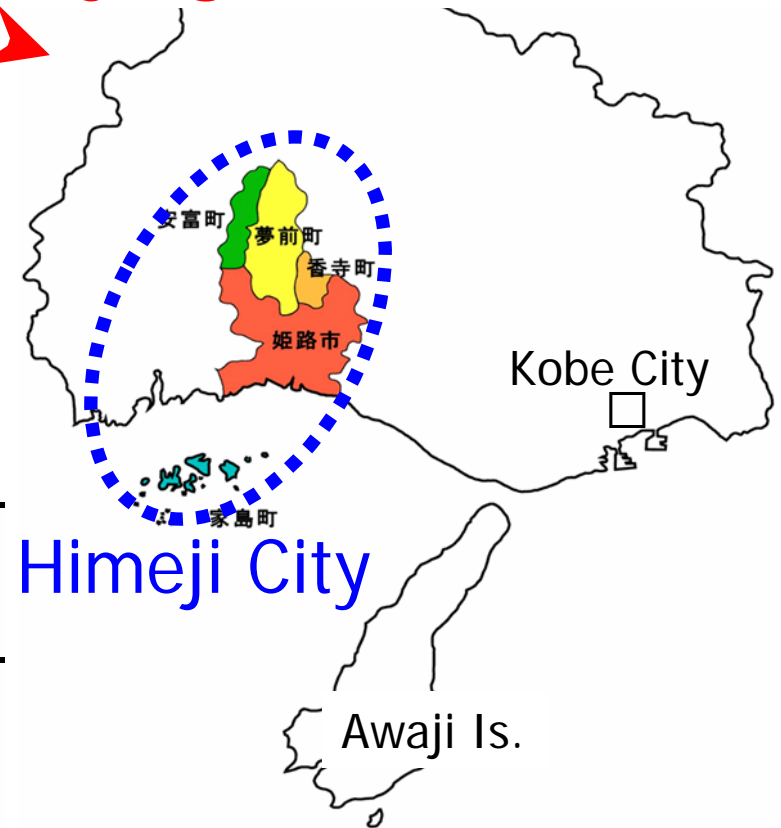
Geographical Location



Land and Population



Hyogo Prefecture



Himeji City

| | Population | Land (km ²) | Density |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Hyogo Pref. | 5,590,381 | 8,392 | 666 |
| Kobe City | 1,525,389 | 550 | 2,774 |
| Himeji City | 536,234 | 534 | 1,004 |

Brief History of Himeji

- 564 **Harima Grand Shrine** was established.
- 734 **Kibi no Makibi** founded the **Hiromine Shrine** on Mt. Hiromine.
- 741 **Harima Kokubunji Temple** was established.
- 966 Buddhist **Saint Shohku** founded the **Engyoji Temple** on Mt. Shosha.
- 1581 **Hideyoshi** builds **Himeji Castle**. A three-story Tenshukaku was completed.
- 1609 Himeji Castle with its five-story, six-floor **Tenshukaku** was completed.
- 1888 **Sanyo Railroad** was linked Kobe and Himeji
- 1889 **Himeji City Government** was launched (city area of 3.03 km² and population of 24,958); the city hall was founded.
- 1939 **Nippon Steel Corporation** began productions in Himeji.
- 1945 **A large portion of the city was destroyed** in air raids, followed by WW II.
- 1955 **Ohtemae Avenue** was completed.
- 1964 **Himeji Castle's "Great Renovation** of the Showa Era" was completed.
- 1972 **Shinkansen**, or the bullet train of Japan, began services.
- 1983 Himeji **City Museum of Art** was opened.
- 1989 Himeji **Centennial Festival "Shirotopia"** was held.
- 1990 **Japan Castle Research Center** was opened.
- 1992 **"Kohko-en" Garden** was opened.



Himeji Castle

- National Treasure & World Cultural Heritage -

2 LOCAL ECONOMY

Tourism



Engyoji Temple



Himeji City Museum of Art

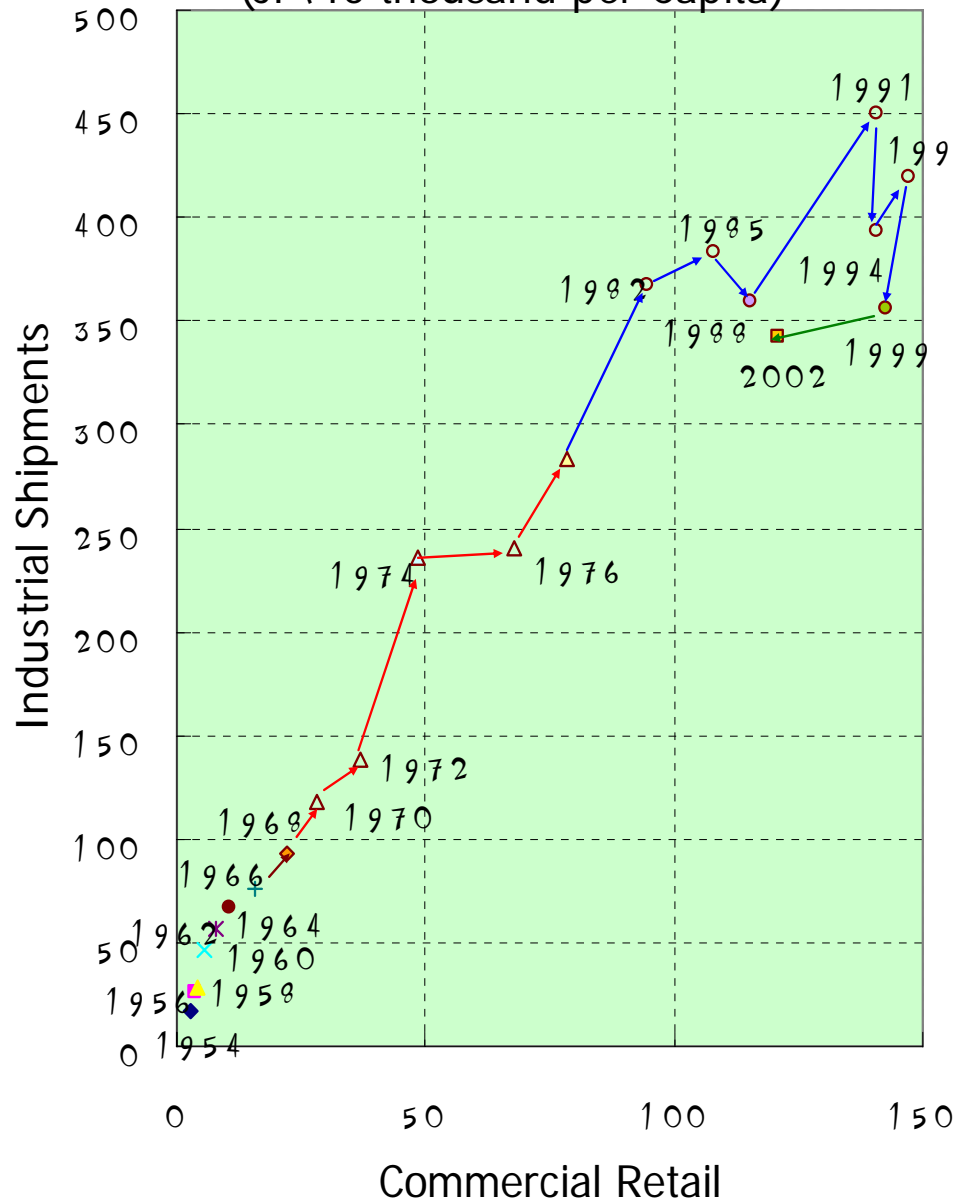


Illuminated Himeji Castle



Nada's Kenka Festival

Trends in Himeji's Industrial Shipment
and Commercial Retail, 1954-2002
(JP\ 10 thousand per Capita)



Industry & Commerce



3 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Sister Cities/Castle of Himeji

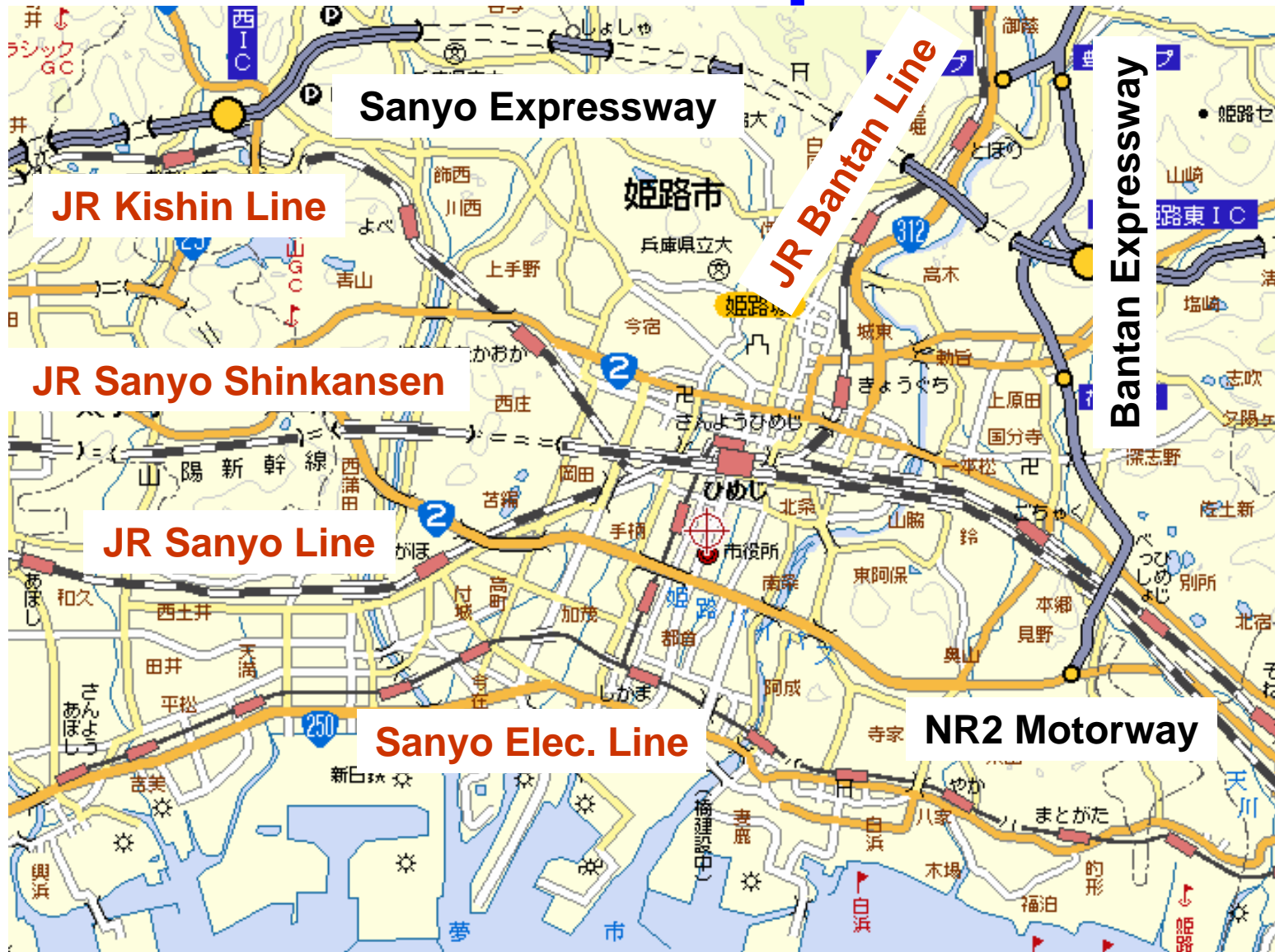


4 Three Visions of the City

- (i) high technology development city for the better future;
- (ii) international friendship city with historical and cultural scent; and
- (iii) safe and educational city through citizen's participation and lifelong active service.

5 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Land Transports

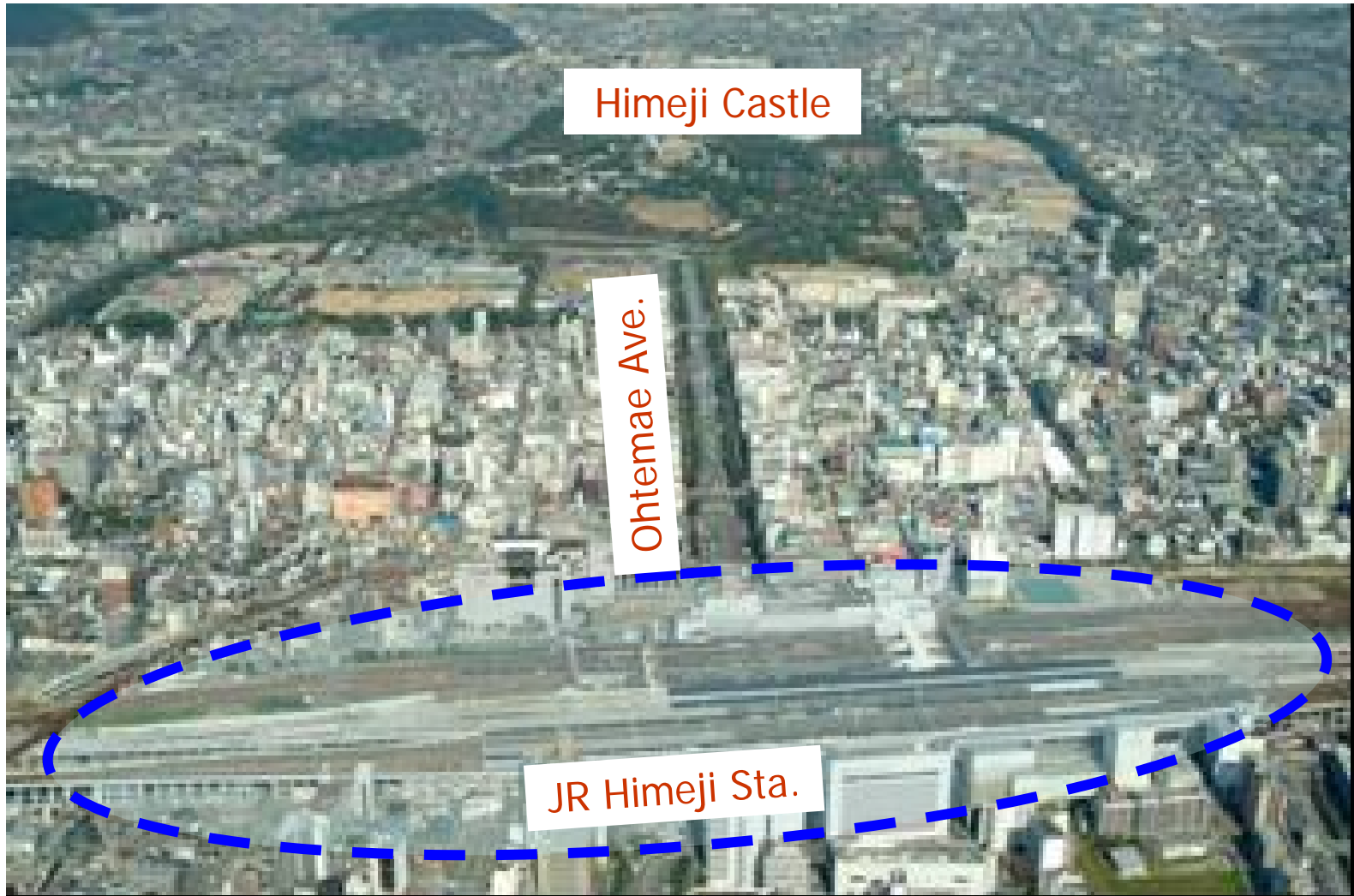


Ohtemae Avenue



6 ONGOING PROJECTS

Elevation of Railroad Tracks



Progress in Grade Separation Project

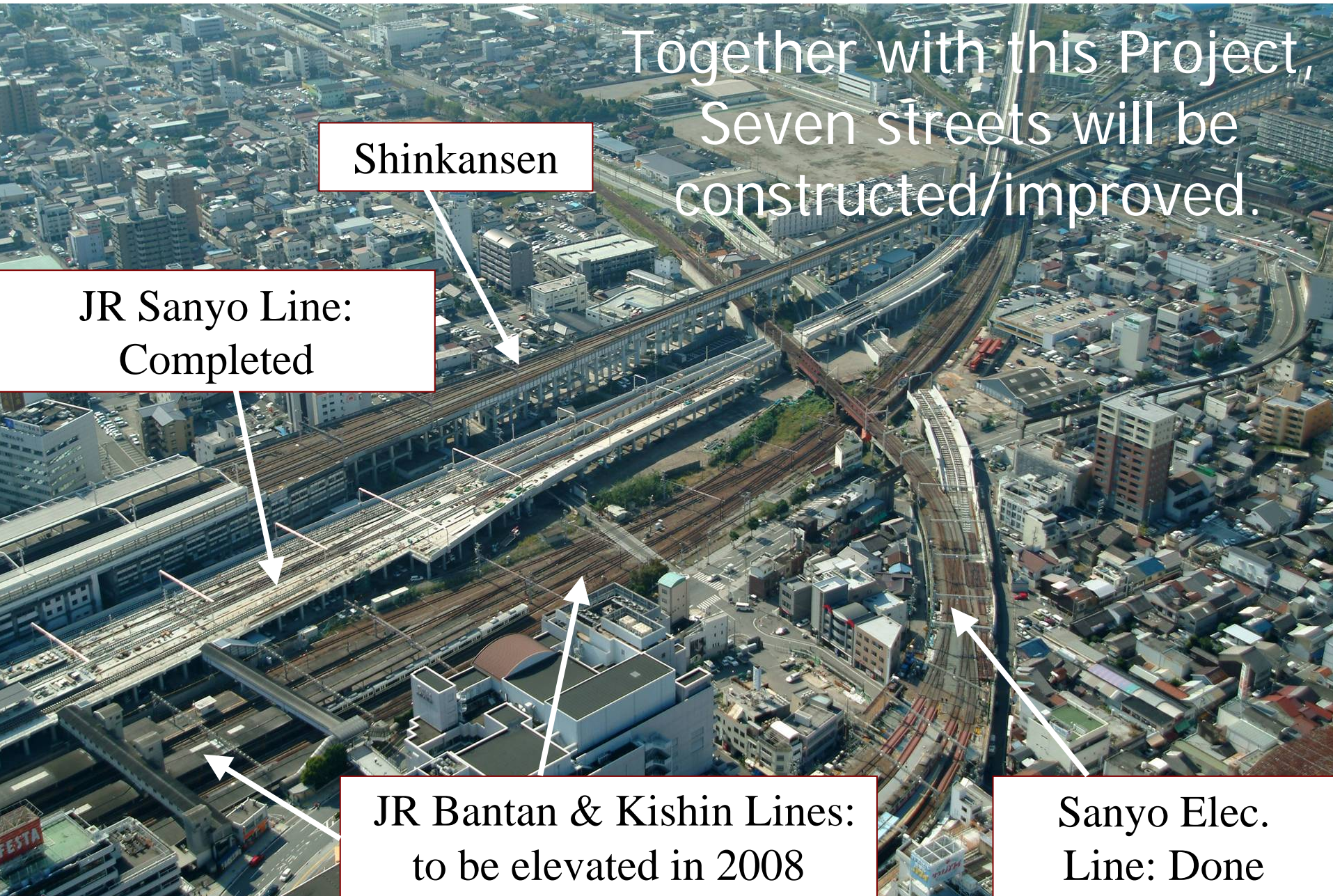
Together with this Project,
Seven streets will be
constructed/improved.

Shinkansen

JR Sanyo Line:
Completed

JR Bantan & Kishin Lines:
to be elevated in 2008

Sanyo Elec.
Line: Done



Ground Plan for City Center

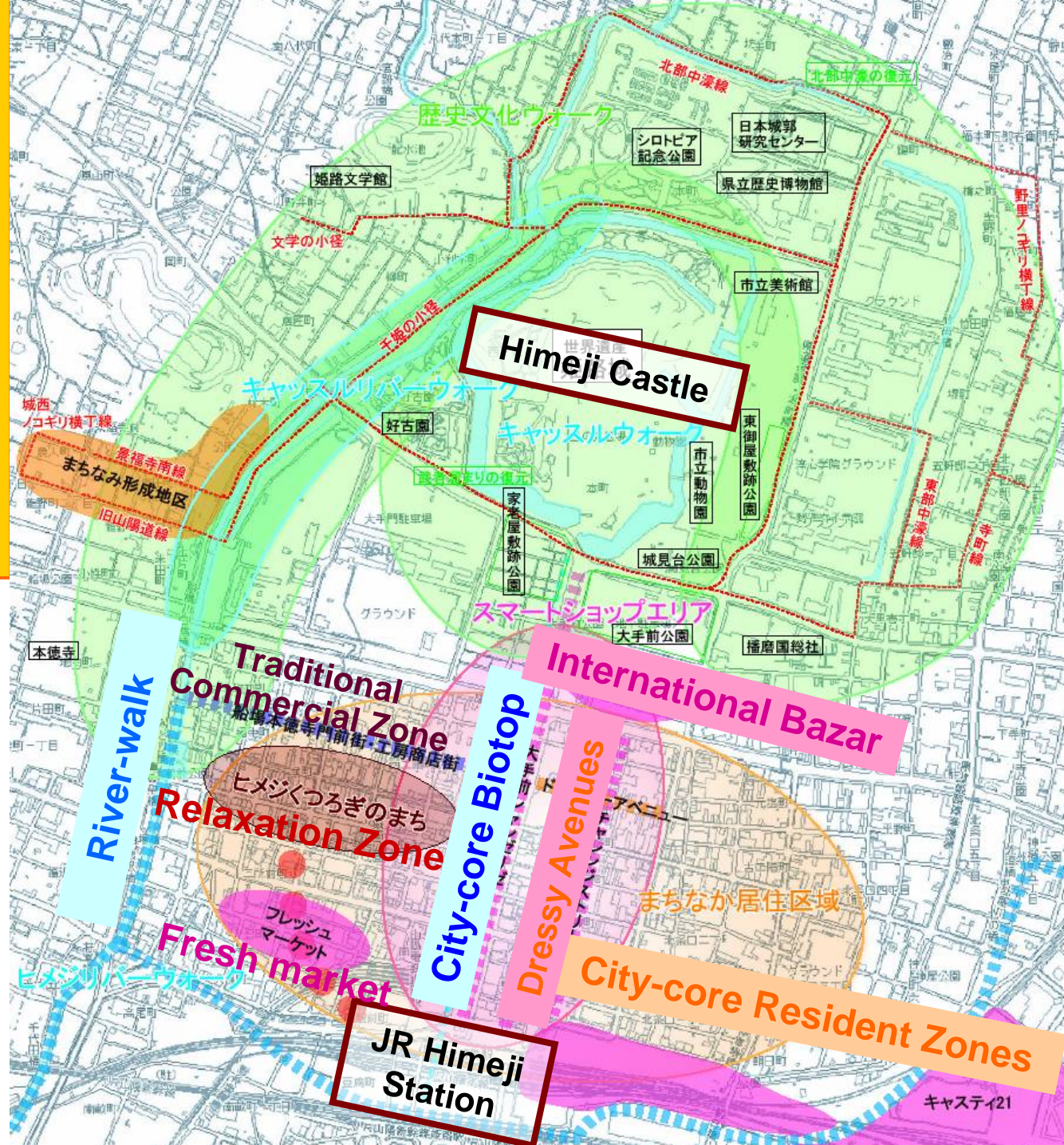


Image of Northside Station Plaza



Improving Historical Roads



Promotion of "Nishi-Harima Technopolis"



We are waiting for your visit
to Himeji, Japan in 2008



Location: by Shinkansen
- 30 mins. West from Osaka
- 45 mins. West from Kyoto