



City of Yokohama News Release

Yokohama was selected as both “FutureCity” and “Comprehensive Special Zone for International Competitiveness Development”

February 3, 2012

As national projects, the government of Japan accepted applications from local-government candidates for the FutureCity and the Comprehensive Special Zones for International Competitiveness Development (CSZICD). Yokohama’s proposals were selected for both projects.

The FutureCity: The government selected advanced model cities for their policies to cope with environmental problems and an aging society, and takes a variety of ways of assistance including regulatory reform and/or fiscal measures. About 30 candidate cities nationwide applied for the project.

Yokohama City proposed the following:

- (1) Changing the whole of Yokohama into a “smart city” where CO2 emissions are greatly reduced;
- (2) Building a compact city where residents can enjoy both a comfortable life in suburbs and a convenient life in the attractive city center in an integrated fashion;
- (3) Promoting culture and arts and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions) programs to become a core city of human resources, goods and information in Asia;
- (4) Disseminating these successful cases of (1), (2), and (3) widely inside and outside Japan.

The FutureCity is a project in which the government selects strategically future-oriented and environment-friendly cities, gives them a variety of assistance, produces successful examples of coping with the environmental problems and/or the super-aging society, and disseminates these good examples widely inside and outside Japan, thus aiming at regional revitalization and building a sustainable socio-economic structure in Japan. The concept is incorporated in the Strategy for Rebirth of Japan, which shows the government’s roadmap for economic growth and reconstruction following the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Including Yokohama City, 11 cities, six of which are in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, were selected as FutureCity.

A part from the FutureCity, together with Kanagawa prefecture and Kawasaki City, Yokohama applied to the Japanese government for a life science base in the Keihin Coastal Area to be designated as a Keihin Coastal Area Life Innovation Comprehensive Special Zone for International Competitiveness Development. The application was successful. Based on the Comprehensive Special Zones Act, which was enacted in June 2011, the CSZICD is a project to solve policy issues with the intention of concentrating national and local policy resources into areas with potential for making trailblazing efforts and also of making the Strategy for the Rebirth of Japan come true. Including Yokohama, seven zones have been designated nationwide.

After the government’s designation on December 22, 2011, Yokohama is ready to do its utmost to achieve the project, making use of future assistance from the government, to make proactive policy proposals to the government, and to contribute to turning the whole of Japan into a sustainable economic society with vigor.



Issued by the City of Yokohama

FutureCity and Comprehensive Special Zone for International Competitiveness Development

【About the FutureCity】

Yokohama proposed an urban development of “city renovation” by “citizens’ power,” as an effort for planning and realizing a FutureCity around 2050.

【Main points in the proposal】

- Field of the environment: Construction of a low-carbon energy network that can contribute to solving domestic electric power problems, and promoting international contribution by making use of technology related to water supply and sewerage systems.
- Coping with super-aging: Creation of a local community where people can enjoy good human relations and a comfortable life making use of dynamic citizens’ activity and accumulated know-how of local welfare and local urban development, and renovation of large-scale apartment complexes and residential areas along the railroad lines.
- Others: Promotion of culture, arts and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions) programs, as well as the strengthening of the creation of growing industries and local economic infrastructure, with a view to establishing a global city brand fitting a large FutureCity.
- Contribution to affected areas (Yamamoto Town and Minamisanriku Town in Miyagi Prefecture, and Aizuwakamatsu City in Fukushima Prefecture): Yokohama is applying its proposal for the FutureCity project to the assistance for reconstruction of Yamamoto Town, Miamisanriku Town in Miyagi Prefecture and Aizuwakamatsu City in Fukushima Prefecture that were hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake. This assistance is for their early reconstruction and new urban development, making use of Yokohama’s comprehensive know-how of urban development and technology for the improvement of urban infrastructure.

【About the Keihin Coastal Area Life Innovation Comprehensive Special Zone for International Competitiveness Development】

Yokohama will make use of various resources of the Keihin Coastal Area such as accumulated technology that can be a basis for life-innovation-related industries and R & D, Yokohama’s networks in and out of Japan, and conventional functions that can help to send out research results and exchange business. Utilizing these, Yokohama will promote its pioneering efforts for realizing the goal of developing and manufacturing innovative medicine and medical equipment and creating a health-oriented industry of global firms to cope with an era of individualization and preventive medicine.

Yokohama intends to become an internationally competitive city in this field by taking preferential measures including those related to specific health checkups and specific health guidance, and those for regulations for simplification of clinical study procedures concerning tissue engineering, and also tax, budgetary and financial assistance measures.

【Areas of the Comprehensive Special Zone】

Yokohama City

- Suehiro Area: Accumulation of state-of-the-art facilities including RIKEN
- Fukuura Area: Location of the medical department of Yokohama City University
- Minatomirai Area: Place to attract academic meetings or international conferences related to medicine utilizing the large-scale conference facilities

Kawasaki City

- Tonomachi Area: Location of the Central Institute for Experimental Animals, a redevelopment district



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