## Part 2 Basic Direction of Measures in Each Field

In order to realize the new land image and strategic goals shown in part 1, measures in each field need to be implemented effectively through mutual cooperation. Therefore, part 2 describes the basic measures necessary for this plan by policy field.

First of all, in chapters 1 to 4, basic measures will be described concerning life in each regional block and each area in blocks, regional development supporting economic activities, industries, cultures, tourism and transportation/information and communication systems. The main approach will be to create a national land in response to trends of the time such as globalization and the declining population.

In chapters 5 to 7, basic measures will then be described concerning disaster prevention, national land resources, environmental conservation and the creation of landscapes as a base for human life. The main approach will be to continue the quest to create safe and beautiful national land.

Finally, chapter 8 will describe basic measures for the purpose of realizing regional development by the "new public" from a cross-sectional viewpoint.

## Chapter 1 Regional Development

While big cities take the lead as bases for providing high level urban functions, economic activities and international exchange, urban areas, on the other hand, supply big cities with human resources, food, water and energy. Thus, it can be said that big cities and rural areas are mutually dependent. In such a situation, sustainability means that residents in big cities as well as rural areas can continue to live without diminished quality of life under the decrease in population - which will be more critical in the future - and various environmental and financial aspects. In order to create this balance, it is necessary to create comfortable environments where different generations can work, securely utilizing existing stock. Also, it is necessary to maintain and increase quality of life and vitality through interregional exchange and linkage utilizing differences between, for instance, urban and rural areas, as well as unique resources. To this end, measures concerning regional improvement will be promoted in accordance with the following basic policies:

1) Improving the quality of residential life and ensuring safety and security
2) Creation of comfortable living areas and vibrant urban areas by linking cities with neighboring areas

3) Creation of beautiful and comfortable rural areas where the natural environment, production infrastructure and living environment exist in harmony

4) Interregional exchange and linkage as well as attracting people and promoting migration to rural areas

5) Regional advancement in areas with challenging geographical, natural and social conditions taking into account their unique characteristics

### Section 1 Quality of Residential Life; Safety and Security

The conventional housing policy has brought some results in terms of improved housing standards through securing a certain "amount" of houses. However, in order to realize a society where people feel a sense of affluence, it is necessary to build quality housing and to convert to policies that improve the quality of residential life as a whole through attractive cityscapes and landscapes as well as attractive residential environments rich in water areas and greenery as well as the promotion of universal design. In particular, taking into account the fact that the need for the effective utilization of resources will continue to increase, it is extremely important to pass on durable housing which can be used for a long period of time to future generation as assets for the entire society. In addition to that, it is necessary to secure safety nets for low-income earners and elderly people who have particular needs in terms of residential security.

Moreover, it is important to create an environment with low disaster and crime rates, and essential services such as medical care, a welfare system for households needing childcare and elderly people, and education that is not excessively expensive. To this end, although government efforts are fundamental, safety and security will be ensured through linkage and cooperation with communities and companies.

### (1) Quality housing; housing safety net

**(Realization of a society where quality housing is used with care over long periods of time)**

In accordance with the aim of building quality durable housing as the basic infrastructure of residential life both now and in the future, and the maintenance and improvement of quality and performance will be promoted. This will be carried out by building more durable houses that are easy to maintain and manage and that can be easily renovated to suit different lifestyles, by promoting the investigation and improvement of seismic resistance, universal design of houses, and the improvement of energy-saving performance. In addition, the construction of a system storing information on previous owners, appropriate maintenance and management, as well as renovation will be promoted. Through those efforts, a society will be realized where quality housing is well maintained so that it can be used carefully over many years.

**(Environmental improvement of the housing market)**

The aim should be to develop a housing market where people can choose housing that suits their values and lifestyles at a reasonable cost. This can be achieved by popularizing and

strengthening the housing performance indicator system, improving the housing finance market providing various loans such as long-term fixed interest mortgages, and encouraging the recycling of quality existing housing. In particular, taking into account the seriously declining birthrate, the residential needs of elderly people or households requiring childcare and housing should be met through rental housing for families, housing with childcare support facilities, and a system that rents houses owned by elderly people and sublets them to households requiring childcare. At the same time, the smooth transition to new housing trends and dual habitation should be supported by providing more information on the surrounding area.

**(Developing multilayered as well as flexible housing safety nets)**

In order to secure stable housing for those who have difficulty in securing appropriate housing on their own such as low-income earners, disaster victims, elderly people, households requiring childcare and non-Japanese, multilayered and flexible housing safety nets will be developed by effectively utilizing existing housing and privately-rented housing. In addition, it should be made possible for people to continue living in their home towns through linkage between housing policies and medical/welfare policies. This can be achieved through, for example, providing information on privately-rented housing with residential support suitable for elderly people, carefully allocating housing, and integrating housing and welfare facilities.

**(2) Creation of a good housing environment**

**(Ensuring safety and security, and promotion of efforts based on a concept of universal design)**

The improvement of congested city areas, preparations for natural disasters such as residential land with seismic resistance, and improvement of roads considering the needs of pedestrians will be promoted. At the same time, in improving roads and parks, crime prevention measures such as night illumination and the reduction of blind spots should be considered. In addition, in order to make cities accessible to everyone regardless of age, sex, language, and disability, efforts that consider the city as a whole will be promoted, such as making transferring between different methods of transport easier and more convenient at transportation hubs, creating barrier-free areas around stations - not only passenger facilities but also buildings.

**(Attractive landscapes and an environment rich in water and greenery)**

The maintenance and creation of attractive cities and landscapes should be promoted taking sceneries and colors into account. This can be achieved through regulations and guidelines such as landscape planning, landscape zones, and zone planning, the promotion of urban development without utility poles, the regulation of outdoor advertising in cooperation with landscape administration, the conservation of a historic atmosphere integrated with historic buildings, traditional cityscapes, and the utilization of waterfront areas. Moreover, the environmental burden should be reduced and comfortable spaces provided. This can be achieved by improving urban parks, increasing greenery in urban spaces, and conserving green areas, as well as restoring

waterfront areas and developing a desirable water cycle by improving river cleanliness and effectively utilizing sewage treatment water and ensuring proper sewage treatment.

Farmland in urbanized areas should be actively utilized and conserved by valuing these precious green resources.

## (3) Community efforts

### (Promotion of urban environments suitable for pedestrians)

Urban environments should be improved so that people can walk safely and comfortably by creating separate pedestrian and bicycles routes. In this way, essential services such as medical care, welfare and education can be accessed on foot or by bicycle or public transport. Urban development where functions necessary for life are moderately concentrated will be promoted to enable residents to get around easily on foot. Moreover, urban development should discourage excessive reliance on privately-owned cars. This can be achieved by linking hub areas with a high concentration of urban functions by high quality public transport and ensuring public transport access from other areas as much as possible. To this end, of the creation of vibrant city areas should be promoted. This can be achieved through the alignment of land use policy and urban transportation policy, and the promotion of city center housing as well as city center locations for hospitals, schools and large-scale retail stores. Specifically, comprehensive transportation policies consisting of both hard and soft measures will be strategically promoted. Also, efforts for creating the comfortable spaces needed for the revitalization of the cities will be comprehensively supported. This can be achieved by promoting the introduction and use of public transport such as LRT (Light Rail Transit) and BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), the improvement of transportation hubs, the creation of roads where pedestrians and public transport co-exist (transit mall), the improvement and effective use of parking facilities, securing of safe pedestrian areas, creating a bicycle-friendly environment, and appropriate role sharing between cars and public transport by providing information and guidance.

### (Ensuring safety and security by the community)

Although ensuring safety and security is basically the responsibility of the government, local residents also need to cooperate in the spirit of ensuring their own safety and security. Therefore, community bonds will be strengthened through their independent efforts, and this will be supported by, for example, providing space for their activities.

Taking medical care and welfare as an example, national government and municipalities, as well as medical institutions, play a central role in addressing the doctor shortage. In addition, local and national government and medical experts should work together to make efforts to improve health care, medical care and welfare by building relationships. The construction of a system whereby those services are continuously available in rural areas (comprehensive community care system) will be promoted. At the same time, the improvement of bases and the reinforcement and promotion of the childcare system will be promoted. As for crime and disaster prevention, greater public awareness is needed. At the same time, support will be carried out for

the reinforcement, strengthening and boosting of fire and flood brigades, who play a central role in regional disaster prevention, the utilization of police box counselors, who support the functions of police boxes as life safety centers, securing of bases for disaster prevention and crime prevention activities and volunteer activities. As for education, linkage between schools and the region will be strengthened and public halls, which are familiar places for exchange, will be positively utilized. Moreover, taking into account the increase in multicultural and multilingual communities following the growth of international communities in some areas, smooth communication should also be promoted. In addition, a system which ensures safety and security in areas such as medical care and education should be built.

## Section 2 Comfortable and Vibrant Urban Areas

In order to sustain a society providing a sense of affluence struggling under the weight of the declining and aging population as well as environmental problems, it is necessary to maintain and increase various urban welfare functions in residential areas, "places for life" in national land including cities and rural areas. Moreover, with further decentralization in recent years, the need for regional efforts toward autonomous development has been recognized. It is therefore necessary for cities as the sources of vitality or urban areas consisting of multiple municipalities to function as economic, cultural, academic and tourist bases for the region by utilizing their own characteristics and lead the blocks by establishing linkage.

To this end, areas constantly expanding, including cities functioning as bases and neighboring rural areas, will be improved as comfortable living areas. At the same time, the development of urban areas within the regional blocks and their mutual complement will be promoted.

### (1) Increased urban functions through mutually beneficial relationships between municipalities

The promotion of linkage between municipalities by regarding them as an integrated area was first addressed in the wide-area living area plan in the New Comprehensive National Development Plan. Moreover, the development of an "axis of regional linkage" - forming a local unit beyond the local area - was also promoted. While the range of everyday activities such as shopping now extends beyond the boundaries of municipalities following the progress of motorization, some wide-area issues have been internalized due to municipal mergers. The national population density is expected to decrease in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to address issues such as the maintenance and increase of urban functions including efficient administration services, advanced medical care and concentration of various commercial facilities.

### (Wide-area living environments based on region-specific conditions)

In creating living areas consisting of multiple municipalities, it is important to secure a certain population size and punctual public transport. Some areas have a population of approx. 300,000 with a main city with a population of approx. 100,000, other areas have a population of approx.

100,000 with a main city with a population in the tens of thousands. Moreover, it is common that areas with different urban functions such as commuting areas, commerce areas and medical areas overlap on several levels, and there are also cases where several cities play a central role in the same area. Therefore, the creation of comfortable living areas should be promoted based on region-specific conditions by reorganizing public transport, and utilizing city planning systems. Moreover, municipal mergers will be continuously addressed, and issues beyond the boundaries of municipalities will be responded to from a wide-arethe viewpoint utilizing existing frameworks such as regional affairs associations.

In cities that play a central role in the living environments and that are far from cities that function as bases, urban welfare functions may be more concentrated compared to other cities with a similar population size. However, it has been pointed out that the maintenance of those functions will be difficult as a result of population decline and aging. In order to maintain the living environments including neighboring rural areas, efforts in areas where small and medium-sized cities far from cities functioning as bases play a central role are important.

**(Mutual accommodation of urban functions through linkage between municipalities)**

In order to maintain and increase urban functions under the decreasing population density, a concentration of functions and expansion of service areas are required. For example, appropriate role sharing and cooperation between neighboring municipalities will be promoted such as construction of a medical linkage system by sharing functions including creation of bases, and sharing social education facilities such as libraries among plural municipalities. Moreover, the improvement of roads, and the enhancement and improvement of public transport will be intensively promoted in order to secure "roads of life" for linkage and exchange allowing wide-area sharing of urban functions such as concentrated and advanced medical care. At the same time, the improvement of the information and communication infrastructure for finding replacement medical staff, such as remote medical care, will be promoted. Furthermore, the introduction of "doctor helicopters" should be considered depending on region-specific conditions.

**(Conversion to intensive urban structure)**

If an area judges that it is reasonable to convert to an intensive urban structure, it is important to promote the concentration of various urban functions, the revitalization of commercial activities and city center residences in center city areas through the utilization of existing stock and the redevelopment of city areas utilizing various systems. Moreover, in order to improve the efficiency of urban functions through organized and intensified land use, suburban development should be controlled and the effective use of little-used/unused land in cities should be promoted. This should be considered a response to the disorderly degeneration of city areas and the restoration of the natural and rural environment. In addition, as for urban transportation, municipalities and public transport companies should work together to strategically promote comprehensive transportation policies consisting of both hard and soft measures. It is possible to

bolster center city areas - the "city's face" - and to maintain and increase the vitality of cities. An intensive urban structure is also effective from the viewpoint of convenience for elderly people and the reduction of $CO_2$ emissions.

## (2) Urban areas as the source of vitality; strengthening linkage between them
### (Creation of urban areas capitalizing on their strengths)

In order to support the autonomous development of regional blocks, effective circulation enhancing urban functions and leading to a concentration of creative human resources should be brought about in urban areas as their concentration of population and industries means that they can form the nucleus of the blocks. In addition, in other urban areas, cities functioning as bases should be created utilizing their strengths and developing industries capable of attracting income from outside the area. In any case, as it is very important that various urban functions are highly concentrated and connected by tight transportation networks, the development of urban areas capitalizing on their strengths should be promoted through the intensification of various urban functions and the enhancement of land use in cooperation with transportation systems.

Moreover, new issues such as global environmental problems and common issues such as wide-area disaster prevention, international exchange and distribution will be intensively addressed based on specific action plans. In addition, urban regeneration will be strongly promoted by bringing out private funds and know-how through the reduction of time risk and improvement of related public facilities, and by flexibly supporting efforts based the unique qualities of the region.

### (Renovation of big cities)

"Renovation of Big Cities" will be promoted continuously. This includes the elimination of the negative legacies of the high economic growth period such as vulnerability to disasters and traffic jams and the development of an environment where comfort and the growth of internationally competitive industries can be realized. In doing so, advanced public transport is important. In addition, not only the systematic development of welfare facilities but also the reinforcement of home-care systems should be promoted, focusing on the rapidly aging society.

Moreover, in the suburbs, which have played a role as bedroom towns of big cities, vacant houses, vacant lots and aging housing may increase in some residential areas with the decrease in population due to people returning to downtown areas and the rapid aging of the population. Therefore, restructuring of wide-area land use will be promoted including a response to desolate built-up areas and consideration of the restoration of the natural/rural environment. Moreover, urban greenery will be maintained and increased.

Meanwhile, in urban developing, such viewpoints are important for utilizing systems related to existing strategies, regulations and deregulation using the areas' creativity, and optimally combining various methods and systems such as the effective utilization of private funds through PFI.

(Strengthening of exchanges and linkage)

In an era of flourishing global exchange it is important to foster creative, diverse and multilayered exchange and linkage centered on the individuality of globally attractive urban areas, unique beauty, cultures, functions and academic concentration in order for the regional blocks to develop autonomously as places open to other blocks as well as East Asia and the rest of the world. To this end, the strengthening of regional block gateway functions and high-speed transportation systems which connect individual urban areas within the blocks should be promoted. At the same time, linkage with urban areas as central bases of other blocks should be strengthened. In particular, the development and utilization of infrastructure which contributes to exchange and linkage with East Asia such as emphasis on networks connecting the Pacific Ocean and areas across the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea should be promoted. By extending linkage between cities and urban areas to East Asia and beyond, the amenities, attraction and vitality of urban areas will grow.

(Promotion of efforts against environmental problems and urban disasters)

The average temperature of Japan has increased by approx. one degree during the 20th century, and it is said that the average temperature of Tokyo has increased by approx three degrees with an increase in urban activities and a deterioration of the heat environment due to congestion (heat island phenomenon). Therefore, in big cities in particular, it is necessary to create an urban structure that places little burden on the environment through the promotion of water and green networks, improvement of water-retaining capacity, and securing of air ways. Specifically, accommodation of energy among multiple facilities, thorough utilization of available energy resources such as wind, solar and heat as well as unused energy including waste heat, securing of green areas and water surfaces, utilization of springs and recycled wastewater, and utilization of water-retentive pavement materials should be promoted. Moreover, prevention of illegal dumping of wastes, creation of a zero-emission society, securing of sea surface repositories and good roadside air environment, conservation of water quality through countermeasures against sewage treatment should be promoted.

Moreover, there is a growing possibility that damage at time of disaster will worsen due to concentration of population and assets in urban areas. In those areas, serious damage has been caused by torrential rains in recent years, and a new form of inundation damage is occurring such as inundation in underground malls due to an increase in the utilization of underground spaces. Furthermore, with urban expansion, houses are spreading to areas highly prone to sediment-related disasters. Therefore, urban disaster-prevention measures should be integrated with urban development, such as the prevention of devastating damage through the development of arterial dikes, promotion of rainfall storage infiltration at schoolyards, and direction to safe national land use taking disaster risks into consideration.


Section 3 Attractive and Comfortable Rural Communities

Rural communities have various unique qualities and features such as attractive landscapes and traditional cultures coupled with a rich natural environment, thriving agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries, and interesting aspects of local residents' lives. Multifunctional roles such as the conservation of national land and the natural environment, the creation of attractive landscapes, and handing down traditional cultures are all possible if the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry are efficiently operated, and forests and farmland are appropriately managed.

On the other hand, multifunctional roles may be hampered by the declining and aging population, mixed living, rural areas lacking vitality through the stagnation of regional agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries. With such trends, while the safety and security of local residents should be ensured, it is necessary to boost each region using their own initiatives and creativity capitalizing on attractive resources of rural communities. To this end, efforts should be made in areas such as the promotion of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry - a core regional industry - and the promotion of exchange between cities and rural communities. Moreover, it is necessary to promote the creation of attractive and comfortable rural communities so that not only the local residents but also residents originally from the cities can enjoy the unique qualities and features of rural life as assets supporting the affluence of the whole nation.

Furthermore, it is important to create "nature-rich inhabited areas" as a sphere where people can enjoy urban services, a relaxing residential environment, and rich nature by deepening relationships between rural communities and neighboring small and medium cities and boosting the agricultural, forestry and fisheries as well as regional-resource-based industries.

## (1) Comfortable, safe and attractive rural areas

The safety and security of local residents will be ensured through the development of the living environment and countermeasures against disasters which secure the production infrastructure of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry. Moreover, the creation and restoration of attractive rural landscapes should be promoted as well as the maintenance and restoration of rural functions.

### (Development of the living environment; safe and secure regional development)

The integrated development of the production infrastructure and the rural living environment should be promoted efficiently in accordance with regional characteristics taking into consideration the fact that the development of rural communities lags behind that of urban areas. Moreover, the development of advanced information and communication infrastructure should be promoted from the viewpoint of the convenience of local residents by providing high-quality information on a par with that of cities, the improvement of distribution efficiency through utilizing information and communication technology, and boosting the regional economy through an efficient agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry.

Moreover, it is necessary to create safe and secure rural communities that are protected against natural disasters taking into account the fact that devastating disasters such as floods and sediment-related disasters are occurring. To this end, the appropriate conservation and

management of forests and farmland should be promoted. At the same time, disaster-resilient regional development should also be promoted. This can be achieved through disaster prediction and the transmission of accurate information, disaster prevention measures for farmland integrated with afforestation and flood prevention measures, development of reservoirs, flood control, land slide countermeasures, and disaster prevention measures for roads, snow and low temperatures, which contribute to ensuring safe and reliable road networks, strengthening of disaster prevention measures at fishing ports, and the conservation of regional disaster prevention bases such as local government buildings and invaluable evacuation areas.

**(Attractive rural areas)**

The beauty of rural communities should be developed by keeping national land resources in the area, maintaining the production infrastructure of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry, and maintaining the quality and function of villages and living environment facilities. Such management has been carried out by the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry as well as through collaborative work with regional communities. However, appropriate management has become difficult as a result of declining rural functions associated with depopulation, aging population and mixed habitation.

Therefore, the maintenance and restoration of rural functions should be promoted by developing new communities. This can be achieved through efforts toward the integration of multiple rural functions and the promotion of various ways of migrating to urban areas including new entry to agriculture and the so-called UJI turn. On the other hand, as for the management of regional resources including environmental conservation activities, support will be given to efforts participated in by a range of entities including local residents and residents originally from urban areas. Awareness of those activities should be raised in order to win understanding and support.

Moreover, in order to promote the creation and restoration of attractive rural landscapes, facilities should be developed from the viewpoint of harmony with the landscape, the conservation and restoration of an abundant natural environment, and the preservation and handing down of a range of traditional cultures by encouraging consensus among local residents and building relationships with internal migrants.

**(Role of hilly and mountainous areas)**

Hilly and mountainous areas extend from the outer edges of plains to mountains, and their agricultural productivity is low because of sloping land and the growing concentration of industries and population in cities. Therefore, as the population in these areas is declining and aging, convenience is also declining. However, these areas account for the majority of national land and play an important role in the conservation of national land, fostering water resources and the conservation of the natural environment. In addition, they have unique qualities and features such as rice terraces and offer spaces for relaxation and comfort. Many of the hilly and mountainous areas play an important role in terms of traditional culture. Moreover, to boost hilly and mountainous areas, as the national population continues to decline and age, forward-looking

efforts centering on elderly people need to be made. As mentioned above, hilly and mountainous areas are significant from the viewpoint of sustainability and affluence.

In order to continue boosting hilly and mountainous areas, it is necessary to accurately grasp regional issues and the distribution of resources and to capitalize on their natural and socioeconomic conditions. At the same time, it is necessary to take comprehensive measures to promote industries, multifunctional roles and the development of the living environment. Moreover, it is necessary for each region to creatively develop systems of sustainable regional management. In doing so, consensus should be reached between the government and residents. In addition, public facilities and social services which support daily life should be intensified and combined utilizing the power of the private sector. Furthermore, the restructuring and integration of rural functions should be promoted by maintaining water channels and jointly carrying out ceremonial functions with nearby rural communities.

To this end, measures should be implemented to correct challenging agricultural production conditions from the viewpoint of exercising the multifunctional roles of agricultural. At the same time, support should be given to the development of unique and sustainable regions such as through the promotion of a range of regional industries.

## (2) New efforts for revitalizing rural areas

In rural communities, it is necessary to creatively and independently address new challenges capitalizing on the region's characteristics focusing on agricultural and marine products. Moreover, it is important to increase the number of rural communities that are carrying out those efforts and to boost rural communities as a whole by encouraging competitiveness.

Therefore, the development of a wide range of industries should be promoted utilizing agricultural and marine products as well as regional resources. This can be achieved through increasing agricultural and marine production, consumption of local produce, linkage between the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry and regional commerce and industries, improving sales of local specialities utilizing information and communication technology, and regional development based on tourism. Moreover, in order to provide opportunities at all times for efforts to boost rural communities, technologies and knowledge that stimulate creativity, and the securing of new partners that complement lacking elements should be promoted. To be specific, company activities which contribute to rural communities in the medium and long term, and level up of the areas' creativity by cooperation with universities should be promoted. From the viewpoint of development, a wide range of skilled human resources from both inside and outside the region should be secured and developed with the aim of boosting rural communities. This includes rural guest houses with a "female touch", direct sales, encouraging consumption of local produce, exchange with residents from urban areas, utilizing the knowledge and experience of elderly people, handing down traditional cultures, young people's efforts based on fresh new ideas and the participation of baby boomers in region-boosting activities.

As for special forest products such as bamboo and mushrooms, their profitability should be secured by upgrading production infrastructure, introducing labor-saving measures, ensuring a

reliable source of materials, and ensuring quality.

**(3) Symbiosis and interrelationships between urban and rural areas**

In the aim of realizing a new way of life which allows residents in both urban and rural communities to share their amenities and fosters communication between cities and rural communities, exchange between urban and rural communities should be promoted. A variety of opportunities should be provided for urban residents to participate in activities in rural communities and to deepen their understanding of food and the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry so that they can enjoy a comfortable living environment, abundant nature, beautiful landscapes and traditional cultures. Specifically, strengthening of information transmission and absorption capabilities of both urban and rural communities as well as public awareness raising campaigns should be implemented by developing relationships between school officials, companies and NPOs promoting nature in cities and local governments in rural communities. Green tourism should also be promoted through opportunities to experience the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry and rural communities first hand. Furthermore, in order for urban residents to play an active role in their communities, resources should be used in such a way as to support the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry. This can be achieved by using farmland for citizens' market gardens, encouraging people to take part in afforestation, using forests for forest therapy, and using the seas for marine recreations such as leisure fishing.

**Section 4 Interregional Exchange and Linkage; Encouraging Internal Migration to Rural Areas**

**(1) Interregional exchange and linkage**

Interregional exchange and linkage are based on the premise that each area has an awareness of and takes pride in its unique regional resources and recognizes their roles in exchange and linkage. Migration and the unrestricted exchange of people, goods, funds, information and knowledge will be encouraged by fostering unique regional qualities and features. At the same time, this will allow for strategic linkage with other areas. In doing so, sustainable exchange bringing benefits to both urban and rural areas should be promoted. This can be achieved through wide-area linkage between local governments, companies and NPOs and between areas with different characteristics as in the case of urban and rural communities.

Moreover, in order to facilitate information exchange relating to nature, industry, culture and history and exchange activities utilizing those regional resources, exchange and linkage spaces should be developed utilizing railway stations, roadside stations and facilities for experience and exchange. Furthermore, it is expected that exchange will function as a comprehensive cross-sectional hub supporting regional life, transportation, industry and information sharing. To this end, various regional entities need to carry out exchange and activities on their own. In addition, interregional exchange and linkage should be promoted utilizing information and communication technology, which are powerful tools to overcome spatial and distance challenges.

## (2) Promotion of dual habitation

In order to attract people and promote internal migration in a variety of forms such as moving to urban areas or dual habitation and the UJI turn, it is necessary for each area to recognize their own qualities and features, and to develop strategies concerning what kind of people to welcome and in what way. In addition, information on the region and its way of life should be distributed. As for dual habitation, specific strategies should be developed taking into account that there are various forms of dual habitation such as between a metropolitan and rural area, a rural town and village, as well as two residences in one metropolitan area.

It is the local residents who come into contact with the new residents on a daily basis and make up the communities. Therefore, solid systems of welcoming and support should be developed so that the attraction of urban areas will come to be widely felt not only through the government's efforts but also through integrated efforts by a range of regional entities such as the local residents, communities and NPOs. These systems should cover the period from when people consider moving until they have actually moved. Efforts to promote migration, tourism and industrial experience activities may be carried out to provide opportunities for visitors to get to know the urban areas. However, opportunities should be provided not only for getting to know the area and for finding a job but also for actively participating in regional communities. Opportunities to actively participate in regional communities should be offered after people have migrated as well as during the stage of trying to advertise their appeal.

Securing of housing and living environment for internal migrants is also an important issue. There are a number of vacant houses and they should be utilized as housing. Housing residents in old farmhouses provides residents with the possibility to experience a new way of life, and is important for the maintenance of old farmhouses. However, for several reasons, including that owners are reluctant to rent houses to those from outside the region, houses are remaining vacant. Therefore, liquidation of vacant houses through the cooperation between the public and private sectors and the construction of systems for utilizing them should be promoted. Moreover, support related to securing costs necessary for moving house will be promoted. Furthermore, as dual habitation is a new lifestyle and, as such, different from simply settling in a new area, it is expected that migration will be promoted by constructing more efficient systems such as the shared use of housing by multiple households and the effective utilization of accommodation for extended stays.

## (3) Human resources from outside the region

As mentioned in part 1, attracting and promoting migration is important in regional development from the viewpoint of utilizing skilled human resources from outside the region. Therefore, in order to continue to promote this trend, regions should aim to strategically secure human resources and start activities for future regional development, rather than just waiting for human resources to appear "by chance."

In doing so, it should be made clear what kind of regional development the area is trying to

reinforce. In addition, efforts should be made to clarify in as much detail as possible what types of human resources are required for regional development (organizational management of NPO and companies, abilities to utilize marketing and information and communication technology, etc.) and also under what conditions they are accepted. According to these ideas, information should be actively transmitted to those who possess the necessary capabilities and fulfill the conditions.

Efforts at the regional and national level are necessary to implement measures in a united manner for attracting people and promoting migration to urban areas. For example, the needs both of people and of the region as well as a range of information need to be appropriately provided. Therefore, comprehensive information platforms with intermediary functions on tourism, transportation, accommodation, living in the area and housing, specialized human resources and employment should be developed. In doing so, exchange through tourism, dual habitation and moving to urban areas should be regarded as sustainable. In addition, greater provision of paid holidays, measures to facilitate dual habitation, and the appropriate burden on social services for those with multiple living bases will be considered.

## Section 5 Individual Regional Development Based on Geographical, Natural and Social Conditions

There are some areas whose basic conditions for developing industrial infrastructure and living environment are tougher than others as a result of their geographical, natural and social characteristics. Support measures have been implemented for these areas tailored to their specific needs.

Situations affecting these areas such as the declining and aging population are still severe. Therefore, it is necessary to consider more effective support measures by promoting not only hard measures soft measures in meeting with needs of the new era utilizing resources and characteristics unique to the areas such as traditional cultures, affluent natural environment and regional industries.

### (1) Remote islands

On remote islands, it is necessary to create areas where people can live because they are small, isolated and surrounded by water. In addition, they are considered to lack economic competitiveness. Furthermore, conditions surrounding isolated islands have become more severe in recent years due to a downturn in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry, and public works and the declining and aging population. On the other hand, isolated islands play an important national role in the conservation of territories and exclusive economic zones, the use of marine resources and the conservation of the natural environment. In addition, they offer spaces for relaxation through contact with nature and coastal areas. In order for such roles to be fulfilled, it is important for people to settle on and live their lives on these islands. The development of remote islands should be promoted by emphasizing autonomy and seeing their geographical and natural characteristics as valuable regional differences and promoting measures for job

development and to encourage people to relocate utilizing the creativity of islanders.

Thus, in order to improve the particularly tough living situation on these islands in terms of industry and infrastructure, the improvements need to be made in the following areas: transportation facilities such as ports, airports, roads and bridges; sea routes and air routes which connect remote islands to other remote islands, main islands and overseas; convenience; advanced information and communication networks for health care, education and industry; infrastructure for the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry; draught management; wastewater disposal facilities; waste disposal facilities; parks; health care and welfare systems; and disaster prevention measures.

In order to restore industries on remote islands, it is necessary to promote more effectively the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry, an arterial industry of those areas. At the same time, unique products of remote islands and local production will be promoted by developing production and distribution systems, expanding sales routes and building relationships with related companies. Moreover, tourism should be promoted on remote islands. This can be achieved through island therapy utilizing precious natural environments such as the marine climate and experience-based/extended-stay leisure activities. Furthermore, the UJI turn of baby boomers and young people should be supported by implementing programs to experience life and work on remote islands. In addition, support for job creation, business start-ups and expansion, linkage with local universities, and systems for developing infrastructure and organizations aimed at the restoration of industries such as trying to attract research institutions should be strengthened.

Moreover, the conservation of the natural environment and landscapes unique to remote islands as well as the safeguarding and handing down of traditional cultures should be promoted.

As for remote islands near the border that play a particularly important role in the conservation of exclusive economic zones, it may become difficult for them to play a national role if the population continues to decrease. Therefore, further support should be considered with respect to access, the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry, and tourism.

In addition, as for remote islands of Okinawa, promotion measures should be taken that fully consider their geographical characteristics resulting from their proximity to Asia Pacific countries, their subtropical and marine climate, and their history of a large proportion of international residents. As for the Amami Islands and Ogasawara Islands, promotion measures should be taken that fully take into account their subtropical and marine climate and geographical characteristics. At the same time, exchange between areas inside and outside Japan should be promoted by transmitting information concerning the diversity and individuality of the cultures which have been nurtured under such isolated conditions.


### (2) Areas with heavy snowfall

In areas of heavy snowfall, reinforcement of both hard and soft countermeasures against snow will be promoted in order to develop safe and secure areas resistant to snow taking into account the current situation of the aging and declining population. At the same time, industrial promotion

and region-boosting measures capitalizing on snow and regional cultures should be promoted from the viewpoint of contact with snow and snow utilization.

As countermeasures against snow, the reinforcement of timely and appropriate snow removal and conversion of transportation infrastructure from high-speed transportation to pedestrian spaces, the development, maintenance and management of snow protection and melt facilities should be promoted. Moreover, countermeasures for regions facing a shortage of volunteers to clear away snow due to aging should be promoted by providing support for snow removal and disposal, increasing and promoting snow resistant houses, and considering introducing winter residential facilities and housing complexes. In cities, necessary areas for development include snow melting facilities; underground power lines; snow resistant housing estates; rivers and sewage with snow removal and disposal functions; utilization of sewage reused water; snow melting facilities utilizing sewer pipes; using public spaces for snow dumping. Moreover, prevention measures for disasters such as avalanches, drifting snow, and sediment-related disasters during the snow melting season, and large-scale seismic disasters during the snow season should be promoted.

On the other hand, measures for industrial promotion and boosting regional growth from the viewpoint of contact with snow and snow utilization include adapting the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry to snowy country, conserving rich soil, water resources, natural environment and beautiful landscapes. At the same time, the use/utilization of a variety of resources such as energy from snow, ice and cold, and product development should also be promoted. Furthermore, winter sports facilities and parks should also be improved. At the same time, efforts should be made to build attractive regional communities through learning from and experiencing abundant nature and snowy country culture, and linkage with other areas including overseas should be promoted.

Moreover, an advanced information and communication infrastructure should be developed from the viewpoint of providing information on weather (including comprehensive snow information), transportations and local events, convenience of living and industrial promotion. Furthermore, the strengthening of observation of snowfall and the depth of snow and R&D on snow-control technologies and snow-related technology such as the mechanization of snow disposal should be promoted.


### (3) Mountain villages

In mountain villages, the level of industrial development is low because of the proportion of forested areas, and they are also disadvantaged from a transportation and economical point of view. In addition, we are seeing an increase in poorly managed forests and abandoned cultivated land as the population continues to decline and age. On the other hand, mountain villages play a vital role in securing safety and affluence through the stable provision of agricultural and forestry products, the conservation of national land and nature, and supplying of recreational spaces. In order for them to play such role, mountain villages should be given support.

From these viewpoints, in order to improve the particularly difficult conditions in mountain

villages in terms of industry and living infrastructure, efforts should be made to develop transportation infrastructure, advanced information and communication networks, a production infrastructure of the agricultural and forestry industry, national land conservation facilities, educational and cultural facilities, and medical and welfare systems, as well as prevent damage caused by birds and animals.

Moreover, it is important for people involved in forestry to relocate to mountain villages and to carry out management activities such as forestry production activities and regular patrols in order for the multifunctional roles forests have to be exercised, taking into account that mountain villages are the infrastructure supporting forests and are sources of one of Japan's unique cultures. Therefore, mutually beneficial relationships between cities and mountain villages should be promoted by building systems supporting relocation taking regional characteristics and the needs of residents relocating from cites into account. In addition, the growth of mountain villages should be boosted by increasing employment opportunities.

### (4) Peninsula areas

Peninsula areas have geographical and natural drawbacks as they are surrounded on three sides by water and have few flatland areas. Regional industries have remained stagnant and community functions are in decline following the declining and aging of the population. Moreover, there is a high risk of damage to transportation and information access routes in case of disasters due to geographical conditions and damage by, for example, tsunamis. On the other hand, peninsula areas have built up unique economies and cultures as there are a number of peninsula areas blessed with the diverse resources provided by the sea, hills and mountains. In addition, they have flourished as bases for marine exchange and commerce. The development of peninsula areas should be promoted taking into account these characteristics.

From these viewpoints, in order to improve the particularly difficult conditions in peninsula areas in terms of industry and living infrastructure, development in the following areas is necessary: transportation infrastructure such as peninsula circulation roads; advanced information and communication networks; production infrastructure of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry; wastewater disposal facilities; waste disposal facilities; parks; medical and welfare services; water resources; and preventing damage caused by birds and animals.

Moreover, the branding of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industry and the conservation of nature and cultures in peninsula areas will be carried out. Experienced-based and extended-stay leisure activities capitalizing on the local natural environment and culture and the development of new products and the creation of new industries utilizing marine resources and traditional techniques will be promoted. Moreover, tourism utilizing the abundant resources in peninsula areas, and exchange with cities and other peninsula areas will also be promoted.

### (5) Depopulated areas

Depopulated areas are also suffering under particularly difficult conditions in terms of industries and living infrastructure as local communities are losing their vitality following the